

# APPLAUSE

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NORTH CHARLESTON, SC 29405



SOA GRADUATING CLASS OF 2013



### Letter From the Editor

Writing this editor's note is a bit bittersweet, as these are officially the last words I will ever put down to paper within the perplexing realm that is "High School." While the year has flown by at an impressive rate, *Applause* has been hard at work gathering all the important info you might've missed out on; from senior thesis recaps to interviews with the Class of 2013's valedictorian and salutatorian, you'll find it all within the following pages.

As we bid our farewells to another school year, we do the same to our departing faculty members; Mr. Donnellon, Ms. MacDonald and Ms. Hutchinson, your contributions to SOA over the years will be hard to replace, but we wish you the best of luck in all of your future endeavours. As for the seniors, well, good riddance! Only jokes, guys. It seems just yesterday that I sat down with Ms. Miles in sixth grade creative writing, wondering what exactly I had gotten myself into. Now, graduation is directly around the corner and that question has been answered: a rich learning environment, full of motivated and creative individuals who, by the current look of it, are destined to do some pretty special things. I can't wait to watch it all come to fruition.

Here's to a happy and safe summer for all. Catch ya' on the flipside!

Yours truly,

**WILL DODGE**



### Letter From the Junior Editor

Starting next year, *Applause* will have a new editor – ME! Yeah that's cheesy. Get used to it. You are stuck with me for the next eight or nine issues of this spectacular paper. Don't worry; you are in good hands. As many of you may know, I am about as OCD as you can get without actually being OCD. As Mr. Donnellon put it, I'm "0.5 Type A" so that I'm that much further away from Type B people. Next year is going to be great, especially seeing as I have already sold my soul to the newspaper. For those of you planning on joining my staff next year, welcome! I cannot wait to work with you! 'Work' being the key word there. For those of you who didn't know that the newspaper staff existed and assumed it was put out by some mysterious tree elves, hello! I am glad you have decided to join the real world. See you all next year!

Sincerely,

**MADELEINE  
VATH**



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Thanks to our patrons for keepin' *Applause* kickin'!

Cover art by Taylor Dahl



# Applause

the official student publication of  
**Charleston County School of the Arts**

*Founded in 1995 by Rose Maree Myers*

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## "A Palmetto Prom" pulls out all the stops

By Danie Johnson

Prom was a really good experience this year. The venue was perfect as there was a porch and an outdoor area as well as the beautiful ballroom. That way, if you got too hot dancing to the great music provided by Will Dodge and Khari Lucas, you could venture outside to cool off.

I was glad that most people attended prom, and also very relieved that Drama didn't receive an invitation. Bringing drama into the mix is never a necessary component in any situation. The food was great, although I'm a little confused as to who requested milk be served at prom. The last thing I can imagine thirsting for after dancing and sweating is milk.

I was pleasantly surprised to notice that this year, the lights were very dim, which caused people to dance more than last year. However, this dancing side effect could also be due the previously mentioned dope music brought to you by Will Dodge and Khari Lucas. Ceiling lights and dancing are two things that should never come together, as most people feel more confident without lights shining on them.

All in all, "A Palmetto Prom" was a ton of fun and a vast improvement on the 2012 occasion. I'll be holding onto the souvenir cup that I received upon leaving as a reminder of the good times. Here's to next year's being just as cool!



The boys came dressed for success at Prom 2013  
(from L-R: Cameron Lloyd, Ren Fish, Corey  
Popowski, Khari Lucas, and Henry Cain)

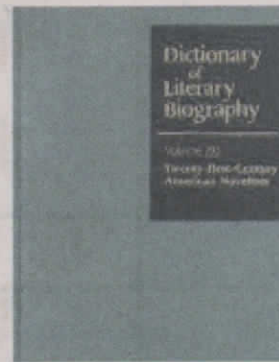
## EDITORIAL

*Applause* would like to salute the thirteenth graduating class of the School of the Arts, the Class of 2013. The essays in this final 64-page full color issue, as well as the articles, surveys, and photos capture the vitality, creativity, and generous spirit that have come to define the School of the Arts since Rose Maree Myers founded our school in 1995. *Applause* is proud to have chronicled the incredible achievements of our students throughout the 2012-13 school year and looks forward to the continuing successes of our rising underclassmen. We would also like to salute Dr. Cook, Ms. Looney, and Mr. Grant, for their first-rate leadership and support. While *U.S. News & World Report* may acknowledge SOA as the second best high school in the state based on our academic success, when one factors in the finest arts program in the state, it is clear SOA offers an unparalleled learning environment. Good luck SOA Class of 2013. Thank you for making the world a more imaginative, tolerant, and caring place, and for allowing *Applause* to share all the good news.

## New book to include work of 100 SOA students, faculty

By Will Dodge

Twenty-First Century American Poets, edited by School of the Arts English teacher Dr. John Cusatis, will be published this month by Gale/Cengage, as part of the internationally esteemed reference collection Dictionary of Literary Biography. Library Journal has referred to the DLB as "hands-down the best overall literary reference work ever published, a proverbial diamond as big as the Ritz."



"This is truly an SOA book," said, Cusatis, whose last book, *Post War Literature 1945-1970*, featured the work of SOA instructor's Ms. Susanne Drennan and Mr. Rutledge Hammes and was named a "Best Reference Book of 2011" by School Library Journal. In addition to Cusatis's introduction, this new 300-page book includes prominent essays by SOA Creative Writing teachers Mr. Sean Scapellato and Mr. Hammes on Natasha Trethewey (the current U.S. Poet Laureate) and Pulitzer Prize winner Stephen Dunn, respectively.

Most importantly, in addition to its 24 essays on leading American poets, roughly one third of the volume is made up of lengthy interviews conducted by Dr. Cusatis's AP English students with fourteen of these poets via Skype or conference call over the past four years. This is the first time a standard DLB volume has included interviews or the work of high school students. In all, over one hundred SOA students are listed as authors in the volume. The interviews, which were arranged, conducted, and transcribed by students as part of their study of contemporary poetry, will also be available on Gale's databases.

Dr. Cusatis is currently working on a second volume of the book, which will again include articles from SOA faculty members as well as fifteen more student-conducted interviews with leading poets including Billy Collins, Philip Levine, Robert Pinsky, Ted Kooser, and Donald Hall, all former U.S. Poet's Laureate.



## BEST WISHES TO THE SENIOR CLASS FROM THE SOA ADMINISTRATION

### DR. SHANNON COOK PRINCIPAL

Senior Class,  
Congratulations! You have practiced, written, studied, volunteered, produced, performed and succeeded. It has been a privilege to see you take on the challenges seniors face and very rewarding watching you press through to reach your goals. You are a strong, talented group of students and your experiences here at SOA will stay with you as you go on to life's future opportunities. I look forward to hearing about your future successes, because I'm certain that they will be many and varied. I also wish you the best as you use your talents and abilities to continue to make a difference in the lives of those around you, whether on a local stage or in our global community.



Keep Reaching!  
Shannon Cook

### MS. GRETCHEN LOONEY ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Class of 2013,  
The writing of this message is bittersweet. While I will miss your creative spirit, I am optimistic about your future as I know the talents you have honed at SOA will take you far! Congratulations to each of you; may all of your dreams be realized!

With great luck and love,  
Gretchen Looney



### MR. ROBERT GRANT M.S. ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

SOA Graduates,  
You are about to embark on a portion of your scholastic journey that will shape the way you think and view the world. I encourage you to embrace the diversity that will surround you as you are exposed to a life much broader than the one you've grown accustomed to. Be true to who you are and allow others to experience the simplistic beauty "that is you." If rejection shows its face, fret not! When one door closes, another will surely open.

Best Wishes,  
Robert Grant



### Junior puts SOA back on the Poetry Out Loud map by Danie Johnson

We are all aware that our classmate, Kat Murchinson went to the Poetry Out Loud national competition in Washington DC. Although she did not place in the competition, she says, "the experience was unforgettable, and I hope to get just as far next year and come home as a finalist." This is not SOA's first dip into POL's national competition. In 2010, then senior Lauren DiNicola made it to the finals, placing ninth in the nation. However, not all was lost as her impressive run led to a greater interest throughout SOA in the annual competition.

The winners for the Poetry Out Loud competition are as follows: first place was awarded to Langston Ward from Washington state, second place awarded to Blessed Sheriff from Maryland and third place goes to Denise from Oklahoma. It is rumored that the first place winner had already earned a full football scholarship to Harvard prior to winning the 20,000 dollar first place award. After the awards ceremony, there was a closing party that started off as a casual mingle, and slowly progressed to a "really powerful and passionate slam poetry jam that lasted until 1:30 the next morning," says Kat.

This whole experience holds a promising future for Kat. Hopefully next year she will go just as far in the competition and even further. I can also see modeling in her near future. I mean, we all saw her at the fashion show, am I right?!



Kat (left of center in white sweater) with her Poetry Out Loud cohorts in D.C.



## SOA Wins Big at Youth Art Month Competition

by Jakob Lazzaro

Two SOA visual artists have been guaranteed a unique summer due to their high placement at the state level of the Youth Art Month Competition.

Students Rachel Burnette, who received an Honorable Mention, and Jack Marino, who received Best in Show, will enjoy an all expenses paid trip to New York this June. On this trip, the students will visit many famous art museums and galleries to expand their knowledge of art.

Jack Marino is looking especially forward to the trip, commenting "I've never been to New York before, and I have always wanted to go." Congratulations and good luck to these two SOA visual artists!



Junior Rachel Burnett and freshman Jack Marino are headed to the Big Apple to immerse themselves in the city's creative culture and celebrate their awards

## Sophomores nearly make it big on "MADE"

by Jakob Lazzaro

As most of you have probably heard, four of SOA's very own students were chosen to be on MTV's television show "MADE." Gavin Quinton, Dmitri Grigorieff, Stephen Dey, and Noah Jordan auditioned and were picked to participate in this hit TV show; they were going to be made into stellar rappers. They were all set up for the third phase of the process, the green light phase, where the film crew would tape their everyday life. Before the filming actually began, however, they had to sign a "strict 20 page contract," says sophomore Theatre major Gavin Quinton. This footage would then be shown to the executive producers who needed to give the green light.

All four of the guys had pulled out before clearance was given, though, "due to harsh details in the green light contract," says Quinton. Some of these details included "hidden cameras and full use of creative property meaning if [they] drew or wrote anything interesting, [MTV] could sell it and take the credit," he says. He and Noah Jordan agree that MTV is pretty crazy; I concur. I know from a friend who was on "MADE" a couple of years ago that they are notorious for twisting people's words and actions to make them look more ridiculous and that in signing the green light contract, one is essentially signing away all rights. But perhaps this is how all things in the world of television go; maybe in order to succeed one has to twist themselves into something they are not. Isn't that what "MADE" is all about?



The popular MTV reality show nearly had SOA's very own as it's stars



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## Only the Best: Interviews with the SOA Class of 2013's Top Dogs By Emily Thomas

To be named as the valedictorian or salutatorian at any school is impressive, but to do so at SOA, the second best high school in the state, makes the feat even more remarkable. *Applause* spoke about the trials and tribulations of high school and the grueling road to the top with both honorees, Valedictorian Christiana Keinath and Salutatorian Nick Bentz.

### Christiana Keinath, Valedictorian

**Emily Thomas:** What college will you be attending? What degree/occupation do you intend to pursue?

**Christiana Keinath:** This fall, you'll be able to find me at the University of South Carolina, in the Honors College and likely majoring in biology with a minor or second major in English or Spanish. As to a career I'm keeping my options open, but I may go into environmental science.

**ET:** How have you balanced everything with school, family, friends, and extracurriculars?

**CK:** By entirely neglecting my social life! No, I'm kidding. But seriously, it all comes down to prioritizing, planning ahead, and saying no when necessary.

**ET:** What motivates you?

**CK:** A genuine desire to live constructively, make the people who love me proud, share my time and talents, and not raise the future unemployment rate.

**ET:** In what ways has SOA shaped your character and academics?

**CK:** At SOA, I've learned, among other things, how to be tolerant and persistent, how to accept challenges, how to pass an AP exam, read closely, and take a derivative, (how to answer serious questions with not-all-serious answers), and how to be myself without apology.

**ET:** What are some of your interests outside of SOA?

**CK:** I sing in the All Saints Lutheran Church praise choir and I've also taught Sunday school and read the 1<sup>st</sup> lesson to the congregation. I enjoy traveling and photography, both of which have influenced my art. Though I don't have time for much else, I have also been known to play the piano, roller blade, do yoga, watch wildlife, make clay figurines, keep scrapbooks, sew, and crochet.

**ET:** Do you have an inspiration or role model?

**CK:** My mother, who has shown me what it really means to be loyal, loving, and diligent, and how to wear more hats than should realistically be expected of one person.

**ET:** Where do you see yourself in ten years?

**CK:** Let me consult my crystal ball.... I've finished graduate school without being smothered in debt, started to establish myself professionally in a field I'm passionate about, and am starting a family. That's about as specific as my prophecies come.

**ET:** In what ways do you intend to continue your art?

**CK:** I'm not planning to be a professional artist, but I'm always going to paint and craft for myself and friends and family. I know, too, that the creative and visual skills I've learned will be useful in anything I attempt.

**ET:** What advice do you have for underclassmen?

**CK:** Don't be afraid to do things differently; it's the only way to get different results.

### Nick Bentz, Salutatorian

**Emily Thomas:** What college are you attending? What degree/occupation do you intend to pursue?

**Nick Bentz:** I'll be attending the Peabody Institute of Johns Hopkins University this fall, double majoring in violin performance and music composition. Hopefully I can try and balance the occupation of a composer and a solo violinist later on!

**ET:** How have you balanced everything with school, family, friends, and extracurricular?

**NB:** It's always tough, but having a great network of friends and family around me has definitely helped, and I owe them a huge debt for getting me through the hard times. Trying to balance everything can look daunting when you look at it from afar, but once you get into the groove of things, it's just a matter of hanging on.

**ET:** Do you ever get stressed? How do you handle stress? How do you relax?

**NB:** It takes a lot, but I do get stressed on occasion, such as during my college auditions. Having to travel all over the U.S.,

keeping my repertoire up, and preparing for my interviews (not to mention school work) really started to do a number on me. In order to alleviate all of the stress, listening to music really helped. Just sitting back and forgetting yourself for a few minutes can definitely get you through most tough situations.

**ET:** In what ways has SOA shaped your character and academics?  
**NB:** SOA has really given me a sense of personal and artistic integrity that I wouldn't trade for anything, and I can't thank my teachers and peers enough for that. SOA is a special environment in that it allows one to unlock their true potential if they're willing to hold up their part of the deal. In this environment I feel like I've really come into my own.

**ET:** Where do you see yourself in ten years?

**NB:** In ten years, I hope to have completed my doctorate in composition (thus being Dr. Bentz), and maybe have either attained a professorship somewhere, or become a composer-in-residence with a symphony. Also, I plan on keeping the violin up, and hope to be performing solo in between commissions.

**ET:** What advice do you have for underclassmen?

**NB:** To the underclassmen, I have two pieces of advice: first, always work hard at everything. Of course it sounds daunting, but it takes a heck of a lot of effort to move forward and achieve your dreams. Second, you need to have fun at the same time. Simply working yourself to death over everything is nearly as bad as not working at all. Find ways to make your work fun, and it won't feel like work. It's cheesy, but it's effective.



As the top academic finishers in their class, Nick and Christiana were named de facto leaders of the senior parade around the school. Mr. Moore gave them their route and they were off!



## SIXTH GRADE PASTIMES: NOW AND THEN

### BY EMILY THOMAS

#### NOW

SIXTH GRADER GRAHAM WILSON LIKES MAKING YOUTUBE VIDEOS IN THE SUMMER.



#### THEN

SENIOR KHAYLA CHAPMAN'S FAVORITE SUMMER PASTIME IN SIXTH GRADE WAS GOING ON MYSPACE.



### MS vocal shoots for the stars "Under the Sea"

by Madeleine Vath

What were you doing the night of May 21<sup>st</sup>, besides celebrating the end of the U.S. History EOC? Well, if you were not in the Rose Maree Myers Theater by 7:00 pm, then you missed out on a stellar production of "The Little Mermaid JR" presented by the middle school Vocal department. Before middle school Vocal began their interpretation of "The Little Mermaid JR," they performed a few choral pieces including "The River Sleeps Beneath the Sky" and "Sit Down Servant," both favorites of mine from when I was in middle school. There was then an intermission while the students changed into their fishy costumes and brought out the set pieces.

As the play progressed, the middle schoolers displayed their talents as they sang and acted their parts. Ariel, played by Shayd Williams, did an especially good job at being on stage alone for "Part of Your World," a feat that not many eighth graders can accomplish. My favorite part was the kitchen scene with the song "Les Poissons;" it was very entertaining to see the head chef, Chase Godwin, and his assistant chefs, Nick Remmington and Lex Lee, run around the stage wielding knives. The one negative of the entire show was the abrupt ending. One moment Ursula, Angel Polkey, was growling about her need to prevent Prince Eric, Caleb Milligan, from kissing Ariel, and the next moment she was defeated by Scuttle, David Seim, and everyone lived happily ever after. Despite the gap in this arrangement of an otherwise fantastic play, the cast pulled it off very well. They all seemed sad, but excited, as the play ended in a puff of smoke.



Congratulations to Fred Horton, 8th grade visual arts major, for winning 2<sup>nd</sup> prize in the SC Dialogue Foundation Art competition. He will enjoy a 10-day trip to Turkey this summer for his efforts.



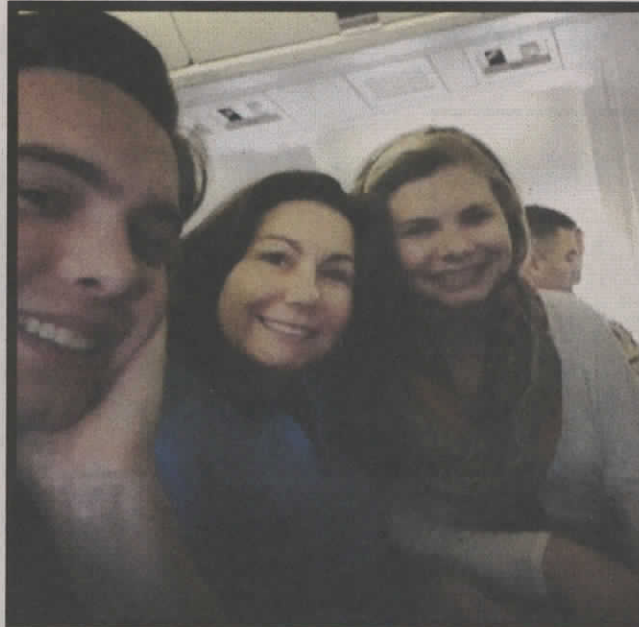
**SPRING BREAK SHENANIGANS**

**BY APPLAUSE STAFF**

**ALTHOUGH IT SEEMS LIKE IT WAS AGES AGO, THAT SACRED WEEK AND A HALF IN APRIL WE HOLD SO DEAR AS HIGH-SCHOOLERS IS STILL CLOSE IN OUR HEARTS. HERE ARE SOME SOA STUDENTS AND FACULTY WHO SPENT THEIRS IN INTERESTING WAYS.**



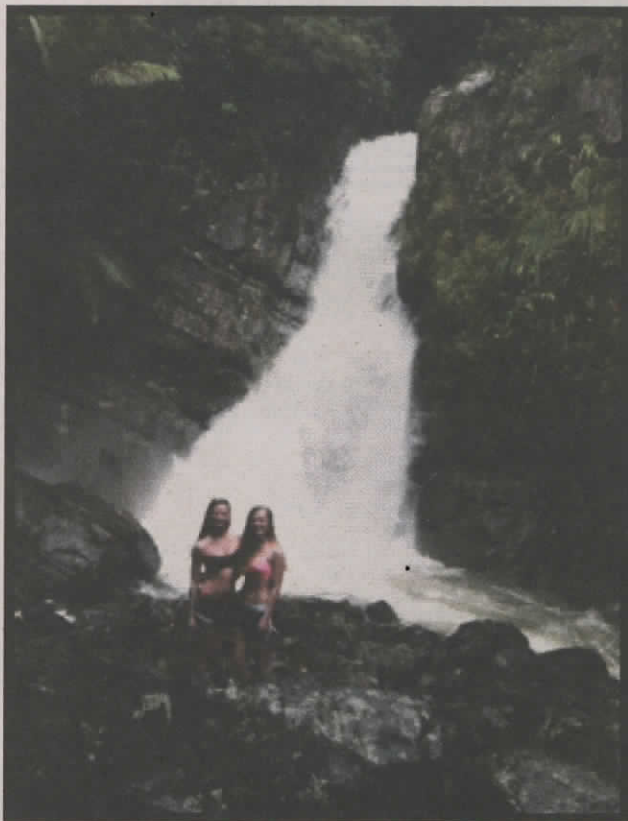
"I WAS IN ANYTHING GOES OVER SPRING BREAK WITH THE CHARLESTON STAGE COMPANY, AND IT WAS REALLY FUN."  
CODY BEASENBURG, 9TH GRADE, VOCAL.



"MY FAVORITE PART ABOUT MY TRIP TO ITALY WAS SHARING A BED WITH MY SISTER. SHE'S SO CUTE!"  
HARRISON CARR, 12TH GRADE VOCAL



"I GOT ENGAGED IN COSTA RICA AND I SAW A TON OF MONKEYS."  
MS. WERBITT, GUIDANCE



"OVER SPRING BREAK I WENT TO PUERTO RICO WHERE MY FRIEND AND I RELAXED ON THE BEACH, DID SOME SIGHTSEEING, AND HIKE THROUGH THE RAINFOREST!"  
CARLY EDWARDS, 9TH GRADE VOCAL



"I WENT INDOOR SKYDIVING IN SEATTLE. I DON'T KNOW, IT'S A GOOD THING TO DO AT LEAST ONCE IN YOUR LIFE."  
ZOE ABEDON, 10TH GRADE CREATIVE WRITING



"I HIT UP VEGAS AND LIVED IT UP! NOT LIKE THOSE GUYS IN THE HANGOVER, THOUGH!" - BRITTANY GIANOUKOUS, SIXTH GRADE



## Where Were They Then: Ms. Cimballa

by Alex Berlinsky

*Applause* sat down with the visual arts teacher to talk shop and learn about the path that brought her to SOA.

**Alex Berlinsky:** When did you first get interested in visual arts?

**Anne Cimballa:** I started taking drawing lessons when I was in first grade, on the weekends. It was part of the parks and recreation system and I remember being one of the youngest in the class. We used charcoal. I had a little plastic pencil case with Snoopy on it that I kept my charcoal sticks, erasers and pencils in. After that I took classes every summer – ceramics, painting and drawing.

**AB:** Who inspired you to follow your dreams?

**AC:** I don't know that any one person inspired me. I guess my mom motivated me in the beginning by introducing me to something she thought I'd enjoy. My parents didn't really encourage art as more than a hobby when I was growing up. They didn't want me to be that serious about it. As an adult I had a conversation with one of my brothers once and he told me he always admired me for "being brave enough to follow your dream." That conversation inspires me. And makes me a little sad for him – he's an attorney.

**AB:** What is your favorite subject to paint and how has it changed throughout the years?

**AC:** I like painting the human form. I've always been interested in how light falls on the body, letting you see the muscles and bones beneath the skin. Recently I've been painting a lot of birds for some reason and I was asked to illustrate a short story (written by

one of our teachers). That experience has me working in a more conceptual format now. I've really gotten involved in multi-media pieces that incorporate paint, image transfers of photographs, and embroidery thread.

**AB:** Where has your artistic training taken you?

**AC:** My artistic training brought me from the shores of Lake Erie to the marshes of the Lowcountry. I'm an artist first, and my art allowed me to pursue a career in the arts. My training helps me help others find their voice and I'm lucky to be able to pay the bills doing that.

**AB:** What do you think is the most important thing that visual arts has taught you?

**AC:** One of the most important things that art has taught me is knowing what my limitations are and knowing when to push them. Art has taught me how to think and TO think – to consider different points of view, perspective, outcomes, solutions. Its also taught me that there is a balance between planning and going with what feels right. I'm still working on that.



Ms. Cimballa as a young'n.

## Where Are They Now: Katherine Cox

by Emily Thomas

*Applause* spoke to the former creative writing major about her post-SOA studies and the inspiration SOA gave her to pursue her dreams in costume design.

**Emily Thomas:** What have you been up to since you graduated from SOA?

**Katherine Cox:** After graduating from SOA, I went directly to Brenau University where I completed a Bachelor of Fine Arts. In August I will be attending the University of South Carolina for my Masters degree in Costume Design.

**ET:** How has your major helped you in your current pursuits?

**KC:** Believe it or not, there is a lot of writing involved in the pursuit of a Bachelors and a Masters degree – even in the field of Visual Arts. I minored in Art History as well, so many of the writing skills I learned in Creative Writing aided me in writing successful dissertations.

**ET:** Did any teacher at SOA particularly inspire

you?

**KC:** That's an incredibly hard question to answer. There were so many teachers who inspired me: Mrs. Miles, Mr. Orvin, and Mr. P to name a few. Ms. Nichols really sticks out for me though. I didn't have an easy senior year, it was a hard time for both self discovery, friendships, and just figuring life out in general. She opened up the world of costuming to me and helped me realize a talent I didn't even know I had. Ever since then I've pursued a career in both teacher and costume design.

**ET:** Where do you see yourself in the next ten years?

**KC:** I'll be 33 in ten years, that's a pretty scary thought! By then I hope to have my Masters completed (and maybe a Doctorate in Art History), a tenured teaching position at a university, maybe some world traveling under my belt, and a family of my own.



One of Katherine's handmade costumes



Katherine and her sister, current SOA senior Sydney Cox, at a cosplay event.



## Sail's sturdy for SOA in Miami Regatta

by *Applause Staff*

Congratulations to the entire SOA Sailing Team for another amazing regatta performance! Your SOA Sailing Team is back from Miami after racing hard and fast against the top teams from across the South East. Earlier this season, SOA earned a spot in the prestigious SAISA Mallory Fleet District Championship in Miami, Florida. Over the weekend of April 13th and 14th, SOA had the opportunity sail in beautiful Biscayne Bay just south of Miami, competing against the very best teams from NC, SC, GA, TN, FL, AL and the Caribbean. What a great experience for these fine sailors!

Finishing 14th, SOA proved that they deserve to compete with the very best. In a real show of Lowcountry talent, Charleston teams represented almost 1/3 of all of the competitors at the regatta - putting the entire district on notice that Charleston is very serious about high school sailing. Congratulations also to the four other Charleston teams that earned the chance to compete in Miami along with SOA, including Academic Magnet. Reaching the Mallory Cup Championship is a major accomplishment for any high school sailing team. Great job for this regatta performance and for the entire year of tough competitions. Varsity members that sailed include Will Scarborough, Marc DeLoach, Marco Lanier, Oliver Penegar, Lauren Moran, Nick Heinen, Noah Rigsby and Fiona Lewis.

**Pictured: Junior Mark DeLoach and a teammate sail in front of the Miami skyline**



## SOA snazzies up for on-campus fashion show

by *Emily Thomas*

On Friday, May 3, the SOA cafeteria was transformed into a runway the likes of which you might see at New York or Paris Fashion Week. The work of 20 Costume and Fashion Design students was featured along with two AP Fashion Portfolio students. At least one costume from each person in the class was featured.

Profits from the fashion show went towards the Jasiri Whipper Memorial Scholarship which is awarded to a senior pursuing an arts-related career. Whipper was a Visual Arts major who designed costumes for SOA's first two musicals, Oklahoma and Guys and Dolls. He graduated from Morehouse College with a degree in Journalism. Whipper worked as a reporter for the Post & Courier until he was killed in a tragic automobile accident. Mrs. Nichols commented, "He was a fine young man who also was a mentor and positive role model for several troubled youth in his neighborhood."

Mrs. Nichols and Mrs. Middleton train and assist students with their sewing skills during class and in afternoon workshops. Mr. Clarke creates a line-up of student musicians for intermission. The Costume Design students chose their



**Junior Destini Anderson strutted her stuff on the cafeteria's runway**

models and Louise Pitner, who modeled in Charleston Fashion Week, worked as a coach for the models. Jazzy Jordan filmed each of the designers so that their commentary could run at the beginning of each line of clothing and Ellison "Whiteboifresh" Karesh helped to run the soundboard.

One of SOA's most memorable alumni and former Costume Design student, Demetrius Washington was the MC for the fashion show, keeping the crowd going with his witty commentary. Washington is currently a Fashion Merchandising major at the Art Institute of Charleston.

Overall, it was a great evening filled with fun and fashion. All of the costumes and clothing were very impressive, especially for high school students. Keep an eye out for some of these amazing students' designs on the runways.

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## Senior dancer makes cut for Gamecocks dance team by Cameron Lloyd

*Addison "Addie" Lewis didn't initially have plans to dance after high school, but after hearing about an audition for the dance team at USC, where she had committed, these plans quickly changed. Applause spoke to the future Columbian on the process of making it into the squad and what the future holds for her and her squadmates.*

**Cameron Lloyd:** So how was the auditioning experience?

**Addison Lewis:** For Carolina Girls auditions, it was a whole weekend-long experience. I drove up to Columbia and from 3:30-8:30 where we learned the three combinations, Jazz Pom and Hip Hop. Saturday morning we started with jazz evaluations which is what I'm best at. After jazz technique evaluations and performing the jazz number, there was a first cut and I made it! That Sunday we performed the Pom and Hip Hop combinations for the judges then had to perform a short solo to try convince them to put us on team.

**CL:** Were you ever nervous throughout this process?

**AL:** I was extremely nervous because I've never done Pom or cheerleading before so I was struggling.

**CL:** How did you find out that you made the team?

**AL:** They called in everyone who was still remaining and my number, 45 was called. Best feeling ever. So out of about 70 girls who auditioned, I am one of the 28 girls that will be performing for USC's dance team next year!

**CL:** What does the dance team do?

**AL:** I get to dance at 3 football games, many basketball games, and travel for a national competition.

**CL:** What does it mean to you to be a part of this team, and do you plan to continue dancing out of college?

**AL:** I don't have any dance career plans right now, I didn't originally think I would even dance after high school. But I plan on having a fun four years on USC's dance team with some of the most beautiful, talented, dancers I've ever been around.



Addie after finding out she made the cut.

## Ravens Rugby rolls through the opposition by Cameron Lloyd

Recently SOA has had the ability to have a rugby team, this team isn't supported by varsity sports, but they are considered a club team. Though the team is made up of mostly SOA students, many of the team's players attend other schools. This season, the Ravens were 4-0 against Wando; I got a chance to speak to one of the captains, Eli Hayden, who said "we don't really like them. It felt good to shut them out."

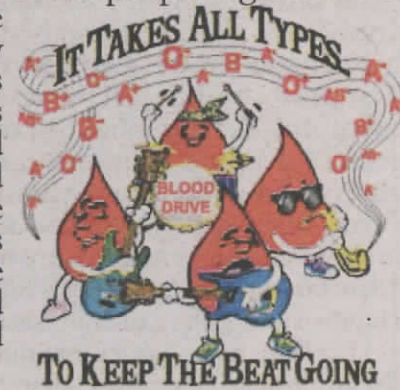
This is a sport that is catching fire in the states and I also caught up with freshman Michael Johnson, and talked to him about how his first season went and if he plans to keep playing the sport. He stated "yeah, I love football and other contact sports, so I felt like playing for the rugby team would be fun, and I ended up loving it and hope to keep playing." Our Ravens ended up with a pretty solid record of 6-3, and a notable win against Greenville, who were one of the top ranked teams in the state, described by some as "monsters." So congrats guys, and make sure to go catch our Ravens in action next season!



Ravens squad members Eli Hayden and Will McCarter bring out on the Citadel rugby pitch.

## SOA Blood Drive: Pints on pints on pints by Madeiline Vath

SOA has had three blood drives this year. Each pint of blood donated saves three lives; approximately 60 people signed up and donated at April's drive. Seniors that donated three times total, at least twice this year, will be honored with a cord at graduation. There were 54 who people registered and tried to give blood. From these people they were able to draw 35 units of good blood: 32 units of whole blood and three units of alyx. Out of all of the blood drives this year, April's blood drive saw the most donors; maybe it was the free t-shirts! There was also more advertising this time around: Keith Howard dressed up as Buddy the Blood Drop and walked around campus.



On Wednesday May 15th, Wake Forest University's all-male Christian a capella group Chi Rho visited SOA's vocal department to share their soulful, instrument-less renditions of songs old and new. Go Deacs!



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## Juicy J turns out the Music Farm by Will Dodge

There are moments in everyone's childhood that, when looked back upon, become episodes of transcendence and spiritual growth whose impact is of unknowable importance in the grand scheme of life. One of these moments for me was coming across a low bitrate mp3 on MySpace of Three 6 Mafia's "Slob on My Knob." As a thirteen-year-old who was previously unexposed to the debauched leanings of 1990's Memphis' brand of "crunk music," calling this an eye-opening experience would be a huge understatement. So when I had the opportunity to see Three Six Mafia member and "Slob on My Knob" featured rapper Juicy J at the Music Farm on May 7<sup>th</sup>, it was a chance I couldn't turn down.

The line stemming from the Music Farm's door confirmed my expectations of a mixed crowd, with frat bros and gangbangers lined up side by side, their tilted-to-the-side snapbacks and linked gold chains the only semblance that they would both be singing in unison to "Bandz a Make Her Dance" before the night was over. Once inside, local rapper Infinity the Ghetto Child was rapping on-stage with his unnamed son, whose stage presence was strong but whose flows were considerably average compared to the rappers on the bill after him. The dynamic duo handed out free copies of Infinity's mixtape after their set, inciting an unfortunate set of incidents in which the CDs were flung throughout the room by various crowd members, hitting more than one person standing next to me in the side of the head. Once the CD throwing had ceased, A\$AP Ferg came onstage with his A\$AP Mob cohorts clad in Transformers-esque masks and matching white hoodies. Tracks like "Bangin' on Waxx" and "Persian Wine" set the mood before raucous closer "Work"'s chiming bells and clacking hi-hats set the whole room

a-frenzy. The Music Farm's sold out crowd responded to each kick drum and shouted ad-lib with legitimate intensity. Moshing and crowd-surfing was common place, as evidenced by sophomore Dmitri Grigorieff's stage dive during Ferg's set. I told Dmitri after the show, "You're legit now," and he could only nod in agreement.

By the time the lights turned down and Juicy J jumped onto the stage, I felt like my ten-year-old self again, sitting behind my computer screen, unsure of the new world that was about to erupt before my eyes. Within the first three songs, two fistfights had broken out within a ten-foot vicinity of where I was standing. I must have seen at least fifteen people get escorted out for various absurdities, not limited to smoking illegal substances and twerking on top of the PA. Juicy J played all the hits, including a particularly turnt rendition of "Slob on My Knob." The performance induced a feeling of nostalgia I hadn't felt since watching *Sandlot* the previous summer with a childhood friend. I was ten years old again, browsing MySpace, dumbing out to the myriad sexual innuendo and thinly veiled references to narcotic abuse without any thought of their actual implications. In that moment, I was free.

The concert ended and the inebriated masses stumbled out, screaming "We Trippy Mane' and asking the heavens, "Turn Down for What?" I couldn't help but think of all the ten-year-olds in the world who have platforms like Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook to turn to for their moments of spiritual significance. Hopefully Juicy J is there for them when they need their fix of nostalgia. I too will be there in the crowd, gunfinger pointed upwards, slowly shifting back into my ten year old self.

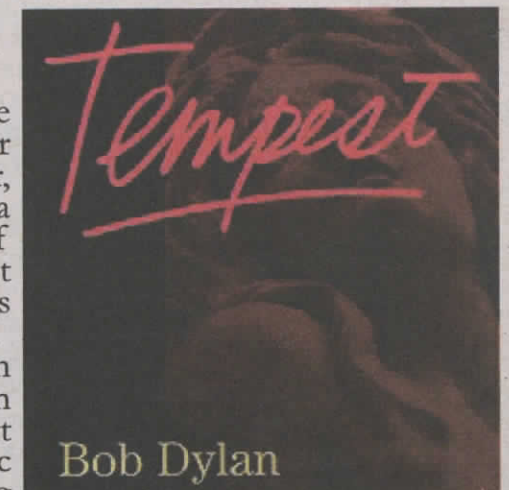


The Three Six Mafia Member said of Charleston, "This is the most turnt-up city I've ever been in."

## Bob Dylan plays while A-Soft Rain A-Falls by Alex Berlinsky

Not even a continuous drizzle could keep Bob Dylan away on Saturday May 4<sup>th</sup>, when he and his band graced the stage at the Family Circle Stadium on Daniel Island. Junior theater major Corey Popowski and I attended and were pleasantly surprised with opening act Dawes. However, it all paled in comparison to the moment of truth, the moment Bob Dylan himself, the voice of a generation, walked onto the stage. His age is certainly catching up to him, he was 71 at the time of the show, his grueling tour schedule may be putting a strain on him, and his stage presence may not compare to younger, more flamboyant artists, but just seeing Bob Dylan on stage, singing his songs and playing his harmonica, lulled me to another time and place. It truly was a magical experience.

I've never seen such jubilation in a crowd as I did when he began playing "Tangled Up in Blue." It was an experience equally enjoyed by all: old and young, man and woman, Mr. Donnellon and Ms. Link. Just being so close to a legendary figure like Dylan was enough to make the concert worthwhile. To think that I was a mere few footsteps from the man who totally redefined music and American history with his songs was enough to make me giddy. His singing was simply icing on the cake.



Dylan's latest studio effort,  
*Tempest*.



## Life on Mars: Award-winning for a reason by guest writer Nick Bentz

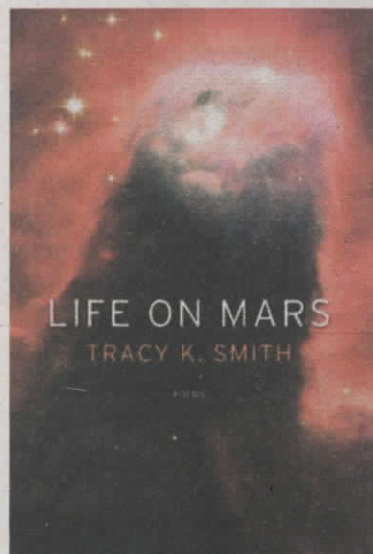
Tracy K. Smith's third book of poetry, *Life on Mars*, won the 2012 Pulitzer Prize in Poetry. This is only the latest of awards that Smith has received for her work since she began publishing. She is currently a professor at Princeton and Dr. Cusatis' AP Literature class had the wonderful opportunity to interview her via Skype. Through the interview, it was revealed that *Life on Mars* serves as a memorial to Smith's late father, who was a scientist that worked on the Hubble Space Telescope. Smith is heavily influenced by her father's fascination with space, and she translates that into an urge to see that which can't be seen, whether it be the metaphysical, the paranormal, or that which lies just beyond our field of vision.

Most if not all of the poems in *Life on Mars* are grounded with feelings of intense introspection or desperation to seek the unknown. In most of the poems in *Life on Mars*, Smith expertly traverses and connects both of these seemingly contradictory emotions, combining her (and her father's) thirst for knowledge with her own elegiac feelings of loss to create a dirge-like atmosphere that is at times unrelentingly dark and at other times uncompromisingly optimistic. Despite where on the emotional spectrum each poem lies, each one has an intrinsically cosmic feel that unites the work as a whole and makes it a truly great piece of art.

*Life on Mars* is divided into four sections. Of particular note is the first poem in the first section, "Scifi." In "Scifi," Smith gives us a glimpse into the future, but this is a future destroyed by aspirations of utopia and morphed into an Orwellian nightmare. Her descriptions of "clean lines pointing only upward" present a view of perfection that mankind can not achieve unless it eliminates it's humanity. The poem goes into numerous facets of life that have been transformed by this Metropolis-esque reality, as humans replace the sun with a "Standard-Uranium Neutralizing device." The piece ends menacingly, saying that the world has finally been made "safe" for everyone.

"Scifi" is just one of the amazing poems that make up *Life on Mars*. Smith has wide-ranging influences in her poetry from Stanley Kubrick's *2001: A Space Odyssey* to 80's glam-rocker David Bowie. Choosing from such an elaborate smorgasbord, Smith weaves her complex (and sometimes primordial) intonations of the universe with the most mundane tasks. For example, she connects the everyday chore of making breakfast to her reflections on her late father.

*Life on Mars* is truly an amazing piece of art that will definitely be around for many years to come. The collection carries a hefty amount of emotions as Smith explores the myriad amount of feelings that go along with the loss of a family member. In conclusion, *Life on Mars* is a must-read for anyone interested in the direction of modern poetry. I am anticipating Tracy K. Smith's next collection with baited breath!



## SOA's own art history museum by Emily Thomas

Artist Rick Alexander has been working with SOA Visual Artists to recreate famous works of art and turn SOA into an art museum. Alexander is accredited with working as an artist for Disney, Rolex, Coca-Cola, and CNN's founder Ted Turner, as well as designing prototypes of the Chick-fil-A cow. He has also created hundreds of murals for Dorchester and Berkeley County schools.

Alexander commented, "[Dr. Cook] wanted an artist who could come work with the students and show them some techniques." He has been working with eighth through twelfth grade to paint murals by such artists as Lorenzetti and Monet. The Visual Artists have been learning about different techniques from various time periods and will eventually incorporate their own style.

A committee was formed to decorate the school and they came up with the concept of turning SOA into an art museum. Mrs. Nichols, who was part of that committee, said, "Every hall will have a different theme and it will have different reproductions from that time." Ms. Cimballa, who teaches AP Art History, helped to pick out the different works of art and Mr. Hammes will be coming up with quotes to go over the different works of art.

Pretty soon, SOA you won't be able to tell SOA from The Met. Alexander said, "We've never really done this, so it's really exciting."



Artist Rick Alexander working his mural magic.

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

**Taylor Alston:** I have learned to treasure my art and that it will take me far in life no matter what!

**Claire Austen:** I learned how to be nice to everyone even if you can't stand them.

**Katie Bailey:** To work hard and to never give up on your dreams.

**Baxley, Sarah:** Get to know people before you judge them... they might surprise you.

**Dale Bennett:** That if you want something, don't sit on the sidelines, just go get it!

**Nicholas Bentz:** That it is human nature to turn on a flashlight (thank you Mr. Rogers).

**Alex Berlinsky:** Everyone has the most amazing talent if it is nurtured.

**Alyssa Black:** Be yourself.

**Liann Bova:** The most important thing I've learned is to have an open mind about everything.

**Taylor Brobisky:** Never give up.

**Dante Brown:** I learned how to learn. If I hadn't learned that, I would not have learned anything.

**Joshua Brown:** Throughout the years I've developed my drawing talents with the guidance of my art teachers.

**Sarah Brown:** There is a way to slack off and have fun while still making good grades.

**Se'Quoia Brown:** Be yourself and make wise choices.

**Henry Cain:** Keep it real.

**Harrison Carr:** Knowledge is more important than grades.

**Freddy Carruth:** I learned how to enjoy playing music, which is something you can't learn at just any school.

**Joel Chapman:** In order to be of good service to others, you must first serve yourself with respect, with knowledge, and with care. You have to take care of yourself and your needs before you take on someone else's. Govern yourself accordingly to govern the masses.

**Khayla Chapman:** Twerkin' ain't dead!

**Aaron Charpia:** Avoid Younts/Pugs not drugs.

**Alysha Clark:** The most important thing I've learned at SOA is to work for what you want. Hard work and dedication pays off.

**Samantha Clyburn:** To never treat anyone badly for being different.

**Sarah Cockcroft:** I've learned how to effectively manage my time and juggle many things at once.

**Grace Collins:** People will disappoint you and let you down, bad things will happen, but in the end, life goes on.

**Eli Dent:** The most important thing I have learned at SOA is how to express myself. I have learned that giving yourself an outlet and allowing yourself to create something artistic is one of the most liberating things.

And now I am learning how to implement this into other facets of my life.

**Will Dodge:** Being yourself isn't always the best option.

**Danielle Dungo:** Be yourself.

**Jordan Elum:** I have learned that there will

always be people nearby with similar interests and contrasting perspectives and to embrace that variety. Also, I've learned never to hesitate to ask for help or to just see what someone has to say.



**Savannah Friar:** The most important thing I learned at SOA is to read all the books Dr. Cusatis assigns because they will be on the AP exam.

**Samuel Funk:** Loyalty is above all else.

**Brittany Gadsden:** How to tolerate irritating things.

**Erik Green:** Do the work required to pass.

**Elizabeth Greene:** The most important thing I've learned at SOA is to not be afraid to take chances. If you don't take chances, you could

miss the countless opportunities to do great things, and then you'll end up regretting it.

**Sophia Greene:** I like being tall whenever possible.

**Corey Harmon:** I've learned how to see and understand what I'm looking at.

**Kristen Henderson:** Do your homework and you won't fail.

**Keith Howard:** Do what you love, and what makes you and the people around you happy. Life without happiness or passion isn't life.

**Maxwell Hudson:** Art makes life bearable.

**Will Isaacson:** The most important thing I've learned from being at SOA is that you are not defined by your art. Rather, your art is defined by you. We spend so much time wondering whether our friends will like what we've created or whatever, but it isn't about them. It's about finding yourself, and your friends can't find that for you.

**Swakaria Jamison:** From SOA, I have learned that you have to stay true to who you are. You also have to be willing to allow others to help you and be there for you.

**Kenton Jenkins:** The most important thing I've learned at SOA is to love myself for who I am. And to never be affected by the opinions of other people because they simply don't matter.

**Alyssa Johnson:** Learning how to fetal expand. "Welcome to dance class ladies!"

**Danie Johnson:** At SOA, I've learned that you shouldn't let little complications get in the way of having fun.

**LaJoyce Jones:** To be open minded. Kasper, Ariel: Embrace yourself. Your weird, unique self.

**Taylor Keathley:** How to be a better French horn player.

**Christiana Keinath:** Art is an impractical necessity that should be fought for, and once won, shared liberally.

**Drew Kern:** If you have friends in a class don't count on finishing your homework in that class.

**Rachel Lechler:** Acceptance.

**Addison Lewis:** I've learned that when

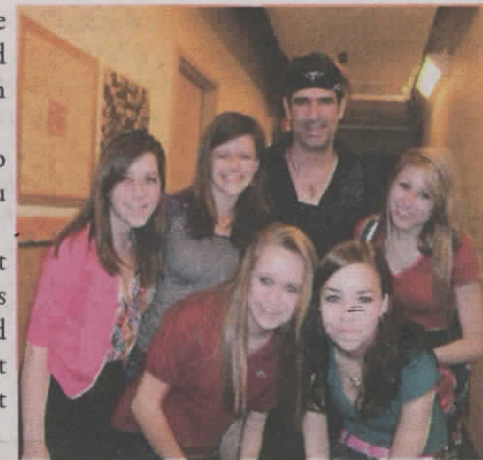
you are organized, on time, and focused on your work, school is a lot easier.

**Cameron Lloyd:** In my time here at SOA, I have learned

how to be more open-minded, and accepting of my classmates. It may sound cliché, but that's the truth. When I talk to my friends who attend other high schools, they are very closed-minded and ignorant. So SOA has allowed me to experience a diverse learning center.

**Olivia Lodge:** I've learned to be myself, and be comfortable with who I am.

**Price Long:** Time and stress management.





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

**Khari Lucas:** There is no universal sense of justice. Good things and bad things will always happen to people essentially by chance, and all people, good or bad, will cause themselves some level of pain in life.

**Anne Marie Maghakian:** The most important thing I've learned at SOA would be to always put forth my best effort when it comes to school and my art major.

**Tiffany Martin:** The most important thing I've learned at SOA is that you always need good friends who will have your back, and if you do, you'll make it through anything.

**Karin McQuade:** Don't allow

yourself to be limited and confined in terms of your creativity.

**Lily McRae:** Art school is still high school.

**Jana Miley:** There will always be someone better than you and there will always be someone worse than you. My SOA pen pal told me that at my sixth grade orientation.

**Jazzi Mitchell:** Be true to who you are.

**Samantha Molony:** I've learned how not to be afraid to trust people.

**Tyler Morris:** Don't let one bad teacher drag you down, keep pushing and trying.

**Maya Novak-Cogdell:** Man, even man debased by the neocapitalism and pseudosocialism of our time, is a marvelous being because he sometimes speaks.

**Shelby Oltmann:** To not let anybody bring you down. What other people think of you is none of your business.

**Alexander Ostapeck:** Go hard.

**Levin Ostapeck:** What it takes to move forward.

**Faye Patat:** To always be yourself and never judge others.

**Maddie Peralta:** The most important thing I've learned at SOA is to value your art and education without stressing over "being the best" all the time.

**Josh Perez:** The most important thing I've learned at SOA is better time management.

**Ann Louise Pitner:** If you want to get good at something, practice.

**Ashley Prentice:** There is something new to discover everyday, whether it is how to integrate in Calculus or

manage your time between senior thesis, an eight page poetry paper, and ten government articles. Take advantage of every opportunity

you are given, good or bad, and learn from it.

**Xan Rogers:** Existence is meaningless without someone telling you what to do.

**Mandie Ronick:** The most important thing I've learned at SOA is that even though life can be stressful with all the schoolwork it is still important to be able to breathe and know it's all going to turn out okay.

**Hannah Roth:** The most important thing I've learned at SOA is to give everything my all and to never give up on anything that I love.

**Daniel Rovick:**

I have learned about time management.

**Ethan Rovick:**

I learned how to balance my academics with my art.

**Will**

**Scarborough:** Persistence and determination.

**Graham Schertz:**

Find your group of friends and stick with them through thick and thin.

**Savannah Segle:** It's super cheesy, but I've learned that it's okay to be yourself around people. Everyone has some weird quirk and I think it's easier to have an open mind and not worry about what others think. I'm still working on it, but I know it will make you a happier person.

**Briana Shakir-Lesesne:** It's perfectly fine to be yourself.

**Callan Shattuck:** High school is silly.

**Gavin Smith:** I've learned how to stay dedicated to my personal goal and not follow anyone else's standards.

**Jennifer Smith:** How to keep up with the latest trends.

**Corazon Steglin:** That it's okay to be yourself, and that what I have to say is important.

Now it's just a matter of getting people to listen.

**Izzy Strobing:**

You are your own worst critic.

**Maya**

**Sumpter:**

The most important thing I've learned at



SOA is that your best isn't always enough for some people.

**Ty Tanner:** How to play the trumpet.

**Emily Thomas:** Having a positive attitude leads to a positive outcome.

**Joel Trotter:** Keep your hopes up high and your head down low.

**Maria Voronina:** How to work hard and make strong bonds with my Visual Arts family.

**Will Waters:** SOA has taught me discipline and stress and time management skills.

**Morgan Watts:** I lack time management skills, defiance is sometimes necessary, and compassion is beautiful.

**Vincent Whaley:** Sometimes you just have to think about yourself to survive.

**Julia Woodward:** To always end your speeches with therefore and such as and moving on.

**Austin Worth:** The value of mindfulness.





# What quote do you want to be remembered by?

**Taylor Alston:** "My life is a journey. It seems like I set a goal and some kind of way I accomplish it, and then I set another one. And my goal was trusting myself and my goal was growth." – Beyonce

**Claire Austen:** "If you cannot do great things, do small things in a great way." – Napoleon Hill

**Katie Bailey:** "Do one thing every day that scares you." – Eleanor Roosevelt

**Dale Bennett:** "We have a special need to feel that we belong" – Janet Jackson

**Nicholas Bentz:** "Eagles fly alone and sparrows fly in flocks." – Leo Tolstoy

**Alex Berlinsky:** "God is a comedian playing to an audience too afraid to laugh." – Voltaire

**Alyssa Black:** I want to be remembered as someone who tried to respect her integrity as an artist and as a person.

**Liann Bova:** "Dream as if you'll live forever, live as if you'll die today." – Unknown

**Taylor Brobisky:** "Dance yourself silly." – Unknown

**Dante Brown:** "'I'm bored' is a useless thing to say. You live in a great, big, vast world that you've seen none percent of." – Louis C. K.

**Joshua Brown:** "You will never possess what you are unwilling to pursue." – Unknown

**Se'Quoia Brown:** "Life is not about finding yourself. It's about creating yourself." – George Shaw

**Henry Cain:** "I became insane, with long periods of horrible sanity." – Edgar Allan Poe

**Freddy Carruth:** "Expect problems and eat them for breakfast." – Alfred A. Montapert

**Harrison Carr:** "The last thoughts of the Geostigma's dead. Those remnants will join the Lifestream and girdle the planet. Choking it... corroding it. What I want, Cloud, is to sail the darkness of the cosmos with this planet as my vessel, just as my mother did long ago. Then one day we'll find a new planet. And on its soil, we'll create a shining future." – Sephiroth (Final Fantasy Advent Children)

**Joel Chapman:** "This above all: to thine own self be true, and it must follow, as the night the day, thou canst not then be false to any man." – Polonius, Hamlet by William Shakespeare

**Khayla Chapman:** "The EARTH without 'ART' is just 'EH'." – Unknown

**Aaron Charpia:** "Speak softly and carry a big stick." – Theodore Roosevelt

**Alysha Clark:** "It is more fun to talk with someone who doesn't use long, difficult words but rather short, easy words like, 'What about lunch?'" – Winnie the Pooh/A.A. Milne

**Samantha Clyburn:** "Fairy tales are more than true; not because they tell us that dragons exist, but because they tell us that dragons can be beaten." – Neil Gaiman

**Sarah Cockcroft:** "You're a wizard, Harry." – Rubeus Hagrid

**Grace Collins:** "Isn't it funny how day by day nothing changes, but when you look back, everything is different?" – C.S. Lewis

**Erin Cook:** "Stop. Breathe. Cry if you must. This too shall pass." – Unknown

**Eli Dent:** "Success is not final, failure is not fatal; it is the courage to continue that counts." – Winston Churchill

**Will Dodge:** "I have the strange feeling that I've forgotten all of this before." – Xavier Renegade Angel

**Danielle Dungo:** I really don't care. People can remember me however they want.

**Jordan Elum:** "Blessed are those/ Whose blood and judgment are so well commingled,/ That they are not

a pipe for Fortune's finger/To sound what stop she please." – Unknown

**Savannah Friar:** "I don't like defining myself. I just am." – Britney Spears

**Samuel Funk:** "Walk it off." – Every dad in America

**Brittany Gadsden:** "Are you in touch will all of your darkest fantasieas? Have you created a life for yourself where you can experience them? I have." – Lana Del Rey

**Erik Green:** "It's all fun and games until someone gets hurt... Then it's hilarious." – Unknown

**Elizabeth Greene:** "All life is an experiment. The more experiments you make the better." – Ralph Waldo Emerson

**Sophia Greene:** "Then I saw her standing there with green eyes and long blonde hair... Some girls try too hard." – blink182

**Corey Harmon:** "The true genius shudders at incompleteness – and usually prefers silence to saying something which is not everything it should be." – Edgar Allan Poe

**Kristen Henderson:** "...I guess." – Unknown

**Keith Howard:** "What is moral is what you feel good after, and what is immoral is what you feel bad after." – Ernest Hemingway

**Maxwell Hudson:** "I am the beast I worship." – MC Ride

**Will Isaacson:** "Without music, life would be a mistake." – Friedrich Nietzsche

**Swakaria Jamison:** "Dance like no one is watching." – Unknown

**Kenton Jenkins:** When you think of Ken remember to "sing like no ones listening, love like you've never been hurt, dance like nobody's watching, and live like its heaven on earth." – Mark Twain

**Alyssa Johnson:** "If opportunity doesn't knock, build a door." – Milton Burke

**Danie Johnson:** "Somebody once asked could I spare some change for gas I need to get myself away from this place. I said yep, what a concept, I could use a little fuel myself and we

could all use a little change." – Smashmouth

**LaJoyce Jones:** "Gotta get more specific than that!" – Unknown

Kasper, Ariel: "I became insane, with long intervals of horrible insanity." –

Edgar Allan Poe

**Taylor Keathley:** "If a composer could say what he had to say in words he would not bother trying to say it in music." – Gustav Mahler

**Christiana Keinath:** "Everything that can be counted does not necessarily count; everything that counts cannot necessarily be counted." – Albert Einstein

**Drew Kern:** "Get your facts first, then you can distort them as you please." – Mark Twain

**Rachel Lechler:** "No."





# What quote do you want to be remembered by?

**Addison Lewis:** "And though she be but little, she is fierce." –Shakespeare

**Cameron Lloyd:** "Nobody ever roots for Goliath." –Wilt Chamberlain

**Olivia Lodge:** "Life isn't about finding yourself. Life is about creating yourself." –Unknown

**Price Long:** "I want you to hold the fog machine button down for three minutes." –Carl Barnwell, Jr.

**Khari Lucas:** "If you are lonely when you are alone, you are in bad company." –Jean-Paul Sartre

**Anne Marie Maghakian:** "Be kind whenever possible, it is always possible." –Dalai Lama

**Karin McQuade:** "By hook or by crook, I hope that you will possess yourselves of money enough to travel and to idle, to contemplate the future or the past of the world, to dream over books and loiter at street corners and let the line of thought dip deep into the stream." –Virginia Woolf

**Lily McRae:** "They say I'm getting' money, must be Illuminati/Talking to the Holy Ghost, in my Bugatti." –Rick Ross

**Jana Miley:** "We lose ourselves in the things we love. We find ourselves there, too." –Kristin Martz

**Jazzi Mitchell:** "We should all start to live before we get too old. Fear is stupid. So are regrets." –Marilyn Monroe

**Samantha Molony:** "Don't let anyone leave you without being happier." –Unknown

**Tyler Morris:** "Music 'is a world within itself, and a language we all understand." –Stevie Wonder

**Maya Novak-Cogdell:** "Keep your intelligence white hot and your grief glistening so your life will stay fresh." –Mawlana Jalal-al-Din Rumi

**Shelby Oltmann:** The Mad Hatter: "Have I gone mad?"..... Alice: "I'm afraid so. You're entirely bonkers. But I'll tell you a secret. All the best people are." –Lewis Carroll

**Alexander Ostapeck:** "Buy a book, read up, I'm on every page." –Unknown

**Levin Ostapeck:** "I take off, I blast off, I razzle, I dazzle." –Unknown

**Faye Patat:** "In the end, it's not going to matter how many breaths you took, but how many moments took

your breath away." –Shing Xiong

**Maddie Peralta:** "I am flawed if I'm not free." –Rilo Kiley

**Josh Perez:** I want to be remembered by actions, not words.

**Hannah Roth:** "Go confidently in the direction of your dreams. Live the life you've imagined." –Henry David Thoreau

**Daniel Rovick:** "Make the smartest choices in life." –Unknown

**Rovick, Ethan:** "Go big or go home." –Unknown

**Will Scarborough:**

"Do what you like, and like what you do. Or else you won't live a happy life." –Anonymous

**Graham Schertz:** "You cannot change the direction of the wind, but you can adjust the sails." –Unknown

**Savannah Segle:** "To laugh often and much; to appreciate beauty; to find the best in others; to leave the world a bit better; to know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived. This is to have succeeded." –Ralph Waldo Emerson

**Briana Shakir-Lesesne:** "You are perfect exactly as you are. With all your flaws and problems, there's no need to change anything. All you need to change is the thought that you aren't good enough." –Unknown

**Callan Shattuck:** "It's not cool to be an alcoholic." –Chester Bennington

**Gavin Smith:** "A life is not important except in the impact it has on others." –Jackie Robinson

**Jennifer Smith:** "I've found time can heal most anything." –Taylor Swift

**Ann Louise Pitner:** "Once you rule out the impossible, whatever remains, however improbable, must be true." –Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

**Ashley Prentice:** "To be yourself in a world that is constantly trying to make you something else is the greatest accomplishment." –Ralph Waldo Emerson

**Xan Rogers:** "Life's a dirty game, you gotta play dirty to win it." –Harris Ansari

**Mandie Ronick:** "The self is not something one finds, it is something one creates." –The Second Sin

**Corazon Steglin:** "The worst thing that being an artist could do to you would be that it would make you slightly unhappy constantly." –J.D. Salinger

**Izzy Strobing:** "I have nothing to declare except my genius." –Oscar Wilde

**Maya Sumpter:** "I came, I saw, I conquered." –Unknown

**Ty Tanner:** "Don't play what's there, play what's not there." –Miles Davis

**Emily Thomas:** "Don't ever tell anybody anything. If you do, you start missing everybody." –J.D. Salinger, The Catcher in the Rye

**Joel Trotter:** "It's not about forcing happiness, it's about not letting sadness win" –The Wonder Years

**Maria Voronina:** "Just keep swimming." –Dory

**Will Waters:** "A dream doesn't become reality through magic; it takes sweat, determination, and hard work." –Colin Powell

**Morgan Watts:** "Don't tell me I can't, because I can and I will." –Unknown

**Vincent Whaley:** "Live, laugh, love life." –Unknown

**Julia Woodward:** "It's sad when someone you know becomes someone you knew." –Henry Rollins

**Austin Worth:** "I'm tired of hearing about money, money, money, money, money. I just want to play the game, drink Pepsi, wear Reebok." –Shaquille O'Neal





# What will you miss most about SOA?

**Taylor Alston:** I will miss performing with my fellow classmates. As sarcastic and annoying as they are, I truly love them with all my heart!

**Claire Austen:** I think I'm going to miss my friends the most. Next year I'm going to miss being in a school where everyone knows everyone.

**Katie Bailey:** I will miss the whole experience. I've learned so much from my classmates and their immense talents. I've formed friendships here that are hard to describe as anything but a second family. SOA has always been my home away from home. If we tally the numbers I know I've probably spent more waking hours here than at my own house. I'll miss walking around the arts building hearing the strange but comforting mix of the piano, strings, band, and vocal majors all practicing. I'll miss the bond I have with my teachers. I can't imagine leaving but I know I'll be back often to visit.

**Sarah Baxley:** I'll miss the wonderful people I've met, and all of the fantastic friends I've made.

**Dale Bennett:** I will really miss my friends Elizabeth, Erin, Kristen, Essence, Mandie and especially Desiree!!

**Nicholas Bentz:** The old campus and the wonderful faculty here!

**Alex Berlinsky:** The people, especially the senior Theatre majors. Thanks for all the amazing times!

**Alyssa Black:** I'll miss being around such talented people all the time.

**Liann Bova:** Being surrounded by so many talented people every day and collaborating with all the art majors.

**Taylor Brobisky:** The creativity you see every day from the students and the hallways.

**Dante Brown:** The IDs. I really liked wearing them and they were a really powerful tool for security. I felt safe, ya know?

**Joshua Brown:** From my first day attending SOA until these final moments I will truly say that I will never forget the relationships I have with my fellow classmates and teachers, both good and bad. Memories I'll never let go.

**Sarah Brown:** My friends and a few teachers.

**Se'Quoia Brown:** The versatility and acceptance all over campus.

**Henry Cain:** The swine.

**Harrison Carr:** The old SOA... the REAL SOA.

**Freddy Carruth:** I will miss all the friendly people.

**Joel Chapman:** The friends, teachers, and staff that took the time to bond with me personally and enlighten me. I have learned so much from our conversations, and the expressions of encouragement will forever remain with me.

**Khayla Chapman:** Mr. Moore and the Visual Arts family.

**Aaron Charpia:** The memories of the old campus and Lake SOA.



**Alysha Clark:** I will miss walking down the halls and being able to hear great people singing and playing their instruments.

**Samantha Clyburn:** My group of friends.

**Sarah Cockcroft:** I will miss my friends.

**Grace Collins:** Ashley Prentice, reject club 7th grade with Mr. Perkins.

**Erin Cook:** I'll miss the family relationship I've developed with my major seniors and friends.

**Eli Dent:** I will miss creating theatrical pieces out of nothing. I will miss having the opportunity to perform something that I created for all my friends.

**Danielle Dungo:** Jennifer Smith, Rachel Burnett, and the Visual Arts department. Elum, Jordan: The super nice and accepting atmosphere.

**Will Dodge:** The good friends and solid times in Dr. Cusatis' class!

**Savannah Friar:** I will miss having dance every day.

**Samuel Funk:** I will miss the friends that have, over time, become family.

**Brittany Gadsden:** The people. Not like, teachers though. Friends.

**Erik Green:** The people.

**Elizabeth Greene:** I will definitely miss all the crazy shenanigans that happen here.

**Sophia Greene:** Fancy, Sarah, Ally-B, Brehm.

**Corey Harmon:** I will (probably) miss my fellow SOA students and it will be unfortunate when I don't have three music classes in a row every other day.

**Kristen Henderson:** The History department.

**Keith Howard:** Making music with friends.

**Maxwell Hudson:** The encouraging environment to excel and create.

**Will Isaacson:** I'm going to miss the idea that is SOA—what it's all about. The building and the people can change, but the idea of SOA is something that will be there, and will be with me.

**Swakaria Jamison:** I will miss the amazing people around me more than anything.

**Kenton Jenkins:** What I will miss most about SOA is the friendly and accepting environment. Everyone is so accepting and free to be themselves; I think I will miss that the most.

**Alyssa Johnson:** I will miss my senior dance class the most. They are such amazing girls who have made my experience here so much more meaningful.

**Danie Johnson:** I'm going to miss being a senior in high school. It doesn't get much easier than that.

**LaJoyce Jones:** The artistic freedom and the family environment.

**Taylor Keathley:** The close-knit family of friends.

**Christiana Keinath:** I'll miss the caring teachers, the old campus, the new Visual Arts room, Mr. Orvin's room, and the atmosphere of spontaneity.

**Drew Kern:** Having classes with my friends.

**Rachel Lechler:** Seeing my best friend Sarah Baxley every day.

**Addison Lewis:** I will miss my classmates. We've always been told we were

the worst class and we were difficult to teach but all of the crazy personalities together are really entertaining. It will be so weird not seeing the faces I've been used to seeing for so many years.

**Cameron Lloyd:** Going to SOA since 6th grade, there will be a lot that I will miss. The teachers, students, and a plethora of memories. The thing I will miss the most though... I'm not sure. I'll be able to tell that probably in 5 years.

**Price Long:** The senior Theatre class and the theater.

**Khari Lucas:** I don't understand the question.

**Anne Marie Maghakian:** I will miss all of the fun, creative people at SOA.

**Tiffany Martin:** I'll miss seeing my HWBs every day most at SOA.

**Karin McQuade:** Mr. Orvin's room and his energy!

**Lily McRae:** Miles Counts.

**Jana Miley:** I'm definitely going to miss my friends. It's hard to believe we're splitting up after singing together in Vocal every day for the last seven years. Love my HWBs.





## What will you miss most about SOA?

**Jazzi Mitchell:** The focus they had on the arts.

**Samantha Molony:** I will miss the Class of 2013 dance majors.

**Tyler Morris:** The old campus and Lake SOA.

**Maya Novak-Cogdell:** I will miss Sarah Courville.

**Shelby Oltmann:** The closeness of the

students here. I feel like we're all a big family. Life after SOA will definitely be difficult to adjust to.

**Alexander Ostapeck:** All my kind buds.

**Levin Ostapeck:** Mornings.

**Faye Patat:** I will miss the accepting group of people.

**Maddie Peralta:** I will miss seeing my beautiful HWBs every day, and also how different things were at the old SOA.

**Josh Perez:** The thing I'll miss most about SOA is the close together community between students and teachers.

**Ann Louise Pitner:** I think I'll miss the acceptance of all kinds of people, and of course, all the friends I've made.

**Ashley Prentice:** The encouragement from my teachers, lunch conversations with Ms. Bronk and Tyler, and most importantly, the genuine support from other artists, even if they are strangers.

**Xan Rogers:** The administration.

**Mandie Ronick:** I will miss being able to have my major every day, and seeing everyone in my theatre class.

**Hannah Roth:** I will miss my dance class the most. I know that there will always be someone there to help me get through the day.

**Daniel Rovick:** I will miss my friends and Band.

**Ethan Rovick:** Playing my instrument every day.

**Will Scarborough:** The family that welcomed me in 7 years ago.

**Graham Schertz:** I will miss the constant support from my peers in music and in academics.

**Savannah Segle:** I will miss being around unique, talented students at school every day. I'll also probably miss Mr. P's bird noises, the Jazz Band, and Mr. Donnellon's cynical outlook on everything (not to mention his Arrested Development chicken dances).

**Briana Shakir-Lesesne:** I'll miss how weird, but accepting the students are.

**Callan Shattuck:** I will miss a few of my teachers and friends.

**Gavin Smith:** I think I'll miss the camaraderie of SOA the most.

**Jennifer Smith:** Art and Band class and seeing Danielle Dungo every day.

**Corazon Steglin:** The faculty. Most of my favorite people here are teachers.

**Izzy Strobing:** My general lack of competition.

**Maya Sumpter:** I will miss the Class of 2013 and Mr. Brehm the most.

**Ty Tanner:** Playing music every day.

**Emily Thomas:** I'll miss my Creative Writing family the most, I think. We've come a long way in the past seven years.

**Joel Trotter:** Michael Donnellon

**Maria Voronina:** The people.

**Will Waters:** My classmates and teachers that I have grown to love over the years.

**Morgan Watts:** The class experience, my teachers, my major... Everything.

**Vincent Whaley:** The campus life.

**Julia Woodward:** Probably the old school and the friendships I have made through my seven years here.

**Austin Worth:** I will miss the environment and great teachers.



## Do you have any advice for underclassmen?

**Taylor Alston:** Always do what is best for you. No one else should influence who you are as a person. Stay true to yourself and your art no matter what the circumstances may be.

**Claire Austen:** Nothing matters as much as you think it does, except for grades.

**Katie Bailey:** To always say yes to every opportunity that comes your way. Many great doors have opened up for me just because I had the courage to pursue them. Someone once told me the worst feeling in life is looking back and wondering 'what if?'

**Sarah Baxley:** Cherish your 9 hours of sleep now. You'll miss it.

**Dale Bennett:** It's never too late or early to start looking for college options.

**Nicholas Bentz:** Work hard, but have fun.

**Alex Berlinsky:** Always have change for a 5.

**Taylor Brobisky:** Don't procrastinate.

**Alyssa Black:** Senioritis hits hard; just come to class and get your stuff done because you do NOT wanna do seat time...

**Liann Bova:** Take all the opportunities the school and your major offers you.

**Dante Brown:** Get the SOA Diploma, it will get you into any college you desire. For real.

**Joshua Brown:** To upcoming seniors and underclassmen, do not become too complacent with your studies.

**Sarah Brown:** Do your work and watch what you say.

**Se'Quoia Brown:** Be highly prepared for Mr. Brehm and Ms. Pajic.

**Henry Cain:** Keep it real.

**Harrison Carr:** Don't challenge yourself.

**Freddy Carruth:** Do your Brehm articles.

**Khayla Chapman:** Don't be late for Brehm, remember ALL deadlines, no excuses, have fun.

**Joel Chapman:** Listen. It does not get much easier. There will be days when you want to walk right out and never return. But you've got to find something that holds your interest to keep you motivated. Because you're here for a reason and you owe it to yourself to gain the absolute best.

**Aaron Charpia:** Use your inside voices, and listen to your teachers because they actually care.

**Alysha Clark:** Take advantage of your experience here at SOA... there are so many different things you can learn here.

**Samantha Clyburn:** Always try to do your work.

**Sarah Cockcroft:** Do your homework.

**Grace Collins:** Do your Brehm articles when they're assigned!

**Erin Cook:** Take advantage of every situation! Life is too short not to do what makes you happy.

**Eli Dent:** Underclassmen, specifically freshmen, I will suggest to you that you give your all to your first three years of high school. Being confident in where

you are going after you graduate is a luxury that will alleviate a lot of stress for you senior year. You can do it!

**Will Dodge:** Take responsibility for your own actions and take thesis

seriously.

**Danielle Dungo:** Don't be slack.

**Jordan Elum:** Just be yourself always, and investigate your interests as much as possible.





# Do you have any advice for underclassmen?

**Savannah Friar:** Don't do drugs and do your homework.

**Samuel Funk:** Don't let the workload decide whether you are happy or not.

**Brittany Gadsden:** Haha no. No one gave me advice.

**Erik Green:** Drop out.

**Elizabeth Greene:** Always do all of your work and properly prepare yourself for your assessments.

**Sophia Greene:** Nothing's worth losing sleep over.

**Corey Harmon:** If you play the viola, either switch instruments or drastically improve. And don't buy a Viola-Matic unless you need a fancy kitchen tool.

**Kristen Henderson:** Don't take calculus.

**Keith Howard:** Don't let those who lose passion for their art influence you to lose passion as well.

**Maxwell Hudson:** Do your work, make art, and have fun.

**Will Isaacson:** The best advice I'm going to give underclassmen is to not lose sight of why you're here. You aren't here for academics, despite what some teachers may think. You're here because you possess the ability to create art. Good art. So do it.

**Swakaria Jamison:** For the future underclassmen, when times get rough be true to who you are and continue to follow your dreams. Don't let anyone deter you from your life goals and plans.

**Kenton Jenkins:** Advice for the underclassmen would be to live everyday at SOA like it's your last. Because honestly, once you step outside these friendly walls, there's a mean, cold world that can't wait to zap your creativity.

**Alyssa Johnson:** Be careful how you treat your teachers. Own your education. Don't sleep in class. Suck up. Always do your homework. Don't cheat. Be nice to your classmates. Don't put anything stupid on the internet.

**Danie Johnson:** Don't care. Don't get wrapped up in drama. Don't drop out of school. Don't converse with idiots.

**LaJoyce Jones:** Pass your class and don't get senioritis.

**Ariel Kasper:** Stay at SOA.

**Taylor Keathley:** Do your work and turn in your assignments on time.

**Christiana Keinath:** Don't be afraid to do something different; it's the only way to get different results.

**Drew Kern:** Read the books for AP Lit. No, seriously. Read them.

**Rachel Lechler:** Catch up on sleep now because you will be getting none of it senior year.

**Addison Lewis:** Do early applications for college. It's not necessary, but if you wait when everyone else starts getting acceptances, you'll feel very left out.

**Cameron Lloyd:** Underclassmen, listen up. Respect your teachers, they know more than you, and have your best interests at heart, even though it might not seem like it. It is their job for you to succeed.

**Olivia Lodge:** Do your work. You'll be done before you know it.

**Price Long:** Don't get overwhelmed.

**Khari Lucas:** Pay attention to the real value in the things you do. Ask yourself if you're going to gain something lasting from an experience. Don't base your decisions on how you'll explain your actions to others, because you really don't have to.

**Anne Marie Maghakian:** To the underclassmen, study hard and stay true to yourself.

**Tiffany Martin:** To the underclassmen, watch what you say so it doesn't bite you in the butt; you're not that far from getting out.

**Karin McQuade:** It's okay to be a lone wolf... you don't have to please anybody.

**Jana Miley:** You should probably read those articles Brehm gives you. Before the night before the test.

**Jazzi Mitchell:** Pay attention in Bronk's class!

**Samantha Molony:** Don't care so much about what others think. You'll be much happier that way.

**Tyler Morris:** Do your work and don't slack off until you've walked across the stage at graduation.

**Shelby Oltmann:** DON'T SLACK OFF! Do ALL of your homework. Try your hardest in everything you do. Turn in all of your college applications ahead of time.

**Alexander Ostapeck:** PLUR: Peace Love Unity Respect

**Levin Ostapeck:** Don't ever give up.

**Faye Patat:** Do your work so life is easier later on.

**Maddie Peralta:** My advice to underclassmen is to cherish all the time that you can possibly get with your friends. Time flies.

**Josh Perez:** Keep moving forward, never give up.

**Ann Louise Pitner:** "Fly under the radar." -Fitz

**Ashley Prentice:** Find something exciting about every class. As Mr. Brehm will explain, "Own your education."

**Xan Rogers:** You won't succeed unless you procrastinate.

**Mandie Ronick:** My advice for the underclassmen is try not to procrastinate on major projects and thesis, or else it will become a lot more stressful than it needs to be.

**Hannah Roth:** Underclassmen, make the best of high school because it's something you'll never forget.

**Daniel Rovick:** Keep your grades up.

**Ethan Rovick:** Strive for excellence.

**Will Scarborough:** Practice and work hard.

**Graham Schertz:** Suck it up and keep working hard.

**Briana Shakir-Lesene:** It's okay to not love your major. 9 times out of 10 it won't get you a job.

**Gavin Smith:** Try your best not to procrastinate, and don't slack off in your senior year.

**Savannah Segle:** MAKE GOOD GRADES (all 4 years). Try to join every single club and do every single service opportunity that comes up. It helps, and makes the college application process a whole lot easier, I promise. Also, be nice to everyone and take AP English with Dr. Cusatis - smartest decision I've made this year!



**Callan Shattuck:** If you're going to skip advisory periods just know that they've started taking attendance (because of our class).

**Jennifer Smith:** If you do things 50%, you're going to get a 50% life.

**Corazon Stegelin:** Don't try to be like everyone else, but don't specifically try to be different either. Just be yourself.

**Izzy Strobing:** Keep up with your homework in Bronk's class and don't give up every fourth quarter.

**Maya Sumpter:** My advice for the underclassmen is to leave when you can. Just kidding I guess. If you are a dance major don't allow the stupid graduation "policy" to turn your class against each other.

**Ty Tanner:** Take school and your major seriously.

**Emily Thomas:** Do your homework! And if you're having a problem, talk to your teacher before it's too late.

**Joel Trotter:** Watch your back, you'll lose yourself, this is a battleground.

**Maria Voronina:** Do your homework.

**Will Waters:** Have your GPA in order BEGINNING your freshman year.

**Morgan Watts:** Don't be stubborn, be determined. Don't procrastinate, have fun (responsibly), and read your Brehm articles.

**Vincent Whaley:** Make friends early and think before you act. DON'T PROCRASTINATE.

**Julia Woodward:** Keep your mouth shut.

**Austin Worth:** Don't just exist. Introduce situations.





# What are your plans after graduation?

**Taylor Alston:** After graduation I plan to enjoy my summer working and travelling with my best friends Maya Sumpter and Jazmyne Reddick until it is time to part ways August 17th. I will be attending Howard University in the fall majoring in Public Health.

**Claire Austen:** Next year I'm going to the University of South Carolina and majoring in Hospitality.

**Katie Bailey:** I plan on attending College of Charleston pursuing costume design. I also plan on auditioning for the Disney College Program where I hope to get my foot in the door because it has always been my dream to work for the company.

**Sarah Baxley:** I'll be going to Anderson University and then hopefully going to work for a publishing house.

**Dale Bennett:** I'm going to the College of Charleston for Vocal Performance.

**Nicholas Bentz:** I'm going to go off to the Aspen Music Festival for four weeks this summer and then coming home to prepare for conservatory in the fall.

**Alex Berlinsky:** Go to Georgia Tech and learn some more stuff.

**Alyssa Black:** Attending Trident for Nursing.

**Liann Bova:** I am going to the University of South Carolina to major in Music and Public Health.

**Taylor Brobisky:** I plan to attend Columbia College and major in Dance Education.

**Dante Brown:** I'm going to Chicago.

**Joshua Brown:** After high school I've decided to go to college and major in Business Management. At some point I will continue with my art career.

**Sarah Brown:** I plan to attend Emory University next year where I will be studying Biology and History.

**Se'Quoia Brown:** Attending USC Aiken and work.

**Henry Cain:** Violin, Philosophy.

**Harrison Carr:** PARTY AT MY HOUSE!

**Freddy Carruth:** I will be going to Clemson where I will study Agriculture.

**Joel Chapman:** I might grab a bite at Chili's or FATZ with my parents and brother, though I would rather party... Then take a step into the life



of a Cougar at College of Charleston's summer transition program SPECTRA. I am looking forward to taking classes I actually want to take to absorb as much as I can. And of course delve into Theatre wholeheartedly and open-mindedly. I am hungry for experiences that will affect me and make me a stronger, well-rounded person.

**Khayla Chapman:** Get a tattoo apprenticeship and attend Winthrop University in the fall as an Art major.

**Aaron Charpia:** Attending College of Charleston and majoring in Theatre and minoring in Arts Management.

**Alysha Clark:**

I plan to go to Trident Tech for my first year of college, and then plan to transfer to a four-year college, either USC or Belmont University. I plan to study Business Management.

**Samantha Clyburn:** I'm going to college to be an anthropologist.

**Sarah Cockcroft:** I will be attending the USC Honors College. I will major in International Studies.

**Erin Cook:** I plan to attend USC and become an anesthesiologist or pharmacist.

**Grace Collins:** Attend and complete Charleston Cosmetology School, earn my cosmetology license, then hopefully take management at my uncle's salon.

**Will Dodge:** I'll be attending Emerson College in Boston this fall, but before that I'll be sleeping a lot and hopefully eating some dank food.

**Eli Dent:** I will have little time for summer as I am going to USC to begin training. I am very excited to begin my college career but also very anxious. I hope to be successful but all I can do now is work hard to prepare.

**Danielle Dungo:** Work and go to Trident.

**Jordan Elum:** I will attend Johns Hopkins University in the fall to major in Neuroscience.

**Savannah Friar:** After graduation I'll probably go home.

**Samuel Funk:** To live.

**Brittany Gadsden:** USC Columbia. Majoring in Pharmacy, minoring in Religious Studies.

**Erik Green:** I will be attending Francis Marion Honors College.

**Elizabeth Greene:** I'm going to Winthrop to major in Human Nutrition.

**Sophia Greene:** FIT NYC

**Will Isaacson:** After graduation I'm going to chill hard and enjoy the company of my friends before we're all separated. I guess it's time for us all to move on in life, but there's still a few months before the exodus, and that's gotta be enjoyed as much as possible.

**Swakaria Jamison:** After graduation I plan on attending Winthrop University as an Early Childhood Education major.

**Kenton Jenkins:** I plan to move to California at the beginning of next year and chase my dream as a solo recording artist. I hope to someday become a famous singer or actor, whichever happens first. So look out for me on the big screen!

**Alyssa Johnson:** I am enlisted in the U.S. Air Force. I leave for basic training July 8th and will graduate from there on September 6th.

**Danie Johnson:** After graduation, I'm going

to tear up Chucktown at College of Charleston as an Exercise Science major and focus on Nutrition.

**LaJoyce Jones:** Going to Winthrop and after, graduate school for Psychology.

**Ariel Kasper:** Go to college, try to break into film afterwards.

**Keathley, Taylor:** I will be going to Clemson University.

**Christiana Keinath:** I plan to experience life, find a career I'm passionate about, and create more specific plans after that.

**Drew Kern:** I plan to go to Furman, then maybe med school.

**Rachel Lechler:** Major in Communications at C of C and hopefully becoming an editor.

**Price Long:** I plan to go to College of Charleston for Theatre and continue onto the Technical Theatre world.

**Khari Lucas:** I'm gonna go to College of Charleston and do my best to disappear for awhile.

**Addison Lewis:** Having fun this summer, going to USC next year and dancing on the dance team.



**Corey Harmon:**

I plan to begin attending USC in the fall as a Math major. I also plan to minor in Music and play in the orchestra.

**Kristen Henderson:** USC!!!

**Keith Howard:** I am going to Furman University to study Engineering while also still continuing in music.

**Maxwell Hudson:** Go to college, get a job, make a lot of music, and draw.



# What are your plans after graduation?

**Cameron Lloyd:** After graduation, I plan to walk-on and play basketball at CSU and hopefully I can major in Communication Sciences or a field of Journalism. Then I plan to transfer to Clemson where I can finish off my college career as a Tiger!

**Olivia Lodge:** After a summer of friends, family, and the beach, I will be attending Long Island University in the fall, and double majoring in Theatre and Math.

**Anne Marie Maghakian:** I plan on attending Winthrop in the fall!

**Tiffany Martin:** I'm going to spend my summer with my HWBs, and then in the fall I'm packing my bags for New York City to attend NYU.

**Karin McQuade:** Directly after graduation, I am touring Ireland with the Taylor Music Group fiddling and singing, and visiting family in California. Then in the fall I will begin my freshman year at the College of Charleston studying Music. The plan is to have a major developed in Ethno-musicology, incorporating my love of traditional folk music, history, and culture.

**Lily McRae:** After graduation I'll probably burn my cap and gown and then sleep for a week or two in preparation for my descent into adulthood.

**Jana Miley:** I will be moving to the concrete jungle this fall to attend NYU's Tisch School of the Arts, and I couldn't be more excited. I will be studying Drama with a minor in Dance.

**Jazzi Mitchell:** I'm going to Winthrop to major in Biology with a concentration in Physical Therapy.

**Samantha Molony:** I am attending Winthrop University in the fall as an Athletic Training major.

**Tyler Morris:** Go to college and start my own business.



**Maya Novak-Cogdell:** "naturally my next life is entirely up to me. No one else. And also this is not a political matter."

**Shelby Oltmann:** Have an awesome summer, then I will be attending Trident Tech to become a Paramedic.

**Alexander Ostapeck:** Going to the desert.

**Levin Ostapeck:** I hope to travel then attend C of C in the fall.

**Faye Patat:** To attend Clemson!

**Maddie Peralta:** After graduation I plan to spend the most amazing summer ever with my friends and family.

**Josh Perez:** My plans after graduation are to go on to the college of Charleston this fall.

**Ann Louise Pitner:** Columbia College route to a Child Life Specialist major.

**Ashley Prentice:** I will be attending Erskine College in Due West, SC. I plan to major in Chemistry, but still continue exploring my passion for journalism and photography.

**Xan Rogers:** I'm gonna make bank.

**Mandie Ronick:** I plan to attend the University of Tampa after graduation.

**Hannah Roth:** After I graduate, I am going to the College of Charleston and majoring in Public Health. After that, I plan to go to MUSC for dental and orthodontic school.

**Daniel Rovick:** Going to University of South Carolina for College.

**Ethan Rovick:** I plan on going to college.



**Will Scarborough:** Have fun with friends, go to college, do what makes me happy, live life.

**Graham Schertz:** I'm moving furniture and when I'm not doing that I'm gonna be a beach bum. After summer, off to Norfolk, Virginia. Old Dominion University here I come!

**Savannah Segle:** I am going to be a Music Performance major at Brigham Young University in Idaho. I hope to be able to someday play in a studio orchestra for film scores.

**Briana Shakir-Lesesne:** Attend Winthrop University as an Athletic Training major then teach dance classes at local studios.

**Gavin Smith:** I plan to attend Berklee College of Music and study Jazz Composition, and Music Production and Engineering.

**Callan Shattuck:** I will start attending Eugene Lang College in the fall in Manhattan, NY. I plan to major in Culture and Media; I will possibly minor in Theatre, While attending school I will be pushing forward with my acting career and possibly try to get into the modeling industry.

**Jennifer Smith:** Go to USC and become famous.

**Corazon Stegelin:** I will be going to College of Charleston with a double major in English and Theatre, with an emphasis in stage management and directing.

**Izzy Strobing:** I'm working at Victoria's Secret and preparing to attend Boston University with a major in Political Science and a minor in Music.

**Maya Sumpter:** After graduation I plan to enjoy my summer and go to college.

**Emily Thomas:** After graduation, I'm flying to visit my family in Louisiana. When I get back, I'll spend this summer working. This fall, you can find me in the Swannanoa Valley at Warren Wilson College where I'll be majoring in Creative Writing and minoring in Secondary Education.

**Ty Tanner:** To attend the College of Charleston.

**Trotter, Joel:** College.

**Voronina, Maria:** College!

**Will Waters:** I plan to study International Business and Finance at the Darla Moore School of Business at USC.



**Morgan Watts:** Major in Biochemistry, join MUSC or work in a lab while co-owning an art studio with my sister.

**Vincent Whaley:** College, Grad school, get paid.

**Julia Woodward:** I'm going to see Aaron Carter with my HWB chicks and it is going to be a blast. We'll then venture on to Bonnaroo and enjoy our time there. The rest of the summer will be filled with late nights and lots of food. I'll be attending Furman University in the fall to peruse music and become a star.

**Austin Worth:** Hopefully I will be able to mind meld.



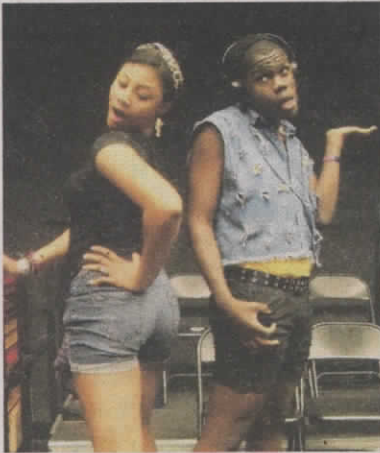


# What was your most memorable moment at SOA?

**Taylor Alston:** My most memorable moment at SOA

**Claire Austen:** I don't have one specific instance but I'm going to remember lunch with my friends over the course of high school.

**Katie Bailey:** I have so many—some of my first memories include watching my older sister perform for the Fighting Gnomes in the old Black Box. I grew up knowing this school was where I was meant to be.



I went from being in a stroller to single-handedly banning the Heely craze for going too fast in the old arts building. I'd have to say that some of my most memorable moments would have to be when I bring a friend or family member to a school performance. One of my favorite nights was bringing my grandpa to the dedication ceremony for the Rose Maree Myers Theater. He and I were in awe of all the talent on the stage that night from students and alumni alike. I also find some of my most memorable moments are on the stage as well. I've had such great memories preparing for and taking part in all four SOA annual fashion shows. I also had the great opportunity to perform in the piano rocks concert last year where I got the chance to sing with a lot of my friends. This school has provided some of my best memories that I know I'll be talking about for years to come.

**Sarah Baxley:** Going up to Lake Logan for the first time.

**Dale Bennett:** The first day of sixth grade and the first time ever I rode the bus. I didn't know anyone. I was freaking scared out of my mind!!

**Nicholas Bentz:** Running laps in the bus loop during Vocal.

**Alex Berlinsky:** Mr. Younts' "tick me off" speech from 8th grade. I think every theatre major has a special place in their heart for that one.

**Alyssa Black:** Honestly, Hairspray. I met SO many people and I'll always remember how amazing of an experience that was.

**Liann Bova:** My most memorable moment is walking down the arts hallway at the old campus and hearing Orchestra and Band rehearsing, and seeing the theatre majors running down the halls in capes.

**Taylor Brobisky:** Dancing our piece, "With or Without You" for Mrs. Slowinski.

**Dante Brown:** Mr. Younts' "tick me off" speech. His speech when we ticked him off.

**Joshua Brown:** My most memorable moment would have to be walking across the stage at graduation. Being a long journey leading up to it, through all the challenges and tribulations, we, as the Class of 2013, can say, "We landed on the final frontier."

**Sarah Brown:** My HWBs winning.

**Se'Quoia Brown:** Every day at SOA was memorable.

**Henry Cain:** When Gabe threw up.

**Harrison Carr:** When Jana and Danie presented their project in Drennan's class freshman year.

**Freddy Carruth:** Pulling the emergency shower in Ms. Lentz's class.

**Joel Chapman:** I will never forget the feeling of gratitude and triumph after performing and entertaining as Harold Hill in *The Music Man* and Seaweed J. Stubbs in *Hairspray*. I told myself and others that I seriously appreciate those people that came out to watch because if they were not there I'd just be performing for myself.

**Khayla Chapman:** Me and Jen Smith laughing at Se'Quoia Brown and the "grind train" at prom.

**Aaron Charpia:** The last night of *Hairspray*, during *Without Love*, seeing Sam Cass in full drag dancing in a church choir gown.

**Erin Cook:** My most memorable moments would be every competition trip with my fellow strings seniors.

**Alysha Clark:** My most memorable moment at SOA was my first convocation, where I got to witness almost all the other majors and I realized what a great school I was at.

**Samantha Clyburn:** Junior prom.

**Sarah Cockcroft:** My most memorable moment was the last day on the old campus when it poured down rain and almost turned the entire campus into Lake SOA.

**Grace Collins:** When I found out that I won Gold Medal National Scholastic and The New York Life Scholarship after having a really bad day.

**Eli Dent:** My most memorable moment at SOA was performing my solo piece for senior thesis. It marks the culmination of all my work in my major and it was my favorite memory that I will most likely take with me for a good amount of time.

**Will Dodge:** When Austin Worth told Tim Scott what was up in the auditorium. Shoutsout to Chick-fil-A.

**Danielle Dungo:** Meeting my best friend Jennifer Smith.

**Jordan Elum:** Meeting Nikky Finney!

**Savannah Friar:** My most memorable moment at SOA was completing senior thesis.

**Samuel Funk:** Every night of thesis. Getting to see my theatre family express themselves in so many beautiful ways proved the merit of theatre as an art form.

**Brittany Gadsden:** Getting my cap and gown.

**Erik Green:** Brent Hubbard passing out during the birthing video.

**Elizabeth Greene:** My most memorable moment at SOA was probably doing thesis and the dance party we had afterward.

**Sophia Greene:** Dancing to stupid music with my fellow theatre kids.

**Corey Harmon:** Definitely when Mrs. Rickson climbed onto a desk and screamed SOH CAH TOA at us for several minutes. It must be a tradition because sometimes I hear newly indoctrinated underclassmen talking about it.

**Kristen Henderson:** Definitely my 4A Calculus class.

**Keith Howard:** Sitting on the side of the road for 5 hours on the trip to Chattanooga for the Grand NAI Band competition this year.

**Maxwell Hudson:** Prom itself this year represented what I'd like to remember most. Everyone together and happy, dancing to wonderful music.

**Will Isaacson:** I suppose one my most memorable moments here is making weird noises with Alexander from across the room in Mrs. Castle's class in 8th grade—she got so upset because she never knew who was doing it. This happened frequently. You never know what weird event, like that, will ultimately result in you discovering your best friend.

**Swakaria Jamison:** My most memorable moment at SOA was being able to be taught by the amazing Mrs. Slowinski.



**Kenton Jenkins:** My most memorable moment at SOA was when I came to school with a net over my face after killing one of my alter egos, Bryan. Reflecting on that day makes me laugh because I think of crazy I am/can be, at times, don't get it twisted.

**Alyssa Johnson:** My most memorable moment at SOA would be how close our senior class became, especially in the past few months about dancing at graduation. We all fought, and are proud of those who are representing us as a class. They will do us proud!

**LaJoyce Jones:** Lake SOA on the old campus.



# What was your most memorable moment at SOA?

**Danie Johnson:** One of my favorite moments at SOA was sitting in Dr. Cusatis' room during journalism and reading Magnet's school paper. The staff would just destroy every typo and lame photo caption in their paper. It was a truly fabulous bonding experience.

**Ariel Kasper:** The day I became a part of my group of friends.

**Taylor Keathley:** Walking through the old campus when it was pouring down rain.

**Christiana Keinath:** I'm not likely to forget frolicking with my best friends in the downpour that was our last day on the old campus.

**Drew Kern:** Probably when Sam Dudley punched me in the face. Good times.

**Rachel Lechler:** The family-like environment at Lake Logan.

**Addison Lewis:** Probably the days in dance when everyone is laughing and getting along. Those were the best.

**Cameron Lloyd:** That's a tough one, I have had countless memories at SOA. The bus rides back from Vocal trips are definitely up there, and the feeling of those last days of school through each year here. It has a distinct feeling, a sense of winding down that I won't forget. There is so much about this place that I wish I could play over in my mind.

**Price Long:** A collection of being Deck Chief for the past two musicals or Mr. Reinhart informing Will Waters and I that we can't play Frisbee because we have to study for exams.

**Khari Lucas:** I wouldn't say there's one moment. I think my becoming a person is a very memorable experience, but it's been gradual.

**Anne Marie Maghakian:** My most memorable moment would be my very first day at SOA. I loved the artistic atmosphere and the sweet people.

**Tiffany Martin:** My most memorable moment at SOA was Julia Woodward's birthday... the day it all began.

**Karin McQuade:** Actually earning the respect from the Frisbee guys!

**Tyler Morris:** Being a part of Hairspray.

**Alexander Ostapeck:** Being happy.

**Jana Miley:** In my seven years at SOA, I'd say the funniest thing to ever happen was when someone threw up on Ashley Patrick at the seventh grade vocal competition not even twenty minutes before we went on stage. The girl was rushed to the bathroom as Ashley sat in a silent shock for about two minutes, until we finally realized she had puke all over her concert dress. The sounds, the smell, and her expression will be imprinted in my brain forever. Thank you for the beautiful memory.

**Jazzi Mitchell:** Raiding the Bonds-Wilson Campus singing songs from The Lion King with my fellow Vocal majors.

**Samantha Molony:** Being in Hairspray. I met so many amazing people and they all became some of my closest friends.

**Shelby Oltmann:** Every single bit of it. Asking me to pick a single memory is like asking a parent to pick their favorite child. It can't be done.

**Levin Ostapeck:** Playing so much music with my friends.

**Faye Patat:** My most memorable moment at SOA was when Mrs. Slowinski was giving our dance class advice about high school.

**Maddie Peralta:** My most memorable moment at SOA would be how proud I felt of my friends during our senior thesis.

**Josh Perez:** I cannot pick just a single memory from my entire time here as being the most memorable; seeing so much, going places, meeting people... all I know is that I am really going to miss it all.

**Ann Louise Pitner:** When I finished my senior thesis. Walking off the stage after I had played was one of those moments in life that I won't ever forget, and I'm proud to remember it here.

**Xan Rogers:** When I danced to "Barbara Streisand" and people laughed.

**Mandie Ronick:** My most memorable moment at SOA would be how relieved everyone felt after our last thesis performances, and I had finally accomplished all of it.

**Daniel Rovick:** The Savannah Jazz Band trip.

**Ashley Prentice:** There are special moments everyday that are memorable which makes it hard to choose, but I will never forget the delicious food on the 7th grade mountain trip, our rendition of "We Are The Champions" for our Art Smart skit, my one trek to Lake Logan and when the Erskine College admission team surprised me in yearbook class with a full tuition scholarship.

**Hannah Roth:** My most memorable moment at SOA was freshman year when Mrs. Slowinski told us that drinking a tiny amount of alcohol was equal to eating a big bowl of chips.

**Ethan Rovick:** Always hanging out with the Jazz Band.

**Will Scarborough:** Probably the pre-concert Chick-fil-A runs with my friends.

**Graham Schertz:** The senior parade, blasting my French horn as loud as I could with all my friends.

**Savannah Segle:** Soddy Daisy. CSI. (Chattanooga Band Trip 2k12—SOA Wind Ensemble wins second place nationally.)

**Briana Shakir-Lesesne:** Dance thesis 4 because it would be the last time on the stage with my dance sisters.

**Callan Shattuck:** I don't know if I can pick just one memorable moment, but my most recent memorable moment was finishing my senior thesis.

**Gavin Smith:** The Jazz Band trip to the Savannah Jazz Festival. Meeting all of those great musicians and playing in the competition is something I'll never forget.

**Jennifer Smith:** Every memory of the old campus.

**Corazon Stegelin:** When the old campus flooded on our last day there.

**Izzy Strobing:** Eating sketchy Chinese food and getting lost on the way back to rehearsal for Region Band in 10th grade.

**Ty Tanner:** All of my performances have been very memorable.

**Maya Sumpter:** My most memorable moment at SOA was the second day of sixth grade because I decided to walk in by myself and I ended up getting lost because I walked to the right side of the school (which led me straight to the high school trailers) and not the left (shortcut to the 6th grade trailers), it started raining and I slipped in a puddle and messed up my clothes, and I got my first tardy from Ms. Dirkes. And that was the beginning of my excessive tardiness at SOA.

**Emily Thomas:** There are really too many to count, but I think one of my most memorable moments was in 2011 when the Creative Writers went to Lake Logan. It was a really excellent bonding experience and I got to know my classmates a whole lot better.

**Trotter, Joel:** The moment where I realized I'd never have to see it a lot of people ever again.

**Maria Voronina:** Visual Arts mornings and the laughs.

**Will Waters:** A collection of moments as stage manager for Hairspray.

**Morgan Watts:** There is no single moment, just a bunch of good times.

**Vincent Whaley:** Asking Justice Murray to prom.

**Julia Woodward:** Being forced to run 894 laps around the old bus loop at 8AM by Ms. Slenk because we were too rambunctious.

**Austin Worth:** Doing a Nick and Gatsby song with Will Dodge. We did it.





## APPLAUSE'S SCORCHIN' SUMMER PLAYLIST

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**"HERE COMES THE SUN" BY THE BEATLES**



**"CANNONBALL" BY THE BREEDERS**



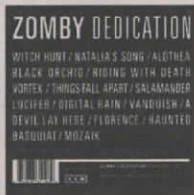
**"AIN'T NOTHING BUT A G THANG" BY SNOOP DOGG AND DR. DRE**



**"GLOOMY BABYLON" BY SONS OF JAH**



**"ALOTHEA" BY ZOMBY**



**"MOLLY RINGWALD" BY DANNY BROWN**



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**Congratulations Class of 2013!**





*Clayton Rosenbaum and Brittany Baxley*



*Olivia Pharis and Joe Roddey*



*The Ratigans*



*Destini Anderson and Brooke Bazemore*



*Douglas Smith and Leeanna Robertson*



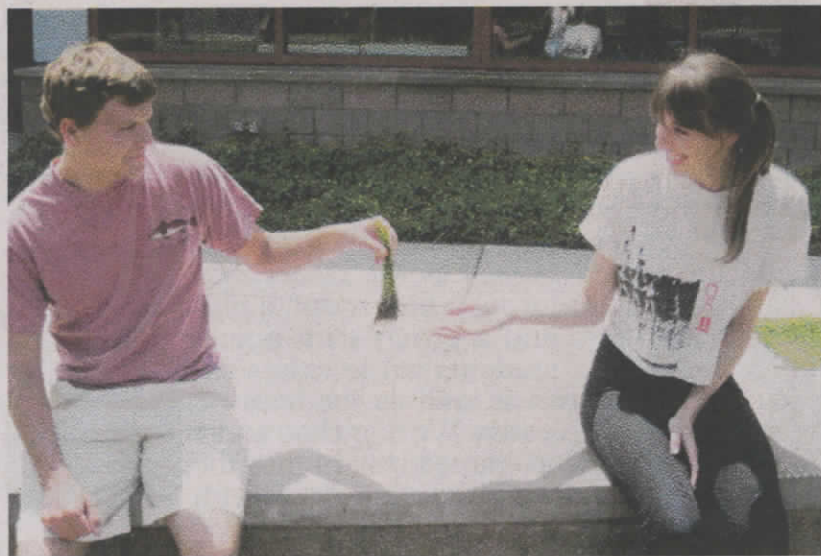
*Callie Mathias and Ellison Karesb*



*Sophie Ferguson and Chris Andrews*

# *SOA's Cutest Couples, 2013*





*Will Waters and Olivia Lodge*



*Sarah Vane and Will Koste*



*Nori Page and Tyler Coons*



*Logan Williams and Jess Rames*



*Timothy Shaw and Katherine Murchison*



*Tyler Sim and Caroline Tweedy*



*Matt Jeevas and Harris Lynam*



*Joseph Yu and Connor Gatton*



## Creative Writers knock it out the park in 2013 by guest writer Rutledge Hammes

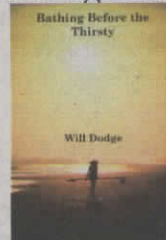
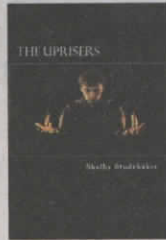
Once again, the Creative Writing Program at SOA made a name for itself on the national stage this year, earning countless awards in some of the country's most prestigious writing competitions, including a record 357 regional awards at this year's Scholastic Writing Competition (the nation's oldest and most prestigious writing contest for teens), which is more than double the number of awards we won the previous year and more than any other school in the entire country. What's more, 100% of our creative writers won at least one award for the writing they submitted. 15 of our students won National Scholastic Medals and will accept their awards at the world-famous Carnegie Hall this spring. That night, the top of the Empire State Building will be lit in gold, in honor of their achievements. What's more, our creative writers won several Reflections Writing Awards, first place in the state in the Poetry Out Loud Competition as well as 2 Best-in-Grade Awards for the nation's top fiction writers in both the 7<sup>th</sup> and the 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

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

7<sup>th</sup> graders focused on fiction and poetry during the first semester. They studied plot structure, pacing, and characterization within a short story and crafted three pieces that explored different techniques of narrative voice. In the spring, they studied poetry, creating works from unusual points of view, based on photographs, and embedded with memories. They also explored nonfiction, writing essays which looked at an element of nature and how it impacted their existence. Finally, they gave a literary reading in the Black Box Theater which proved to be a magical evening.

8<sup>th</sup> graders studied fiction and began the term capturing a holiday memory in a vignette. Their second piece, a lengthy short story, addressed teen conflicts. The second half of the year they studied poetry and experimented with various methods: borrowing phrases and words from classmates to construct poems, basing poems on news articles, and following the masters by composing sonnets. After reading *The House on Mango Street*, they created nonfiction vignettes which captured aspects of their own lives. Finally, they shared their works with parents and friends at a literary reading in the Black Box Theatre.

9<sup>th</sup> 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, t

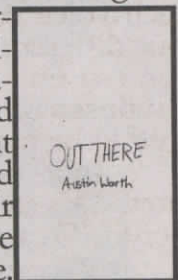


they wrote three short stories and several vignettes for Mr. Hammes, and studied a number of advanced fiction techniques like minimalism, narrative uncertainty and the role of objective correlatives. During the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester, both 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> graders traveled to the Penn Center on St. Helena's Island for a writer's retreat which focused on the literature and culture of the Civil rights Movement and Gullah traditions.

10<sup>th</sup> graders learned to craft a script for the stage and the screen as well as the rather new genre of slam poetry, producing a film script, a play script, a solo slam poem and a group slam poem. In Nonfiction Workshop, students wrote essays exploring their personal flaws as well as the lives of relatives, the essence of Creative Writing class and a childhood memory. Students gained insight into the daily work of a writer through their interview with Gary Smith, senior writer for *Sports Illustrated*.

11<sup>th</sup> graders studied the works of Noble Prize winning authors in Finding Your Voice, learning to identify their own voice through a thematic series of poems, 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. They wrote and revised full-length creative essays on the inhabitation of a place, a sequence of poems based on an embedded common element, and a flash-fiction piece that incorporated Hemingway's Iceberg Theory.

The intensive yearlong Senior Thesis course afforded eleven students the enviable opportunity to learn about the writing profession. They each worked one-on-one with a renowned writer to write, revise and publish an original 100-page book, now available for purchase at Amazon.com. The year culminated in numerous state, regional and national awards, along with a well-attended Senior Thesis Reading, themed A Light in the Attic. For all their hard work and dedication to their craft and for all their countless awards and recognitions, the Creative Writers truly deserve a big round of applause.



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**Congratulations Aaron & Haley Charpia;  
Class of 2013**



## Vocal wraps up vivacious year on a high note by Danie Johnson

As a senior vocal major, you already know how most of the year is going to go: All-County, All-State, the Holiday concert, and senior thesis. Those are a given. However, there are a few things that surprised me this year. Such as the first ever vocal department musical and ACTUALLY placing in the spring festival competition!

The year started with excitement as we rehearsed for about 2 months for the vocal production of *Les Miserables*. I thought the musical went extremely well considering one of the lead rolls' had to drop out last minute and Will Isaacson came swooping in from the wings to save the show and every vocal student's dignity.

After *Les Mis*, the 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders began rehearsing for the annual All-State auditions. Once each quintet was perfected, we all crowded and pushed onto a bus and made our way to our state's beautiful and relevant capital. Just before the auditions, we stopped for a quick bite to eat at the infamous Rush's; everyone's favorite part of the trip! Rush's refreshing and nutritious meal fueled everyone to perform their best, as we had very good all state results. Our school held the number one rank for each voice part! About 50 vocal students placed in All-State.

Around November, we started practicing Holiday music. Holiday music is usually religious, however some religious pieces are the most famous and beautiful melodies, such as the Hallelujah Chorus. Which is why I like holiday music. Of course, it isn't the holiday season without irritating the pants off the whole school and Academic Magnet with our annual caroling.

In January, middle and high school participate in All-County. This year's All-County included the most difficult song compilation that I had ever participated in for over 6 years. This difficult song compilation resulted in a very sloppy performance, as some schools hadn't even rehearsed some of the songs. The conductor showed us mercy and allowed us to use our music during the performance, except for a Spanish piece, *Ritmo*, which included clapping. And not just everyone clapping the same part. Each voice part had a different clapping sequence. That makes four different clapping sequences alternating between the choir. You can only imagine the final product. Lets just say that if the composer of *Ritmo* had attended the performance, he would need to be prescribed to at least 3 extra-strength antidepressants.

In February, the high school students put on a fundraiser show, "Music Down in my Soul", dedicated to Black History month. The performance was one of my favorites because many of my classmates had solos, such as Dale Bennett, and I love hearing him sing. I also like performances like these because gospel music is more upbeat and spiritually interactive which

makes the religious folks in the audience get excited, and sometimes rowdy. Having a responsive audience is always a good thing because we, the performers, can sometimes get bored on stage singing songs we have been rehearsing for a month.

March is always the busiest month of the school year. This year, March consisted of All-State weekend, spring festival competition, retired teachers performance, and National choir weekend. All-State took place in another one of South Carolinas hidden gem cities (perhaps hidden for a reason), Rock Hill. Here is where singers from all over South Carolina practice selected pieces for approximately 18 hours over the 3-day period. The first day consisted of practicing, the second day consisted of practicing, and on the third day, God said "let my people go" and we finally got to perform and leave. Hallelujah!

The next week we performed a concert for the retired teachers convention. They all loved it and it's always a nice feeling when you make old people smile. It's definitely more heart-warming than making some kid from your high school smile. High school kids smile at dead baby jokes. Anyways, the next weekend we competed in the state festival competition and our women's choir came in second (gasp!) and our mixed choir came in third (double gasp!). We went for celebratory burgers and shakes at Steak N' Shake! Score!

For the students who actually like to sing in choirs, National Choir was the following weekend in Texas. They sang in Eric Whitacre's virtual choir, which is a pretty big honor.

After March, April seems a lot like your pushover Grandmother. Everyone's got that pushover Grammy that spoils them. Senior thesis was in April and early May. Everyone that performed impressed me, but that's partially because I love all of my classmates. You gain *at least* a tiny bit of respect for someone once you see them get on a stage and sing alone. That's not something everyone is capable of. In May, vocal collaborated with the orchestra to put on the Masterworks concert. The concert included famous classical pieces.

To wrap up the year, Will Isaacson, Nick Bentz, and Dale Bennett will be singing together at graduation. Three trio is insanely talented, and I'm to have them represent myself and the rest of the vocal program.



The vocal senior girls performing at senior thesis  
(from l-r: Julia Woodward, Jana Miley, Maddie Peralta, Ashley Patrick,  
Danie Johnson, Tiffany Martin, and Alexandra Grant)

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## Theatre department caps off 2012-2013 in style

by Alex Berlinsky

The 2012-2013 school year was a busy one for the SOA theatre department. Not only did theatre students perform their pieces for the SOA student body, but the theatre department has continued their tradition of outreach into the community at large.

The theatre department is known for stretching students in a variety of different roles. From Wilder's absurdist *Skin of Our Teeth* to Shakespeare's tragic *Macbeth* to *Alice and Wonderland*, members of the SOA theatre community had their hands full. Other plays produced throughout the year include *Poe's Midnight Dreary*, *Harry Potter Book One*, and *Homework Eats Dog*.

The students this year were fantastic, giving Oscar worthy performances on a nightly basis. Sharing the title role of *Macbeth*, Ben McCoy and Timothy Shaw displayed a maturity beyond their years, brilliantly depicting one of William Shakespeare's most difficult characters. In *Harry Potter Book One*, Prentice Clark played the plump Dudley to perfection, torturing J.K. Rowling's poor little protagonist.

For all of those who think that acting is all theater majors can do however, think again. In addition to the six major productions, the high school produced 17 original short plays written and directed by the junior theater majors in *Spring Playfest*, the gauntlet that all good theatre students must run before reaching the Eden of senior year.

Theatre also completed its typical community outreach. Theatre teacher Mr. George Younts performed his annual one man version of *A Christmas Carol* which would leave even the most adamant of Scrooges in the Christmas spirit. He also worked with our Hearing Impaired program in what was called "Theatre for the Deaf," bringing Dickens' famous tale to those who cannot hear. Likewise, The Fighting Gnomes, SOA's official, unofficial mascot and favorite improvisational theatre troupe, also performed many outreaches into the community, holding performances for elementary schools, retirement homes, and all generations in between.

This year was business as usual for the SOA theater department, which can be summed up in one word: busy. One trip down to the buzzing beehive of the theater hallway and anyone can see for themselves that the shows they do, the lights they run, the characters they portray, none of it happens on its own. Theater puts in a lot of work to produce plays, and for them, this summer break is well deserved.



Take a bow! The senior theatre majors rake in the applause at the end of their run of senior thesis shows.

## Beauteous sounds at band senior thesis

by Alex Berlinsky

On May 22, I attended the second part of the band department's senior thesis and was blown away. Sometimes, I really do forget how special we are here, but a show like that night's reminds me every time. With our vast array of otherwise obscure instruments, students like Erik Greene can elect to play the Celtic Xylophone. Not only did he display masterful technical skill, but his piece, *A Foggy Dew* was beautiful to listen to as well. Alexander Ostapeck also reminded me of our immense talent here at SOA. Playing *Sonata for Trumpet and Piano*, Ostapeck displayed ability far beyond that of a typical high school student.

Perhaps that is the beauty of the senior thesis program here at SOA. Our students get to take everything that they've learned here, and wrap it up in a small package of a single performance. It is no easy task, and it forces the student to really concentrate on their piece. Regardless, Ostapeck and his trumpet stole the show, not to mention my heart.



Senior Eric Green's percussive rendition of the classic Irish folk song "A Foggy Dew" blew the Auditorium's roof off.

## "A Light in the Attic" goes hard in the ink

by Taylor Dahl

On May 8<sup>th</sup> eager family members, students, friends and mentors gathered in the Rose Maree Myers Theater to be enticed by the Senior Creative Writers' new books. The theme was *A Light In The Attic* a reference to Shel Silverstein's famous book. The stage was decorated to look like an old attic, holding old chairs, an overflowing bookshelf, a trunk, as well as a few knick knacks. A single light bulb hung above the stage and a shadow on the back wall looked like an attic window.

Everyone was formally dressed and read one or two of their favorite poems, short stories, or excerpts. Mr. Hammes, their instructor, opened and closed the reading. The closing consisted of a poem he wrote about a moment with the class. A reception followed and writers sold and inscribed their books. If you bought one of the books, you may want to hold onto for when they become famous.



Ashley Prentice and Grace Collins pose with the poster of Grace's book, *So It Goes*.



## Strings senior thesis sets the night on fire by Madeleine Vath

I regret having to miss the majority of the Strings Senior Theses, especially after hearing the few that I did. Corey Harmon, Liann Bova, and Isabel Strobing --although she is a Band major, not a Strings major-- performed their Senior Theses on Thursday, May 2. All three did a truly spectacular job. I had never enjoyed the pleasure of attending a Strings concert, but in the future I will be sure to save them all in my calendar. The entire orchestra performed wonderfully!

Isabel Strobing performed "Oboe Concerto, Movt. 2" by Marcello. I vaguely recognized this piece, so I had a bit to compare it to, but anything I knew about it was blown away by her remarkable performance. She moved elegantly with her instrument, making for a smooth and breathtaking piece.

Corey Harmon played "Cello Concerto in C, Movt. 1" by F. J. Haydn. For someone whose hands were moving madly, he seemed very carefree -- he almost looked bored -- and played this obviously very complicated piece in a very precise manner. At the end of his simply stunning performance the audience honored him with a standing ovation.

Liann Bova. Where do I begin? Well, first of all, well done. There is not telling how difficult her piece must have been to master. Secondly, shame on all of you who were not there to witness such an incredible artist performing a piece that many violinists can only dream of playing. Liann played "Violin Concerto in E, Movt. 1" by F. Mendelssohn. She must have played every note that could possibly be played on a violin. The piece went on for at least ten minutes, and she played it entirely from memory. Once she finished and exited the stage, Dr. Selby had to call her back out to receive our continuing applause. I look forward to hearing about her future success, which is bound to come soon and in great quantity.

After these three theses, the rest of the String Orchestra seniors came out on stage and played the third movement of "Summer" from "The Four Seasons" by A. Vivaldi. They were very together, quite excellent overall, which was especially surprising given that they had perhaps three rehearsals.

Before the senior theses, the SOA String Orchestra, comprised entirely of freshmen, performed "Concerto Grosso, Op. 6, No.1, V. Allegro" by G. F. Handel, featuring Isabella Sullivan and Sabrina Green, violin, as soloists. They also performed a version of the popular piece "The Battle of Joshua" titled simply "Joshua" arranged by R. Sabien. If that was a typical performance for orchestra freshmen, I look forward to hearing how much more incredible they are by their senior year. Their performance was brilliant.

Afterward, the rest of the high school orchestra members joined the seniors and freshmen to play "Pavane, Op. 50" by G. Faure and the third and fourth movements of Beethoven's "Fifth." Both are familiar to me, making it a nice and moving way to end such a splendid concert.



Lianna Bova's performance stole the show at strings senior thesis (the pink dress probably didn't hurt either.)

## Piano tickles the ivories in 2013; reaches for the stars by guest writers Ms. Benson and Mr. Clarke

It's been a busy and exciting year for our 84 piano majors, with their involvement in many performances and competitions. Our first performance of the year was in October when the 8<sup>th</sup> grade piano majors teamed up with the strings, vocal, band, and dance majors to perform a medley of songs from the "Lion King" for "Art Smart". This was a unique and fun experience for the students because several students played percussion parts along with their usual keyboard parts. To welcome students as they entered the theater, several other piano majors played in a jazz combo in the lobby. Later in November, the high school and middle school piano majors performed solo pieces in concert at the Rose Marie Myers Theater.

In late February and March our students participated in a workshop on harpsichords. Dr. Julia Harlow of Charleston Southern University brought her harpsichord into the school to show the students how it worked, along with playing several pieces. She also allowed our students to try out the harpsichord, as the technique and touch are quite different from the piano.

In late March thirty of our students participated in District Auditions, held at the College of Charleston. This competition required the students to have three pieces of memorized repertoire alongside proficiency with scales and chords. A little over half of our students qualified to continue and compete at the state level. At state, Jenny Yao and Frederic Chen came in second place in their division, and Anthony Vaird and Rachel Smith were awarded an Honorable Mention for their performances.

April brought one of piano's largest events this year, the main field trip, when we traveled to Greenwood, SC for the Solo and Ensemble Festival held at Lander University. Fifty-five of our students participated in this event, with many receiving high ratings. Twenty of the students were selected to play at the honors recital, held next February at the South Carolina Music Educators Convention. Later on the trip we went to Carowinds and performed a mix of jazz and classical music in the theater there on Sunday.

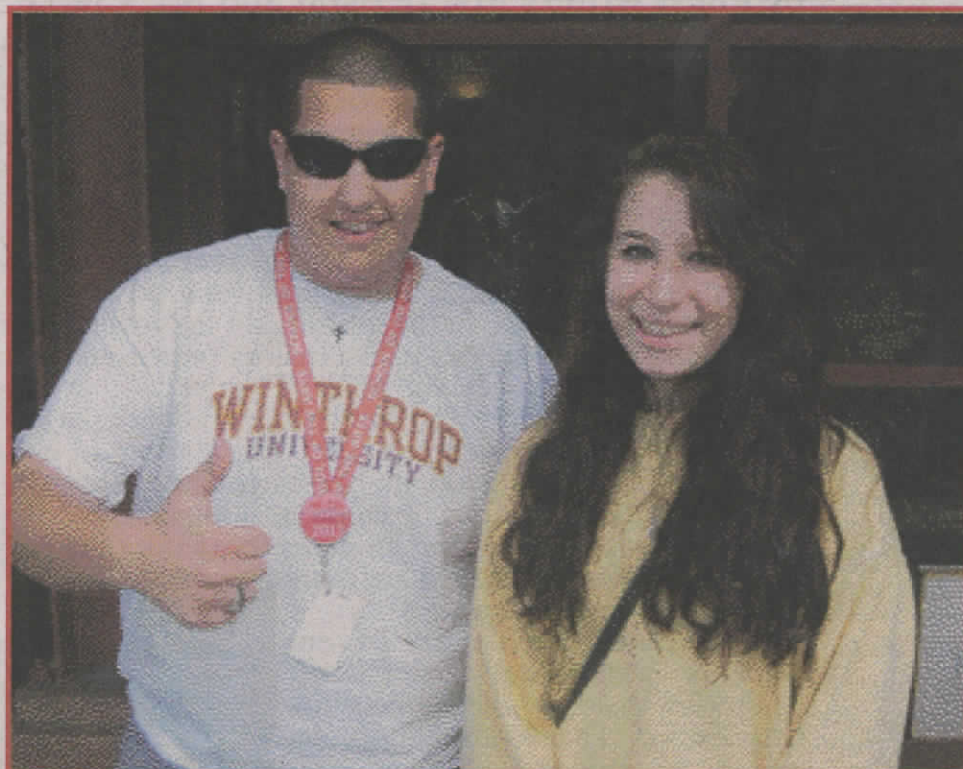
On May 7<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> our students performed some of the last concerts of the year in the AMHS Lecture Hall. Both events included solo piano works as well as ensembles that required the use of two to three pianos! In addition, several of the high school piano majors opened the fashion show put on by the costume design classes by playing rock pieces. May was also a month for jazz performances, which were held on May 18<sup>th</sup> at the Red Orchid Restaurant in West Ashley and on May 19<sup>th</sup> in the AMHS Lecture hall.

Our plans for next year include a fundraiser with the Charleston Riverdogs and a piano ensemble concert in collaboration with the dance department. We wish all of our students, especially our graduating seniors, the very best. Congratulations on your achievements! It was a great year.



Mark Zulawski gets electric with the jazz band.





**MOST LIKELY TO NAME THEIR SON BUBBA:  
TYLER ADENT-MORRIS & SHELBY OLTMANN**



**MOST LIKELY TO SEE THEIR NAME IN LIGHTS:  
JANA MILEY & JOEL CHAPMAN**

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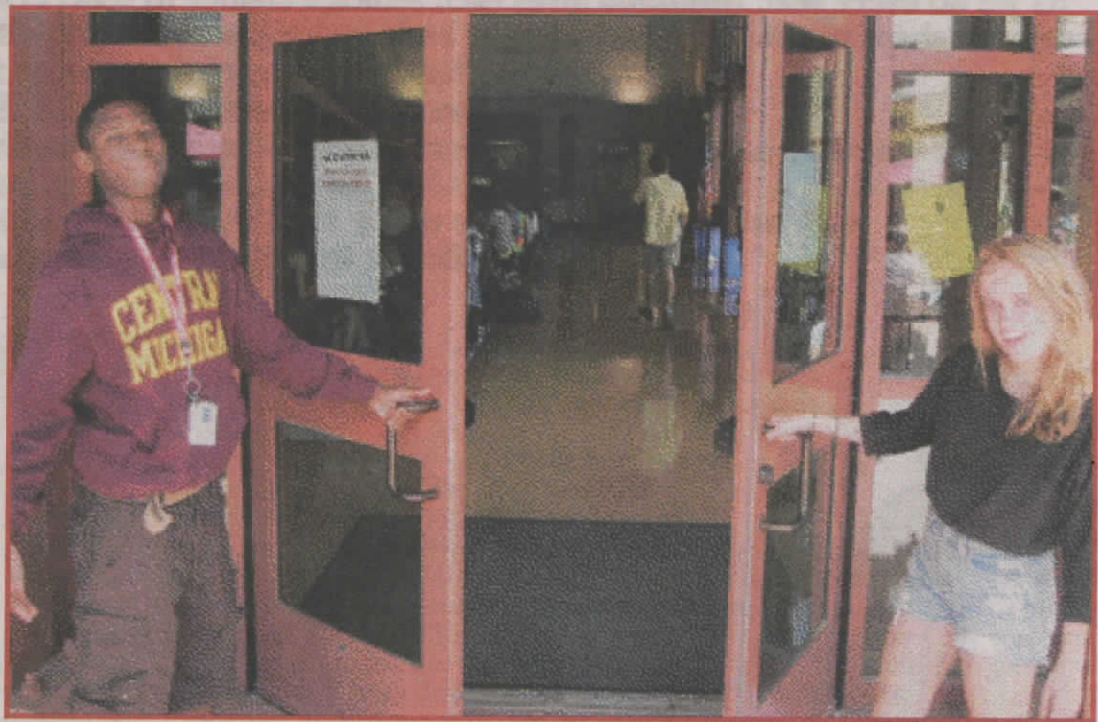
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MPT TO GIVE A FEW SELECT SENIORS A  
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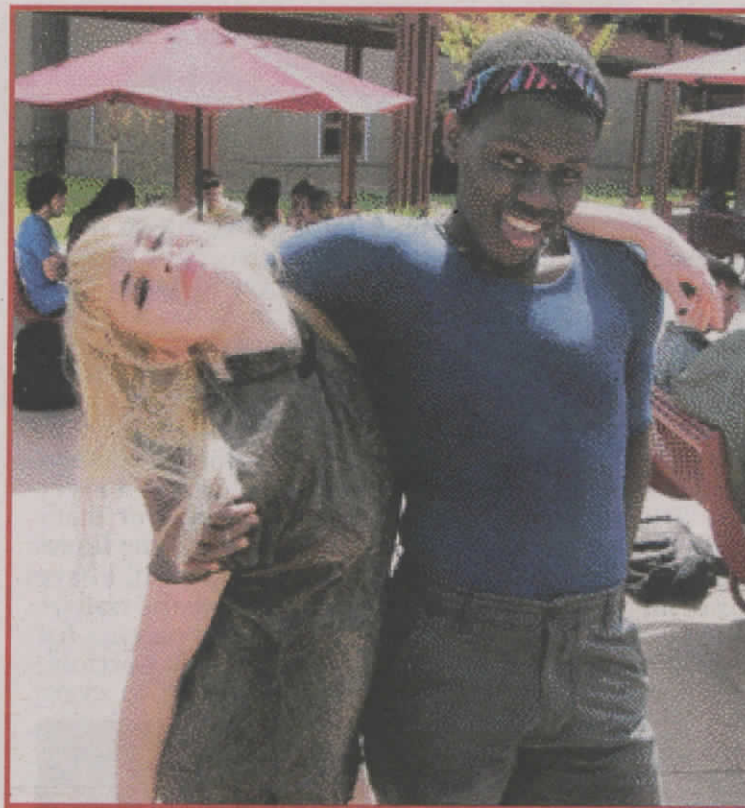
**BACK YOUR WALLET:  
AN AND DANIEL ROVICK**



**CHANGE THEIR NAME AND  
BERTED ISLAND:  
WELL & ELI HAYDON**



**MOST LIKELY TO BE ON MTV CRIBS:  
TRE MIXXIN' & ALEXANDRA GRANT**



**MOST SWAG:  
SOPHIE GREENE & KENTON "KEN" JENKINS**



# SENIOR ESSAYS

As we do every year, *Applause* gives each senior a chance to reflect on their time at SOA with an essay. From art major mishaps to cafeteria conundrums, each senior has something different to share about their SOA experience.

They had five topics to choose from:

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. What teacher or class has had the strongest impact on you and why?
4. What do you want to be doing in 2023, and how do you intend to make it happen?
5. Reflect on any aspect of your years at SOA.

## Taylor Alston



Every teacher at School of the Arts is special in their own way, but I can honestly say the teacher that has had the strongest impact on me is Meagan Link. Mrs. Link has always pushed me to be the best that I can be no matter what. Throughout the years she has always taught me so many life lessons that I definitely didn't think I would be hearing from my theatre teacher, but my mother. She has kept me inspired to always stay true to Taylor and to work my hardest. Since freshman year she has believed in me even when I didn't believe in myself. A lot of teachers lack that close knit relationship with their students, but this one doesn't. The bond that I share with Mrs. Link is unbreakable and I will never forget everything that she has ever said to me. Her words of wisdom will continue to keep me inspired for the rest of my life. Thank you so much Mrs. Link for being such a dedicated teacher not just to me, but to all of your students. You have truly made a memorable impact on my life. Jack, Benjamin, and Rosalie are incredibly blessed to have a caring mother like you! I love you Megs!!

## Katie Bailey

I can't believe the last seven years of my life spent at this wonderful school are coming to a close. All I ever wanted to do in life since I was in my stroller was go to the Pegasus school and paint on the walls. But, in reflection, attending this school has provided so much more for me than just obtaining that goal. I have built up a family that I love more than anything else in this world. I can't believe soon I won't be able to freely roam from room to room to hear my friends all practicing for their next big performance or painting their next masterpiece. What will I do without the constant inspiration and support around every turn? I'll never forget when going through a particularly hard time last year walking into my art room and seeing visual artists from all 3 classes presenting a cake with my name on it with the goal of making my day a bit brighter. This school has fostered all of our talents and made us truly shine. If you had told me seven years ago that my thesis would involve me buying out every roll of black Ductape in Charleston I would call you crazy. But that's what this school has done, made it ok for kids like us to push the limits and truly express ourselves. Make 13 Ductape dresses if you want! I have to thank my sister for being one of the first students to blaze the trail of SOA and inspiring me to audition. I also need to thank my parents for signing me up for every opportunity growing up to build my portfolio for the school. Lastly thanks to my whole family for coming to every performance over the years and for staying up with me on the sleepless nights of scrambling to finish my thesis. It's hard for me to type these last few words because I know they are my last mark on this place that means so much to me. I guess I'll finish off with a quote that seems fitting. I love you all. "Never say goodbye because goodbye means going away and going away means forgetting." - J.M. Barrie, *Peter Pan*



## Claire Austen



In my four years at SOA I have made friendships that I know are lasting. I'm going to miss having vocal class everyday and I'm going to miss being at a school where everyone knows each other. I feel like an SOA education teaches more than just academics and our art major. SOA is a school where teachers take personal interest in their students and students take personal interest in each other. While most people came in middle school I came to SOA as a freshman and coming from a small catholic school that I had attended or eight years it was intimidating. I was worried that I wouldn't make friends or that I wouldn't fit in. I've come to find out that SOA more accepting than I could have imagined. Even with the huge diversity of personalities among the students there is a sense of community. Going off to college next year, I'm going to be in a new place and meet new people, but I know that I will carry the values I have learned here with me.

## Sarah Baxley

In ten years time, I will hopefully have undone all the wrong I've done to myself since starting high school. Now, I'm not saying it's high school's fault that I haven't been able to read for fun, and that even picking up a book feels like lifting a five ton weight, or that I can't relax without going into a panic about a project I've already done, or that I've spent a small fortune on counseling to cover the dark-circles under my eyes because of late nights studying. I'm just saying it probably contributed.

By 2023, I hope to be working as an acquisitions editor for a publishing house in Nashville or Seattle or Chicago or anywhere that's not here. I better love reading again because that's about 70% of an acquisition editor's job, which is a pretty sweet deal if you ask me. Over the next few years in college, I'll be majoring in Communications and interning at publishing houses in Tennessee so maybe one day Random House will think I'm cool and hire me. On the side, I'm going to keep writing because I've got some stories to tell, which I know you're all waiting anxiously to purchase in book form. How am I going to make that happen? The same way I made my senior thesis happen. By sitting down in front of a computer in my closet with a cup of a coffee bigger than my head and hating everything until somehow a sentence or two gets written. It works, really.

I don't want to say anything too specific, though. Ten years tends to be a long time. Rachel Lechler says she's going to kidnap me and force me to live with her, so who knows. I might be chained to the radiator in a certain someone's basement ten years from now. You just never know.



### Alex Berlinsky

At the end of eighth grade I was faced with a choice. I was accepted into Academic Magnet High School, our lovely neighbors, and had to decide whether I would continue my education here at SOA, or join the dark side over on the East part of campus. And I'm sure most of you will be shocked at what I decided. I chose to leave. I was done with SOA and on my way to a new school, a new chapter in my life. But as the days bore on, I knew I'd made a mistake, and, despite declining to come back to SOA, an act which I was told was irreversible, I did the impossible. I placed a few phone calls and righted my wrong, allowing me to come back here to the place I feel truly at home.

I was never anything but a Pegasus in my heart. All of the pep rallies and football games and great school rankings: they can keep that. Because I want Grub on the Green. I want Gnomecoming. I want to walk the halls knowing that the kids that walk beside me are violin maestros and literary masterminds and painting prodigies. That's what makes SOA so great. The people make it a family, a loud, goofy, big, Italian family. That's what Academic Magnet could never have given me, and what they will never understand.

Our quirky talents, which make us the weird kid at any other (dare I say normal?) high school, make us the cool kid here. Everyone aspires to be like the great dancer or pianist. We get excited when we hear our vocalists sing, amazed as we walk the halls and see a painting and think to ourselves "one of us made that." Here at SOA, we are a family, which truly makes this place my home



### Dante Brown



My time at SOA has been very enjoyable. The diverse amount of classes and the community has contributed a lot to my thought process and creative stance. I've learned art and academic. I even studied theater and math in the same day sometimes. That is so crazy cool! I am going on to film school in Chicago, and I can use what I learned at SOA in my film classes. So it worked! SOA worked! If Lil' Wayne were

the principal he would say, "I hate to see you go, but I love to watch you leave." I think that means a lot! He would be proud to see me leave on to new things but sad that I am leaving! I am sure that Dr. Cook would feel the same way but express it differently! Wouldn't that be something if Lil' Wayne was principal? It would! I cannot thank my theater teachers enough! From theater history to technical theater, I can use it all! I would not have been able to receive the same education anywhere else. Thank you Mrs. Link and Mr. Younts! The mostly nonjudgmental community has helped me strive! Although I've seen a lot of changes, I can still feel that SOA Spirit! Can you? I can! I cannot stress enough how important the diversity is. It is so perfect. So perfect. If I were Lil Wayne I would say to my friends, "I hate to see you go, but I love to watch you leave," meaning that I do not want them to go, but I love to watch them move on! If I were a Fall Out Boy, I would say to SOA, "Thks fr th mmrs, even though they WERE so great," meaning that I appreciate the memories you have provided and they were so great! But on a serious note, I have been a jokey kid. Hopefully this makes the paper, so that you can see how accepting the faculty and students are. Remember that no matter how jokey, crazy, serious, immature, mature, good looking, or hideous you are, you'll always be welcomed here. Not everything has to stay serious. If I were the Joker I would ask you guys, "Why so Serious?" Just stay focused on your art, whether it is humor or somersaults, and you'll be alright.

### Ally Black

The value of an SOA education is definitely taken for granted. Some students don't realize how good we have it here. We have such a good staff and administration that is there for us in more ways you can think.

### Taylor Brobisky

The value of an SOA Education is found in the creative atmosphere you are placed in. Students at SOA are fortunate enough to be surrounded by their talent in all aspects of their education, inside and outside of their major. Every academic and art teacher encourages you to push the boundaries of creativity and to completely embrace your talent. SOA comes with a family atmosphere that is full of support and love. An SOA education prepares you for the life ahead in whatever career path you choose and I wouldn't change my experience for anything in the world. Thank you SOA!



### Sarah Brown

The teacher who has had the greatest impact on me would have to be Mrs. Benson. Mrs. Benson has been my piano teacher my whole time at SOA and has watched me grow from an awkward sixth grader to a semi-awkward senior. She has somehow managed to put up with me crying and complaining about friend, teachers, boys, and anything else I could possibly imagine.

She is also the reason that I remained at SOA for all seven years. In eighth grade, I was ready for something new and I was about to do what most people do and go off to a "real high school." I was all set to attend Academic Magnet the following year until one day Mrs. Benson started talking to all of her eighth graders individually about their plans next year. After talking to her, I realized I couldn't leave a place where almost all of the teachers care about even the most insignificant parts of your life, like where you want to go to high school. To me, Mrs. Benson defines SOA. No matter how awful a student of hers is, she always has their back and is willing to go out of her way to make sure everything is alright with them. Spending seven years with someone as incredible as her has really left an impact on me. I am so thankful for everything she has done for me, most of which she probably doesn't even realize she did. Although SOA has changed significantly over the years, Mrs. Benson is one of the few things that I will always treasure about this school. Keep on being cute girl!



The Costa Rica crusaders (from L-R: Ms. Crawford Aubrey Crawford, Brenth Hubbard, Jay Holt, and Josh Perez)



### Henry Cain

My name is Henry Cain and I came to SOA as a seventh grader. Either way, if I were to restart my time at SOA and begin once more as a sixth grader, there are a few things I would do differently. I would spend more time keeping it real, take my major more seriously, and have more love for everyone.

Keeping it real can have many implications, I concur that keeping it real means staying exquisite and being an unfiltered, untamed beast. Unfortunately this advice could lead a free soul astray; therefore I give you this second part of keeping it real to balance out the first part. While one should be unfiltered and downright mindless, one must also utilize his or her discretion in certain scenarios.

Your major is an important aspect of SOA, if you don't take it seriously then you shouldn't go to the school in the first place and you should go to West Ashley High school or James Island Charter High school. Not only can taking your major seriously help you increase your skill, it will bring you fame and prowess.

Love, the reason we exist in harmony, the reason the world is not in chaos, it's important.

I leave the reader of this essay with those thoughts and I hope this advice will help you succeed in every aspect of your life. I love you, I love you. Don't follow something because your parents do, don't not follow something because your parents do. Do what you want, use your intelligence to keep you above the sludge. You are you, they are not you. Know that society controls you to some extent; but fight back and bring yourself to the light of wisdom. Henry Cain signing off, keep it real my friends.



### Freddy Carruth

I think SOA is a very unique school. It seems like SOA changed in some way every year. I remember we had four different principals in our time here. We changed schools halfway through freshman year. We have seen multiple teachers and administrators come and go. I know it's technically been the same school the past seven years, but with all the change I feel like it's not the same school I walked into 6th grade. It's sad to think that soon all the memories of the old SOA will be gone. No one will remember the floods or the stray cats that lived under the trailers. SOA was a great experience that no one at any other school could understand.



### Joel Chapman

I must say that it has been quite a journey being here at SOA and growing into the young man that I am today. I remember first hearing about the school through my cousin Helenea Smith who graduated as a Dance Major. The excitement was through the roof when I found out there was a school in my area where I could be immersed in the arts. Theatre and performance was my passion, and I knew that SOA would be the perfect place for me.

I remember when I first met Mr. Younts when I auditioned. He was quite intimidating, and that made me want to do my best. However, the pressure got to me and I forgot the last half of my monologue. My heart dropped, and then Mr. Younts said "That's alright, we can move on." When I left my mother was upset and wished I had chosen a monologue from a show I had finished previously. It was so heartbreaking that the tears came quick on the ride home. But Mr. Younts' few words of encouragement gave me a glimmer of hope. Weeks later I saw the letter, ran with it to the bathroom and opened it. I screamed to my mom that I was accepted, to which she answered "I know. I opened it before you got home."



The campus was so big in the early days. I loved walking across campus to trailers then moving into buildings for some classes. It felt like I was a small person in a huge college like atmosphere. Middle school was very active and exciting. My theatre class and friends were so much fun, and I learned a lot more about the craft I wouldn't have known had I not auditioned. Middle school had its adventures too. I do regret not attending the mountain trip. But I will never forget the trip to Washington, DC. The city was just so active and full of people and attractions that taught me a lot. The zoo, all the museums, and the national cemetery were amusing and enlightening.

Time went so fast, the next thing I knew we as a school were excited about moving into a new building. This was my freshmen year, and it was time to say goodbye to the old campus. Once we made the move, I felt so honored and thankful to be able to experience so much at this school, from the many showcases and concerts and recitals, and even having lead roles in major musical productions. I will always have a piece of Harold Hill and Seaweed in me. Also, I'm so grateful for the open and accepting environment that this space really holds. I have become so well-rounded and cultured by coming here. I feel that the opportunities here are endless. I feel this school has revealed who I am, and prepared me for the rest of my life.



Snow Daze: The boys get chilly in this throwback from an icier time (from l-r: Maxwell Hudson, Henry Cain, Harrison Carr, Dante Brown, Troy Cyzman, Will McCarter, Eli Dent)



### Samantha Clyburn

In the year 2023 I want to have finished with all of my schooling and hopefully to have a job at a museum or with a dig at an interesting site. I would like to be living in a bigger city than Charleston and putting the things that I like to do to good use as an anthropologist. I'm going to get to where I want to be by working very hard in college so that I can get into a Grad. School and hopefully get a scholarship so that I won't end up too far into debt after I graduate. I am also going to look for research opportunities every step of the way so that when I get out of school I'll have actual experience with what I want to do. As for my personal life I really don't know what's going to be happening on that front. I would like to be in a relationship with somebody at that point in my life, but I think that relationships aren't the kind of thing that you can plan for or prepare for so I can't really make that happen. Ten years is a long span of time and I don't really think that anyone can accurately decide what will be going on in their lives then as far as their relationships go.



### Sarah Cockroft

An SOA education is valuable because you are surrounded by other talented and like-minded students. No matter what project or idea you are working on, there will be plenty of supportive students and teachers. After time, the students in your major become like your family. You can rely on them for help in academics and for support when you go through important events in your SOA career. For example, during senior thesis your classmates help you persevere and succeed in your performance. Also, the focus on arts at SOA allows students who may not be strong academically to thrive in school. Ultimately, an SOA education is valuable because it teaches you how to juggle a variety of different subjects and skills.



### Eli Dent

Reflecting on my middle school and high-school years, I am so appreciative of what SOA has taught me. I have learned many things about myself and I think SOA has been such a positive influence on my growth. In my aspirations for soccer I faced many obstacles attending an arts school. But one thing I am so grateful for is my choice to stay and push through all the little pains of squeezing in performances and practices on the same day. It's those days that in the end have made me stronger. I can only speak for myself, but in meeting many of my soccer friends and amigos that didn't attend SOA, I believe I am a more well rounded person for going here. An SOA diploma is something to be valued and proud of. Its not only the academic lessons you learn but the relationships you gain and the appreciation for art you receive. I am very proud of being a student here and I hope to achieve my goals with everything you all have taught me.



### Alysha Clarke

Well, SOA, it's that time of year. Where all the white girls pretend to cry over the fact that they probably won't see the same people in the same room again, and the guys pretend not to care... or, genuinely don't care. Whichever works. Anyway, the past three years at SOA have been... interesting. I've learned a lot of stuff about people I didn't want to know, and a lot of stuff about food I didn't want to know (thanks, Mr. Donnellon and the vegetarians). As I say my final words to my teachers and classmates, I can't help but wonder how it would've been if I could do it all over. I could go back to tenth grade, where silly bands were the style and the gossip was about Lily's new hair color. To be honest, both were pretty exciting and I wouldn't mind going back to that time. But, alas, I am graduating along with the class of 2013. So, smooches to the haters, peace out, and good luck to everyone for the rest of your lives.



### Grace Collins

It was in my eighth grade creative writing class where I had this epiphany. We had just finished revising scripts and began recording some of them to present to our class. One girl pointed at me and said "Grace needs to be in charge of hair and makeup!" and ever since then I've been inspired. At the time, I'd never given thought to the profession (as much as I love doing hair and makeup). As an eighth grader at School of the Arts, I was convinced that I was supposed to be a writer for the rest of my life.

This is not to say I will stop writing. In fact, I hope to pursue writing on the side of my cosmetic career. I'll admit, writing a book for senior thesis was probably one of the worst experiences of my life but it definitely paid off in the end. It might be a while, but I do intend to write another book. What will it be about? I have no clue. But as a writer, writing isn't something I can just give up. Whether I hate writing, or don't feel like writing, or too literarily dry to write; I'll always look at things in a writer's perspective and there's nothing I can do about it.

So within the next ten years I hope to own my own hair salon and maybe have a book or two written on the side, (self-published of course). How do I intend to make these things happen? Determination. To keep moving forward with the things that I love doing most. Cosmetology is the career I want to live my life with, and writing is just a part of me, a state of mind, that I can't shake. Who knows, maybe I'll write a blurb or two for a magazine, or write short stories to be published. Whatever is certain, one thing is for sure, cosmetology is my dream and writing will always be a part of me.

### Melodi Detamore

Mr. Donnellon has been my favorite teacher since the first time I sat in his class and he threatened to get mad and throw a desk out the window. I took his class a year early, so he made fun of me and called me "sophomore." I did well in his class though, and we both have the same sense of sarcasm. He gave me my junior ring and has always cheered me up and counseled me whenever I had a long test of character, and I think I'm ready to take on the world. At least Donnellon thinks so because every time I pass him in the hall this year, he shouts "Why are you still here?! Graduate and get out!"





### Will Dodge

My SOA experience hasn't been defined by academics, my major or my social life, but rather a combination of the three. Starting as a sixth grader being placed in a college level creative writing curriculum with a group of people actually excited about learning was a massive change from my days of elementary school daydreaming. That's not to say there wasn't some inattentiveness floating around the middle school hallways, but it was certainly a wake-up call to be thrown into the motivated masses as such an academically amble anchovy.



This experience was good for me, though, and by the time high school came around I had formed at least some semblance of how to work hard in school without hating it. The transition into higher learning was smooth, and although being on the same campus and seeing the same faces probably had something to do with it, the middle school teacher's substantial imparting of responsibility and maturity upon us young guns didn't hurt either. As high school progressed, opportunities presented themselves in the form of electives and Honors/AP courses. Suddenly, I could take classes I really cared about, and eventually found myself signed up for Journalism in my junior year. I wasn't totally sure what to think going into it, but I knew that writing in a context outside of creative writing class would be a nice change of pace. Before long, I realized that it was pretty fun to have your writing published every month, and in turn, I quickly gained a love and appreciation for working on the newspaper. The next year, the editor position opened up and I made sure I gave myself a shot at filling the vacancy. At other schools with larger student bodies, this position might not have been as achievable, but at SOA, I could pursue it knowing I had a pretty good shot. The experience as editor has given me an idea of what working in the real world is like, and has also been of immeasurable influence on what I want to study in my higher education. If I hadn't told Ms. McDonald that Journalism "sounded cool" as a little sophomore in my IGP meeting, I would probably be going into college with a much weaker idea of how I want to approach my remaining years of learning.

With all of its quirks and characters, SOA has molded itself into a platform for learning on levels beyond the basic education I was initially promised. Completing thesis and watching my friends finish theirs are experiences that have instilled a sense of pride in myself and them that I won't soon let go of. Without SOA, these opportunities may not have been present. It is funny to think that I considered a transfer to my home school at one point during my high school career. Looking back now, I'm glad I gave SOA a chance to work its magic. Shouts out to all the underclassmen, I know y'all will feel me in no time.

### Ren Fish

My favorite teacher must be Dr. Christopher Selby. I met him last year when he was our orchestra director for the Lowcountry Region Orchestra, this was a year before he became our strings teacher at SOA. Dr. Selby has taught me more about music in the past year than I have learned in the past three. His insane hearing ability along with very close attention to detail and much rigor has made our orchestra sound incredible. He is a good teacher not only in



the symphony but also individually, and along with my private teacher, he coached me to success on my senior thesis. I feel very lucky to have had the opportunity to work so closely with someone so experienced. I look forward to attending concerts in coming years to see where Dr. Selby takes them.

### Savannah Friar

If I were entering SOA as a sixth grader I would have applied myself more in terms of academics over the seven years that I spent at the school. I would have pushed myself to take more challenging classes and make better grades. If given the opportunity to complete my SOA education over again I would have taken advantage of the opportunities I was presented with as a student and been more appreciative of the free education I was receiving. But most importantly if I was entering sixth grade again I would not have had such terrible side bangs and worn so much Hollister.



### Sam Funk

Unfinished papers, books and sentences haunt me as I tread through the hallways of school. With feet filled with lead, I know the could-have-beens and the should-have-dones that would have made the SOA voyage straight and simple, rather than one that battles the complexity of Odysseus'. Instead of lamenting the mistakes and lost hours of sleep, I now can share the hindsight that may be turned into foresight by anyone reading.

Starry eyed sixth graders never seem to anticipate how simple habits turn into ruts that deepen with the years of worry that face them. To the study light weights among us, study early and often to fight off the long romantic dates with your notes. To the reading light weights, do the same, and for the same reasons. Most students believe that doing assignments in binges, like a pregnant woman does with pickles and ice-cream, allows them more time with their friends. This proves as a fallacy each and every year, regardless of the assignments. So as your mom with true wisdom howls up the stairs, "just get your work done," do just that. When you sit as a conqueror and overlord of your work, nothing but a curfew can stop you from reveling in nights with your friends.

Those nights with your friends will be the ones you hold dear, not those spent rewriting papers. So as you edit that eight page chemistry paper, hold true to the promise of glory filled nights. Hold true to the years of golden promises that don't ask for a down payment. Hold true to those who care about your outcome, including those pestering teachers and parents. And above all, hold true to who you are and will become.



Seniors Henry Cain, Maxwell Hudson, and Ren Fish getting their *Music Man* mojo on.



### Brittany Gadsen

If I were entering SOA as a sixth grader knowing everything I know now, there's plenty of things I'd do differently. First off, I'd leave after middle school. If such a thing were to prove impossible, I'd leave after freshman year. Either that, or switch majors. Preferably a low maintenance major that takes a whole bunch of trips. Building on that, I wouldn't get too invested in my major, guarding myself against the inevitability of burning out and making every year after that a slow grind towards insanity. Assuming total removal impossible, I'd take all easy classes senior year, and explore previously unconsidered career options to cushion the blow of realizing no talent actually developed in which to pursue a career in my major.



### Elizabeth Greene

If I had the chance to do it all over again, I would make more of an effort to make close friends. My shyness basically prevented me from getting close to people and forming a more firm relationship with some of my classmates, so I would be more open and less quiet. I would also try harder in my classes. I wish I had realized earlier how important it was to make sure you really understand the material being taught rather than just looking over it briefly before tests. Looking back on my transcript I saw a lot of Bs that could have been As if I had only put more effort into my work and took things more seriously.



### Corey Harmon



When I came to SOA as a freshman I can honestly say that I knew very little about music and playing the cello. I was incapable of playing scales and I do not think I had an understanding of keys or the reason for those sharps or flats at the beginning of each line. Over time, I developed an understanding of how music is written down and how to read music and translate it to cello. This past year, AP Music Theory has been particularly helpful in learning the language of music. Though there are still many aspects of my playing that need improvement, the progress that I have made during my high school career could not have been made at any of the other schools in Charleston.

### Brent Hubbard

Seven years is a long time. From 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade students at School of the Arts spend a total of 113,400 minutes in their major class. This is more than enough time to master anything, assuming every minute is productive. If I had a fresh start as a sixth grader I would take this knowledge and use every minute of my time in my major class to get better. SOA has been a great experience for me; however, if I would have used every second to practice, and taken advantage of every opportunity, I think it could have been even better. If I have learned anything that I hope I can take with me, and let an incoming sixth grader know, it is that time is too important to be wasted.



### Erik Green

An SOA education is extremely valuable. The extent of what I have been taught not just in class but the values that I have learned working outside of classes too have shaped me into the person I am today. The work ethic that I have developed over the last couple of years with having to learn how to balance school work and my major. Though I haven't been the best student, I have learned many life lessons. The experiences you receive wall at SOA cannot be experienced anywhere else. Whether it is dealing with Mr. Kerr's disorganization or the ranting of Mr. Donnellon, SOA has left me with a great experience.



### Sophia Greene

So I resented showing up every morning but somehow I don't hate the place as a whole any more so obviously I'm growing. I hate to admit it but if you are going to spend seven years of your life at a place, well this is probably one of the better places to do that. So thanks. I guess. Thanks Nancy, I obviously love you so much I've followed you to work every day for the past seven years. On the reals though you are seriously so great and you are real nice to me for whatever reason. Gabba-kappa-maya-so junior year I joined the only fraternity.



### Eli Haydon

SOA has changed a lot since I arrived here in seventh grade. I wouldn't peg this change as a positive or negative thing, but our school has taken a definite turn away from the liberal feeling of the old school. The enforcement of many policies has led me to care less about school. Once again, I wouldn't say that this is negative, but when you can't express yourself as an art student at an art school, it can be frustrating. I would say that the better teachers at our school can definitely be found in our history department. They have challenged me as a student and also taught me cool stuff. And, as everyone knows, it's the cool stuff that counts.



### Alyssa Johnson

The value of an SOA education is very rewarding. SOA has made me into the person I am today. I am very proud to be graduating from this school with my SOA diploma and my senior thesis medal. If I was entering SOA as a 6<sup>th</sup> grader I would have sucked up a lot more than I originally did. Ms. Slowinski's dance class was my favorite class at this school. She had the greatest impact in my dancing. In 2023 I will be out of the Air force and having a job in the medical field. Reflecting on my years at SOA I have a bitter sweet feeling about graduating. I am excited to start my future, but will sadly miss my SOA family.





### Ariel Kasper

To be able to explain the impact that the SOA band has had on me, I must go all the way to before I came to this school. I spent my freshman and sophomore year at Wando, in complete misery. I can admit now that I was having a terrible bout with depression, confidence issues, social anxiety, and just general panic inducing anxiety. I remember sitting down to go over my marching band music one day in early July of 2012 and realizing how much I didn't want to return to Wando. I told my now former private lessons teacher that very afternoon and he immediately called Mr. Kerr to see if there was a spot for a tenor saxophone player open. Shortly after the lesson, my mom received a voicemail from my teacher that gave us my audition date and time.

I remember my mom sitting down with me on our back porch so we could figure out if I really wanted to do this. I remember her holding my hand and telling me, "Honey, I think this is a sign that you should do this. And if you think you'll be happy then do it." So two weeks later I went for my audition.

My very first thought about the SOA band room was a comment on the lack of trophies in the room. The Wando band room has shelves upon shelves bragging about all "we've" accomplished. I liked the modesty of this room, this is a room where musicians are made instead of machines. I was a nervous wreck during my audition but somehow made it through; afterwards I set up my schedule and dropped out of Wando later that afternoon.

The acceptance I have received from SOA has been unreal. I have found a program in which I can thrive in and unlock my potential as a musician and Mr. Kerr made it clear from the beginning that he was on my side. The happiness and comfort that I feel whenever I walk into that band room makes me wish I could go back to my ninth grade self and tell her that it's okay, things get so much better.



I guess I can say that transferring saved my life in a weird way. I no longer deal with depression in a crippling manner, my anxiety has faded to a dull roar, and my confidence in performing and presenting myself has skyrocketed. And if it wasn't for Mr. Kerr and his belief in me I wouldn't be sitting here typing out this essay. I'd like to thank him for all he's done and the impact he has had on my life.

I'd like to commemorate, congratulate, and generally appreciate my wonderful group of friends, affectionately known as The Table. For the past three years, we've been wild and witty and irreverent, discussing politics and faith and bizarre YouTube videos, alternately razing and restoring our faiths in humanity. We've floundered in fathoms of fictional feelings, gotten Sirius about Harry Potter (that joke never gets old) – or haven't. We've insulted each other's opinions, mothers, ships, mental voices, grammar... okay, anything, while sharpening our native tongue: sarcasm. There was truth-extracting and daring and other awkward games and that one time when we were ousted from the library and haphazard attempts at dancing and throwing anything in sight and "we are not worthy" on birthdays and eathIncorporatedfeminisimtheinterwebsLOTSOFYELLINGfacetiousactsofviolenceninjas (in no particular order). WE SURVIVED THE ZOMBIE APOCALYPSE!!! with our trusty swords and lightsabers.

If we burst spontaneously into song anywhere

### Taylor Keathley

I think an SOA education is very valuable because it offers a unique blend of arts and academia that is not provided at a traditional high school. SOA teachers are very different in that they see the value in both the arts and academics and they know how important each is to be successful. Typically at SOA the teachers tend to focus more on the arts and tend to let students do more with their arts major than with their academics but still the arts teachers make sure academics come first. Many times there are days where the musicians are allowed out of their classes to attend a rehearsal in preparation for a concert or competition within the next few days. SOA can give students the opportunity to focus on their arts especially if it is their passion and something they wish to pursue in the future.

Leaving SOA with an SOA education I feel very prepared for all aspects of my college life because I have acquired the academic level to be accepted into a school and a musician level high enough to receive scholarships for the music program. I am very sad to leave SOA because I feel as if there is no other school that has an atmosphere like SOA and that makes you feel so at home.



### Swakaria Jamison

An aspect of SOA that has affected me most would have to be my career as a dancer. I have learned that passion is everything. With every negative there is a positive somewhere down the line. SOA has helped me grow as a dancer in many ways. One being, I am more comfortable with performing and displaying my talent. The dance department at SOA is a place where you can reflect on your life and also dance through any pain you may have. Though my years in the dance department have been very dysfunctional, I wouldn't have it any other way because it has taught me so much. The amazing young women I have danced with for the past 7 years have made everything worth it. They are my sisters and I love them with all of my heart.



### Christiana Keinath

in your general direction, I quasi-sincerely apologize. On that note, if you've learned anything in high school, please remember your name. And your favorite color. And how to count to five/three/the number of times we've repeated those quotes. To those of you who will remain at school another year: keep in touch, uphold The Constitution, and remember that you do, despite appearances, actually have to be present for the majority of your senior year.

So hold this time, all of you, - idealized, yes, as bad memories dim and good ones shimmer on – a half-dream-truth of what we were, are, want to be. Don't grow up too fast. Reflect on the immense improbability of such a confluence of souls, even for such a brief, fragmented hour. Breathe a little life into your old rebellious embers, that once-bright burning to be bold in face of gray conformity.

Alright, alright. I've been serious for too many lines. Here. Have another flashback while I thank my patrons. This essay was brought to you by ... the letter D, proud sponsor of everything since some unspecified day under the red umbrella!





### Danie Johnson

My favorite aspect of SOA is the people that you meet here. Our school is small enough that you most likely get to encounter everyone. From there, you can choose which ones you like. You can learn from these people called "friends", and you can even learn from the ones that you don't necessarily like. The most important thing is that all of these people will shape you. I feel like most people are shaped in a positive way because people from SOA are almost all interesting and smart. The more smart people you know and talk with, the more well-rounded and interesting you become too. Relationships work in that way; you get what you give.

I feel very fortunate to have been shaped by the students that make up the class of 2013. My friends and acquaintances have made the greatest impact possible on me and I can't imagine being happier in any other class.



### Rachel Lechler

In 2023 I would have graduated from the College of Charleston with a Communications degree, maybe even completed an MFA program somewhere, and then head west to pursue my dream of being an editor. I'd like to travel first, visit my sister in New Jersey, my family in Germany, and take a trip to New Zealand, Japan, Switzerland, Scotland, New York, California, then to Washington.

But in 2023, at the age of twenty-nine, I'm hoping to look out of my apartment window in Seattle, drinking a big cup of coffee, sweetened with too much cream before heading out to the publishing house with a pile of manuscripts tucked under my arm, with a boyfriend or a husband or my roommate, Sarah Baxley telling me to "put on a sweater it's gloomy outside. And inside. Everywhere is gloomy. Life is just gloomy. The end."\* But that's not truth, everything is better in Seattle. She'll see when I force her to live with me.

\*Actual censored quote from Sarah Baxley



### Cameron Lloyd

Looking back on my years here at School of The Arts I would like to reflect on the many friendships and memories I have made here. This school has made me a more open minded person, who is not as quick to judge others and who respects people for who they are. SOA has been a blessing to me and my family, that I can attend a safe environment with skilled teachers and a supportive staff. I have had my struggles here, fighting the urge to leave and go to another school when times got tough, and almost transferring for sports related reasons. I stuck it out and I am glad to be graduating from such a fine establishment. I want to look back in ten years and not have any regrets, and staying at the school was a big decision in my life time, also one of the most important.

When asked by peers or adults where I go to school, and my reply is School of the Arts, they are awed. Maybe it's because I don't seem look like a vocal major, or maybe it is because of the high standard we hold here. I won't ever forget the time I have had here, my friends, the teachers who I have connected with on a higher level than that of a normal high school might have been, like Mr. Clark and Mr. Southwick, and Mr. Orvin and Mr. Rogers, and Ms. Branscome. These are just some of the few teachers who have had an impact on me. This is a special place, and I'm glad I can end my high school career here at School of the Arts.

### Addison Lewis

Over the past six years, SOA has been the cause of frustration, laughter, tears, and a lot of hard work. Being a dance major has been awesome because of my amazing, inspirational classmates. Throughout Junior Composition and Senior Thesis, I have gotten to know my classmates really well and although everyone bangs heads at some point in time, we will all be able to leave this school knowing we love each other. I've really learned about myself as a student because of teachers like Mr. Reese and Ms. Pajic, and I feel like SOA has become a really comfortable place to be.

Of course I'm ready to graduate because it has been a long time coming, but I really appreciate the lessons I've learned from struggling to get through this school. No matter how many times I've said that I can't stand this place, I now recognize how much it's prepared me for college and I am grateful for this experience. So peace out to the class of 2013, it's been real.

### Khari Lucas

What is one aspect of SOA/High School that I want to discuss? I could go on about the girls I liked or the classes I hated or the friends I made, or any other number of things that I'm not likely to remember ten years from now, but I can't help but to ponder what's behind it all. There's nothing I fear more than looking around some years down the road and seeing the success that those I associated with have achieved, and looking at myself and feeling no sense of accomplishment. The thing is, I'll never feel a sense of success or accomplishment, and while that could be the teen angst talking, I can't say I doubt the validity of the statement as much as I doubt most of the other notions I experience on a daily basis. Somebody's going to be an author. Somebody's going to save a life. Somebody's going to invent something that revolutionizes the way people live their everyday lives. I'm going to spend my life searching for questions to answer and then answers to those questions and then more questions for the answers I find, and I'm not ever going to be satisfied. I should be ready for this really, but I'm not.

It's because of the perpetual nature of high school. You do the same thing every day, for weeks, months, years, and then somebody tells you it's time to start doing something else, and for the first time, they're telling you that that something else is whatever the hell you want it to be and you still don't even know what you want to wear in the morning, so that seems a little hard to swallow. They're telling you that in this world of big problems like debt, and hunger, and war, and not so big problems like love, self-doubt, and boredom, you have to go out there and not only make yourself happy, but also make a difference. It makes me sad and afraid to be asked to wrinkle a fabric that is being so steadily ironed, and I don't know what to do, but I suppose nobody really ever knows what to do (Nobody is even going to read this, though I know it's contradictory of me to even care whether somebody does or not).

I keep looking around and seeing a lot of people who are very sure of exactly what they're going to do on this earth, and I keep wondering if some sneaky bastard is whispering answers in the ears of everybody but me, and why I didn't get picked and how I can be good enough to get picked next time, and why I shouldn't even care in the first place, but I digress. I suppose the most important aspect of high school to me ends up being that in all this repetition, you get a lot of time for trial and error and a lot of time to think and prepare so you might not have to make so many errors in the rest of your life, and I can't help but to be at least a little thankful for that.





### Anne-Marie Maghakian

The teacher that has had the strongest impact on me would have to be my World History teacher Mr. Clark. His kind nature and optimistic attitude inspired me to learn. Whenever I reflect on my sophomore year here at SOA, Mr. Clark's class is the first thing that comes to mind. His passion for history and learning is truly inspiring. He has the ability to take simple facts and transform them into adventures of the past. Mr. Clark takes the time to get to know every single one of his students and that is truly admirable in my eyes. He does not see his students as simply numbers on a computer screen, but as human beings who have the potential to do great things and be exceptional people. Mr. Clark will always have a special place in my heart, and will continue to have the greatest impact on me during my years here at SOA.



### Will McCarter

The teacher that has impacted me the most was Mrs. Bronk. Her class was easily my favorite in tenth grade. I spent endless classes trying to see how many times I could curse in front of her in a single class period, and she didn't care. She always said that she didn't care how I acted as long as I expected to be treated the same way. I loved that, and we ended up becoming good friends. She also made it so that you had to do the work to get a good grade which taught me some great lessons about keeping up with your work. More importantly, she was the first teacher I ever had that actually treated me like an adult. She would assign the work, tell you when it was due, and send you on your way. Something about her treating me like an adult made me start treating myself that way.



### Karin McQuade

Ms. Fitzgerald's confidence in me, allowing me to perform a vocal solo for the Thankful Concert during my junior year was a major focal point in my musical transformation. I'd always loved Celtic Music and had performed many solos with Na Fidleiri. Mary Taylor, the Na Fidleiri conductor has always encouraged my love of fiddle. Performing "In Dreams," from Lord of the Rings, established my relationship with my dear friend Abby Kent. From there we formed Voxie, a Celtic Duo, her on Celtic harp, me vocal and fiddle. Abby's mom, Terry Thomas, was our coach and we spent many hours rehearsing and enjoying good company. We did some gigs around town, and performed for Music Matters. This sparked my interest for my Senior Thesis and my college music interest. Since then I've composed music and have been awarded the Archibald Rutledge Scholarship for one of my compositions. I've joined several musicians with

Bart Saylor to form a group called Good Foot. We perform around town and for Contra Dances. Contra Force, another local group, has invited me as guest fiddler. It is amazing how one person can open up one opportunity that can propel you forward deeper into your interests. Thank you Ms. Fitz! As well as Dr. Selby for helping me flourish with my Celtic thesis.



### Tiffany Martin



year as they always have been.

When I auditioned for SOA, I was nervous and almost hoping I wouldn't make it in because I just knew all the other kids would be outrageously more talented than I was, yet I couldn't be happier. Vocal has been radical to say the least, but I've made some of my best friends from that class, and I couldn't have done it without them. My HWB girls especially have been such a support through the stressful senior

As I began high school at SOA after the weird middle school stage, I had no idea what I had planned for my future. My dreams of being on Broadway in the 6th grade had dwindled, and I thought I would never find that one thing I was passionate about. Starting even just freshman year, I discovered what I really loved, and I have the SOA science department to thank for that. The teachers I have had have truly inspired me to pursue a neuroscience major on a premed track. Everyone has been encouraging and helped me find where I belong. My thanks sincerely go out to the entire department for instilling my love for school and helping me accomplish everything I have thus far, and setting me up for a future I'm seriously looking forward to.

### Lily McRae

Once, I had a nightmare that I went to West Ashley High School. In the nightmare, I had gone straight into WAHS with my peers from middle school and none of us had grown or developed at all. I had a fairly tough middle school experience and School of the Arts provided me with a highly appreciated opportunity to start fresh. I arrived late at our freshmen orientation and walked immediately to the back wall, standing with my arms crossed tightly around my stomach. I glanced apprehensively at my new classmates and was highly intimidated by all the talent in the room. I knew a lot of people had been at SOA since sixth grade and I assumed that meant they all had set groups of friends and wouldn't be interested in talking to a late arrival like me. I came to the orientation expecting more of the exclusive people and behavior I had experienced in middle school, and I was surprised when I was greeted almost immediately with an enthusiastic hug from a girl who noticed we were wearing the same shirt. Each introduction that day was different, but equally as warm. I was most affected by a handshake I received from a boy, as I had never met anyone my age who offered one. On the ride home I shared the experience with my mom, and was extremely excited to start high school in such a great environment. Thanks to everyone who made these past four years so great.



SOA swag on the 8th Grade DC Trip



### Jana Miley

*Hairspray* was probably my favorite part of being at SOA. Each person was so talented and special, and, most importantly, really wanted to be there. I felt so lucky to be a part of such an incredible cast that was really just one big family.

Spending six months in a musical with people, you learn things you kind of wish you didn't know about, especially once it gets to tech week and show time. We bonded over Panera before our five hour rehearsals, killing cockroaches in the dressing rooms, had wardrobe and wig malfunctions, and too many other memories to list (most probably too inappropriate for the school paper). We all went through struggles throughout the production, but held each other together. Even when Ally got hurt, and bless you child for keeping it together so well, everyone managed to keep the show going. It was moments like that that really reflected how strong we were as a team.

Even though it's been months since we've been on stage together, it feels like we're still in our off week, and we'll pick up with shows again on Thursday. Now, someone mentions cooties, or some kind of hair product, and suddenly I'm back on that stage in my blonde wig, scowling at whoever crosses my path. Or I'm behind the set of the record shop with Carly, Gunder, and Alex, rolling it to center. Or I'm in the wings watching Jack dance to "It Takes Two." And of course, I can't forget to mention Parrish's marvelous conducting skills on "Without Love" that practically brought me to tears every night because I was filled with pure joy. Mr. Barnwell in a wig and choir robe is an image I will never be able to get out of my head. And thank you, Julia, for being backstage to help with the "occasional" freak out between numbers. Also, thank you, Carly, for letting me borrow half your stuff, and for that crazy apple-vinegar rinse that made me and half the cast want to vomit. But, you were right, it did really work. Also thank you to the nurse for when I got that super gross eye infection from false eyelashes. Yeah, I probably should've taken better care of those. But most importantly, a special thanks to the teachers that put up with our crap for six months but still managed to get us in shape for an incredible show. We are all so grateful for you guys.

I can't believe *Hairspray* is over, but I'm so glad it happened. I miss every single one of you and will always treasure our time together, both onstage and off. You're all timeless to me.



### Sam Molony

I have been at SOA since the sixth grade, and I believe that the most impactful part was being a dance major. Being a dance major has taught me how to stand up for myself and how to lean on other people when hard times happen. Back when Ms. Slowinski (a former dance teacher) was diagnosed with cancer, the dance department leaned on each other because nobody else understood what we were going through. As I look back, I do not know what I would have turned out like if I chose a different major instead of dance. Dance majors pushed me, helped me, cried with me, laughed with me, but the most important thing is that they completed me.



### Maya Novak-Cogdell

Hi hello it is me Maya Novak-Cogdell. Let me take this opportunity to make a couple of shout outs: Annie C, sorry I ruined your life but thank you for exposing me to daisy and le déjeuner sur l'herbe; Barrett Reese, for slipping my brains back into my head for two years in a row, it was an honor really; Donnellon, for not teaching me and then subsequently not hanging out with me during first period a lot of times; Nan for also not teaching me geometry but for most things other than that for about four years straight. Word to the wise: Susanne Drennan is a perfect human specimen. Do not waste your time in her class. Alan Brehm thanks for acknowledging personhood of all your students, and me included, as it is extremely validating.



### Alex Ostapeck

In my time at SOA, there are many things that I would redo, starting back at 6th grade and telling myself some "wise words" would be nice. Most importantly, I'd tell myself to actually go to SOA: it's not as scary as you may think. I think I'd probably leave myself a note in my trumpet case that just said, "PRACTICE," with four underlines and eight exclamations. If I'd started doing that back then, I'm not even sure where I'd be now, but it'd probably be somewhere good. Other than that, I'd just tell Little Alexander to not take things so seriously; high school is a game.



### Levin Ostapeck

I have never found myself thinking "I wish I was in high school for a few more years..." but I could not say that attending the School of the Arts was not a crucial part of my development as a person. The school is unique in its accumulation of artists, creating a zoo similar but also drastically different from the zoo at the "normal high school". Despite all of the different personalities and traits, almost everyone is here to create and coexist, and that goal in itself is a positive thing in my eyes. It has been a blessing to be part of the jazz ensemble at SOA for my years here, as it really allowed me to move from my analytical, anxious side, to an expression of these feelings through music. Over time I have learned to not only 'play the changes' and hit all of the right notes, but to know the difference between what I *could* play and what I *should* play through experimentation, exploration, and practice. This skill when taken in a general, non-music sense, as well as the skills like organization and personal responsibility, can extend and build upon themselves throughout my entire life. It is important to still express yourself and be as happy as possible through the mundanity and repetition we may find ourselves post-graduation (or pre-, depending on how you look at it), just as you could create an incredible solo over a simplistic blues pattern or one or two chord vamp. Although I am no master, or even slightly close to one, I still have the idea planted, which I hope will last me forever. This propulsion through seemingly standing time came to a peak at my senior thesis last week, where I attempted a free jazz piece with several close friends that focused on my difficulties handling change, anxiety, and my failed attempts with spirituality. I am hoping the driving feelings I have from that performance will keep me going through college and the remainder of my life, where I will continue to play music and create with those around me. Thanks SOA for everything.



### Faye Patat

The class that has had the strongest impact on me is my dance class. I have been dancing with my class of all girls since sixth grade and have shared tears, laughter, and drama. I remember the first day of sixth grade walking into my first day of dance class scared out of my mind, thinking a class full of girls could either be a class full of friends or enemies. Thankfully I gained a class full of friends. I have discovered a sense of unity with these girls, losing and gaining new faces throughout the years. We have been through everything together, supporting each other every step of the way. I feel like they are my sisters given how close we all are and how much we all fight. I would say the best part of SOA is having a class that accepts you no matter what and is always there for you. After spending seven years with them, I know how much I will miss them after I graduate. I have learned from them how to trust others and how to appreciate the good things during bad time. I just want to say I love my dance sisters!



### Louise Pitner

In ten years I hope to be a child life specialist working at MUSC children's hospital. A child life specialist is a pediatric health care professional who works with children who are in the hospital for surgery or disability, or who live in the hospital for long-term illnesses that must be carefully monitored. I plan on getting there by accepting a full tuition scholarship to Columbia College and becoming a child and family studies major. I will then do a residency at a local hospital either in my senior year or after college graduation. After that I plan on working for a few years, then returning to school and getting my Master's Degree in Child Life Studies. I hope to still be playing the violin and dancing in 2023, but as for the rest of my life, I have it all planned out.



### Ethan Rovick

If I had to pick any teacher who truly had the strongest impact on me it would be Mr. Foberg. He is the Jazz band instructor and my personal trombone tutor. Ken Foberg is an amazing man who has helped me not just with playing the trombone but also in preparing me for the real world. When I have lessons with Mr. Foberg it is more than just a lesson. It is a friendship and a feeling of extreme comfort that have impacted me. His experience in life is truly incredible, and you can tell just by talking to him that he is full of knowledge. He really effected me personally by giving me the chance to play in the Jazz band. If it was not for Mr. Foberg I would not be in the jazz band. He gave me a chance and because of that chance I have had an amazing three years in the SOA Jazz band. More importantly than that, Mr. Foberg has inspired me to try my hardest and succeed in life. Mr. Foberg has changed my life, and I appreciate everything he has done for me and my family.



### Maddie Peralta



Being a student at SOA has been one of the most whirlwind experiences of my life. SOA taught me to accept and be accepted. I'm going to miss coming here every day and seeing my HWBs and chatting with our remarkable, caring teachers. To Mr. Donnellon—thank you for listening to me whine about everything from grades to relationship problems. You are truly passionate and I only hope to make you proud. To my friends—I don't think I could ever fully state how much I appreciate our years together. You guys have changed me for the better, and I will never forget all of the late nights, good food, and laughter that we've shared. This is only the beginning. Class of 2013!!!!

### Ashley Prentice

Many things have changed since my first day of school in 6th grade at SOA. I'll never forget making my way through the muddy field to the trailers where we learned to appreciate the arts and the value of an SOA Education. And how could I forget Lake SOA and the old Black Box where we said our goodbyes at 8th grade graduation? I'm thankful to have learned alongside other artists, but especially my classmates in creative writing. While I miss my friends that left after middle school, our small class of now eleven has always remained a sort of dysfunctional family. A special shout out to Maya, Emily, Shelby, Will, and Grace who have been giving me feedback and criticism since the first day of Ms. Miles' class when we read our acronym poems around the table. I would also like to thank my teachers, all of them who have encouraged and inspired me to step outside of my comfort zone and open my eyes to the many possibilities SOA has to offer. After I took Ms. Bronk's English class in 10th grade, she recruited me on the Yearbook staff and it was then that I began to take an interest in journalism and photography. I'm going to miss staying after school until 7oclock to revise pages before a deadline and being antagonized by Mr. Donnellon and Mr. Brehm, even though they know they appreciate the Yearbook as much as I appreciated their classes. I also credit my choice of Chemistry as a major next year to Dr. Price because her passion of the sciences motivated me to take an interest in something on the other side of the spectrum than writing. It is true, that an SOA Education is unlike any other. While I am going to miss the unique atmosphere, I am excited to see where my talents take me in the future.



### Daniel Rovick

If there is any class that would stick with my memory from high school, and had the strongest impact on me, it would be my major, Band. I have been in Band since the 8th grade and it has been the most amazing experience I could ask for. The teachers, both Mrs. Reed and Mr. Kerr, gave me such great guidance I cannot thank them enough. Not only that but I made such great friends in the band program just by the connection of music; it was an experience all on its own. I enjoyed all the concerts I played with the wind ensemble from concert festivals, to holiday concerts, or just in band class, all gave me such enjoyment. Although jazz was what really gave me a great desire to play. When Ken Foberg, our schools jazz band instructor, came in that first day, he automatically gave everyone a sense that his passion for music was real and that everyone could enjoy it just like him. He shared his passion with me and truly gave me happiness in music that I will carry on with me the rest of my life. Band has given so much in my life that I will never stop playing. I will remember all the people that allowed me to come as far as I did and I will truly miss this great program.





### William Scarborough

The SOA education is very unique in two ways. If you keep your mind and eyes open, you will learn many things. But, if you don't allow different ideas that you learn at the school from your teachers then you simply are just wasting your time here at the school. If I were able to start my seven years over at SOA I would change many things. One, I would value my major as my life; it took me a long while to understand the importance of pursuit in you major. I would ask more questions, and be less fearful of looking unintelligent in front of others. Also I would challenge myself more through difficult classes, and putting one-hundred percent of my time and effort in to my school work.

I would have to say Mr. Kerr has had the strongest impact on me at the school. Simply because he has been my teacher since 9th grade, and he controlled whether or not I stayed in the school more than my other teachers. He not only has been very inspirational for me, but he also showed me the flaws all humans have, so that I can be cautious and avoid problems created through those flaws.

Summing up my experience at SOA into one answer is impossible. School of the Arts has not only shown me how to be a proper student, but it has also shown me the importance of art and happiness in the everyday things you do. I've had to do a lot of growing up here at SOA; I came as a little, very awkward, kid. I also have gone through more than one group of friends, styles, and hobbies. I learned that you aren't the only one interested in something many other can and have the possibly in having the same interests as you, but the only way for you to truly understand others and find what truly interests you, you must become well versed in everything you can wrap your mind around. I've gone from this quiet, shy, kid who is afraid to speak his opinion to someone who is not only confident in their self, but will gladly share anything from anyone that approaching me in the right manor. SOA has shown me the different personalities of people, and also it has shown me the difference of a person of the arts compared to a person ignorant towards the arts. It taught me that in everyday life people respect and like different things, but if you keep your values strong, and your mind open, comprehending, learning, and evolving is only limited to what you limit yourself to.



### Callan Shattuck

I can't pick just one teacher or class that has made the strongest impact on me. All of my science classes made me realize that I do not want to be a scientist or chemist. English 3 and AP Lit made me appreciate seminar style learning from seminars and classroom discussions. One learns a lot from seminars; others can enlighten with ideas and prompt deeper questions about the work. Mr. Donnellon and Dr. Cusatis are probably the two teachers that made the strongest (positive) impact on me. Both teachers are intelligent and extremely knowledgeable in their fields. Their interactions with me and attitudes towards me have unintentionally made me mature as a person and student.



### Savannah Segle

So, unlike most of the seniors writing their essays, I haven't been at SOA since 6<sup>th</sup> grade. I came to the school when I was in 9<sup>th</sup> grade after going to a traditional middle school. Though at times I've taken being at this school for granted, I will never forget how happy I was when I first opened that acceptance letter. I will always be grateful for the opportunities and memories this school has given me, that I wouldn't have been able to experience at any other high school. I know what being at a regular school is like, and I know that SOA is literally a safe haven apart from Charleston County School District. I had never experienced such a kind, united group of teachers and students in my life. I knew I was entering a different sort of atmosphere, and I loved (well, still love) it. This was the kind of school where kids could wear any sort of ridiculous costume any day of the year, and no one said anything about it. It was the kind of school where just simply walking through the hallways of the art building would make you appreciate beauty. Whether it was the unique paintings all over the walls or the music drifting throughout the building, I fell in love with it, and I'm going to miss it more than anything in the world when I leave. SOA taught me to appreciate every single talent that a person could possess. It taught me that everyone has something special about him or her. It's a humbling feeling, but it also gives one a sense of dignity and self-worth.



It was at SOA where I first felt a real passion for music. I would like to personally thank Basil Kerr for helping me realize what I really wanted to do with my life, and providing that "aha!" moment when I finally realized who I was as a musician. I wouldn't even be at SOA if it weren't for Mr. Kerr seeing some sort of potential in me when I auditioned in 6<sup>th</sup> grade. So thanks, Basil. I've been so lucky to have such a wonderful band director for my high school years.

### Jen Smith

I have been more than thankful for my 7 years at SOA. Although I've had my fair share of "I hate this school"s, I couldn't have asked for a better place to grow up. I have learned so many things, not only about the basic math, science, art, etc. but about life and who I really am. Next year is going to be so weird without the constant nagging of IDs, the random outfits in the hallway, playing music every day, and last, all the people that I've been privileged to know. In my final days here, I've really cherished how really great this school is. There are some amazing teachers here and without them, I would not have enjoyed myself as much as I have. (Shout out to Mr. Brehm) Anyways, to try and make this short, just like any other essay I've written in high school, I am going to miss each and every one of my class mates and I am sad to say goodbye. BUT PEACE OUT AND SEE YALL AT THE HIGH SCHOOL REUNION!





### Corazon Stegelin

Honestly, Mr. Hammes has been more like a father than a teacher to me since ninth grade. He was one of the first adults (other than my parents, of course) that I could really open up to. I actually just last night confided in one of my friends that Mr. Hammes is one of three people who can really calm me down. Granted, being a teenage girl, I probably over exaggerate a lot, if not all, of my drama, but this man has seen me through more "crises" than I care to admit.

I was admittedly a very untrusting person until Mr. Hammes gave me someone to talk to. Now I think I might run into the opposite problem of being too trusting. Hammes made me realize that people might actually be interested in what I have to say, and that if something interesting happens to me, I should share it. I think he might regret that sometimes, but I still consider it an invaluable lesson.



### Shelby Studebaker

Hopefully I will be a novelist with a known publisher, and my creative writing classes have helped me with the persistence that it takes to write a longer piece of fiction, like the novella I wrote for senior thesis. I'd also like to have a degree in psychology and TEFL certification so that I can teach English in South Korea or China for a few years, either independently or through the Peace Corps, before moving back to the States and settling down as an occupational therapist. My time at SOA has helped me that I do love writing and language more than the sciences, though my teacher cadet class also helped me to realize that I want to make a difference in children's lives, whether it's in the States or around the world. I also wouldn't mind using the knowledge I gained abroad to potentially make a difference through advocating for the education of children who live in rural communities through the US Departments of Education and Agriculture, which my government class sparked my interest in. SOA was definitely a springboard for the differences I hope to make in the lives of people of country and the world.

If I could go back to sixth grade, I would have practiced trumpet much more than I have. I wish that I would have listened to Mr. Singleton on the first day of school saying, "If you want to be good, all you have to do is practice, practice, practice." I wish that the sixth grade Ty would have taken this idea of practicing into consideration because I always wonder how good I would be now if I had practiced diligently at a younger age. I



### Isabel Strobing



The most obvious result of my years at SOA is my growth as a performer. It has taken a myriad of performances, auditions, and failures to get to where I am. I'm finally at a point where I'm content with my musicianship; that is, I'm finally sane. For years, I cried at every audition, hated every performance, and threatened to quit more than once a year. I put a ridiculous amount of pressure on myself because I thought that everyone in the world expected something of me; I also planned on playing professionally. I have played since fourth grade, and "came of age" in a normal middle school and high school setting-coming to SOA in the middle of ninth grade was an awakening. By taking advantage of the resources provided to me, I really flourished. There have been major ups and downs, from sitting in Mr. Kerr's office at lunch crying to winning a soloist award at a national competition, or from taking a hiatus after a bad performance to taking a lesson from the best oboist in the country, and none of it would have shaped who I am without starting here at SOA. Next year, I will major in political science, and I hope to become a politician (or something like that). So my technical oboe training won't actually be of any practical significance (probably). However, I do plan to minor in music, because after four years of nonstop playing, I'm not quite ready to give it up.

### Maya Sumpter

Ms. Slowinski had the strongest impact on me as a teacher at SOA. Not only was she an amazing teacher, she was a beautiful person, both inside and out. She had a love and passion for dance that I have never seen before. Watching her do and teach what she loved made me want to love dance as much as she did. When I received my acceptance letter in the mail, it informed that I was first on the waiting list to be admitted into SOA. After a few weeks of summer, my mother received a call from Ms. Slowinski saying that I will be attending SOA in the fall and that "one more student wouldn't hurt." Throughout the years, we had our ups and downs, but it was just a part of our relationship. She wasn't viewed as just a teacher to me. She was my "school mom." I went to her for everything. And although she read my test aloud to the class in seventh grade to show my classmates how funny and ridiculous my answers were, I still loved her. After she passed away, I tried to continue my passion for dance, as I knew she would want me to. It slowly died as the years went on without her. I can honestly say that after my two re-auditions with this school, the fights I had with many teachers, and the struggle I have gone through with the dance department at SOA, the only reason I am here and graduating from the Charleston County School of the Arts is for Cecilia Slowinski.



### Ty Tanner

would also try to look for more opportunities to play my instrument outside of class (preferably for money). I would also try to take more challenging classes and be more involved with clubs. However, my experience at SOA has been what I wanted. I have gotten to play music nearly every single day for the past seven years. I am extremely grateful that I took a chance and left my old school to go through this experience.



### Emily Thomas

When I came to SOA in 2006 as a sixth grader, I never imagined that I would have come so far by the time I graduated. I think the most I remember from middle school is a pervasive feeling of dampness – whether it was walking through the field in the rain or being in the mouldering buildings. I think eighth grade was the best year in middle school because I finally felt like I belonged to SOA. When I won Scholastic in ninth grade (not without the help of my amazing creative writing teachers), it helped to validate my skill as a writer and honestly, I have put a lot more effort into writing ever since.

I know for a fact that if I hadn't gone to SOA, I wouldn't be where I am right now. This school has fostered an environment for creative learning where I have become very close to my teachers and peers, learning not just school stuff, but life lessons, too. I would like to thank NHS for forcing me to do service work and become involved in my community. NHS was the extra push I needed to discover I have a passion for helping others and it has improved the content of my character. I have learned that sometimes the best gift is the one you give to someone else. I would also like to thank a few really influential teachers for helping me to realize that I want to be a teacher. I sincerely hope that I might actually end up back at SOA as a teacher someday.

Next fall, you'll be able to find me at Warren Wilson College in the Swannanoa Valley. It's a tiny liberal arts school that reminds me a lot of SOA. I'll be majoring in creative writing and minoring in secondary education so that I can be a creative writing teacher one day. Hopefully, I'll be accepted into Warren Wilson's MFA program for creative writing.

In ten years, I'll be 28, so I will have finished getting my MFA and I'll (fingers crossed) have a decent job teaching creative writing. Hopefully, I'll be settling down and thinking about getting married or starting a family. I'm not sure where I want to live yet. I think my summers off from teaching, I will try to travel a lot. In my quest for culture, maybe I'll find the meaning of life. Maybe not.

Writing will always be a part of my life and I know I will continue down an artistic path and try my hardest to live a meaningful life. In ninth grade, Mr. Orvin asked us, "What is time?" I've been trying to answer that question ever since, but I think I've finally find a satisfying answer: time is what you make of it. I believe that I have made the most of my time at SOA and I will never forget what it's like to feel successful. I know that if I try hard, I can excel. I am so very thankful for all of the memories I have made and for all of my friends who've come this far with me. As Holden Caulfield said, "Don't ever tell anybody anything. If you do, you start missing everybody."



### Austin Worth

SOA is a great environment because of the people it attracts. Students and teachers all work in tandem to make the school something special, a gathering point for all sorts of humans. Since he may be going back to Michigan, I'd like to thank Mr. Donnellon for giving me years of wisdom and maturity. He made class pretty cool and interesting from the start, but he seemed just as interested in teaching work ethic as history. Though he was a carpetbagger and I hate carpetbaggers, Donnellon only wanted to prepare the whole class for infinity articles in Brehm and college. He was like De Beers and I am only a woman's best friend. Though your class has passed, you still act as a positive enabler. Thanks, Mr. Donnellon.



### Joel Trotter

An SOA education, unlike most standard high school curriculum, not only prepares you for an arts related career, it also excels in the world of academia. Through your major, you are not only able to practice and hone your craft, gain insight into the history of your art, and perform in front of your friends and peers, but you will also be given many opportunities to go out in the real world. But, if you don't wish to pursue a career in your major, or you do not want to solely focus on your art, the academics at SOA are par none (except for Magnet, they are still better). You're given a multitude of academic opportunities, like AP classes and extracurricular activities. Thanks to this combination of arts and academics, students are able to excel in any college or career they wish to pursue. Not to mention that the teachers are what really hold the school together. Dedicated and hardworking (most of the time) the teachers are really what separate SOA from the rest of the schools. I think the true value of an SOA education lies within the faculty and especially the teachers. The teachers make the school.



### Morgan Watts



In 2023, I will celebrate my 28th Birthday. I will be continuing or finishing my graduate studies in paralysis with a degree in Biochemistry. I may take the MCAT and later obtain a doctorate or pursue work in a laboratory. I will not lose touch with my artwork. My sister and I will have invested in a space for a co-owned art studio featuring a small scale coffee shop. The lounge will host live concert Thursdays and guest art walks on Fridays. Marriage is a possibility, although it's definitely not a priority. I will also expecting an SOA 10 year reunion invitation.

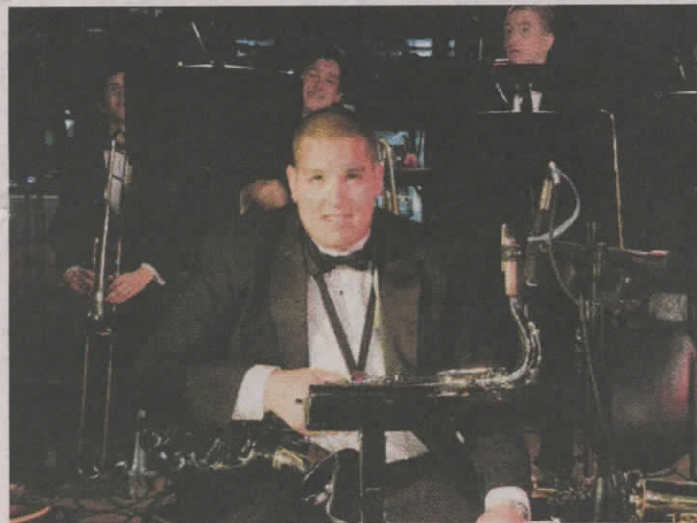
### Julia Woodward

I almost didn't come to SOA because I thought I would have to be in Piano, and I threw a fit because I didn't want to study piano for the next seven years. At the last minute I found out I was also accepted to Vocal and I was way too excited. I would have to give credit to the Vocal Department in those early years for sparking my passion for music and the urge to continue on with private lessons. I have been able to attend various summer intensive camps and win lots of scholarships. Vocal has also given me the opportunity to meet some of the best girls and guys I know and keep our friendships strong through all our trips and concerts and afterschool shenanigans. I honestly don't know where I would be if it weren't for my friends. High school is tough and not having friends must suck because I don't know how I would have done it. This year especially, my friends have been through a lot with academics, college, bad boyfriends, girl drama and a lot of unnecessary strife. But somehow we got through it, and it is probably because we are all such caring, devoted friends and we like to eat a lot of good food. Since we've been through hell and back this year, I know we can get through anything life throws us now. I have to give a special shout out to my sister Anna for putting up with me and my problems and also to Jana. I wish you weren't going to NYC because that's so far away, but I know that you are seriously going to have a blast and be where you have always wanted to be. Plus, it gives me an excuse to see the city! You have put up with all my crap with college auditions and boy problems and everything else imaginable. You are a beautiful girl and I'm so happy that we're friends. Thank you, HWB, for being amazing and even though no one understands us, at least we do. Stay bad and beautiful!



## Tyler Morris

Tyler...



We are finding ourselves "at a loss for words, and that's ok!" How blessed we are that you looked "beyond the music and beyond the noise!" We are so proud of you, love you very much, and know that you have "made a difference and made a change!"



Congratulations!  
Love Dad, Mom, and Chelsea

## Taylor Brobisky



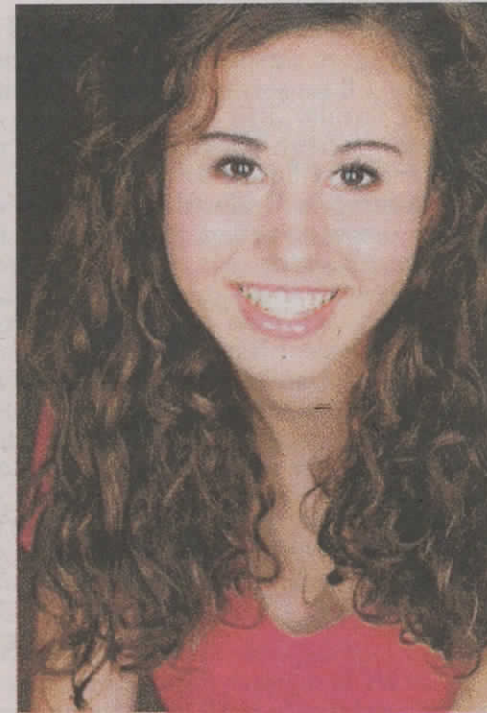
### *Taylor Nicole Brobisky*

You stole our hearts the moment you were born, and we couldn't be more proud of the amazing young woman you have become. All that you have endured, has made you the person you are today.

You are a blessing to us all!

We love you with all of our hearts and all of our soul.  
Mom & Dad

## Mandie Ronick



To Mandie -

We couldn't be prouder! Never stop being who God made you to be!

We love YOU!

Mom, Tim, Marissa & Family



## Morgan Watts



Congratulations Morgan on a job well done! Graduation is here and your future is waiting on you to lead us into your many successes at Charleston Southern University. All those late night studies, lack of sleep, and sacrifices are here for you with new opportunities open to you with the diploma you now hold as proof of diligence, knowledge, and skills. May God continue to bless you and give you the confidence to open many doors for you to lead a successful life journey. Morgan, you have made us proud and lucky to have you in our lives. The wisdom, love, discipline, and guidance has shaped you into the fine young lady you are today that we are so very proud of you and love you bunches. You may not know where life's road will lead you, but keep moving because God and I are walking with you.



Most Proud and Much Love, Mom, Dad, Kayla,  
Grammie, and PaPa Herrod

## Katie Bailey



Our dearest Katie, you are such a sweet, caring, considerate, and peace-loving young lady. We are so proud of you and can't wait to see what your future brings! May you be forever the wonderful person you are and get everything you have worked so hard for. Remember, if you do what you love, you'll never work a day in your life! May your dreams all come true!

We love you, baby!

Love Mom & Daddy





## Emily Thomas

Emily Rhiannon Annette Thomas

Through the years, we told you:

- ~ Make a difference: you're planning to be a teacher and writer.
- ~ Be kind: your peers say you're the nicest person.
- ~ Be respectful: teachers and parents, alike, think you're the "cat's pajamas."
- ~ Be helpful and dependable: you're always working on some project or committee.
- ~ Do your very best: you make good grades and have won numerous awards.
- ~ Fight injustice and stand up for those who can't defend themselves: many times you've come to us for advice when you've seen someone treated unfairly and you're on the Honor Board.
- ~ Be yourself: can you say "Nerd"?
- ~ One person can start a revolution: WE CAN'T WAIT!!!!



We love you and are so very proud of you!

Your Biggest Fans,  
Mom & Dad

## Addison Lewis



Addison,  
Run the race that God has prepared you for, using your many gifts to uplift, encourage, and achieve. You are blessed beyond measure.  
Love Mommy & Daddy

## Brent Hubbard



Congratulations, Brent, and thank you for helping me adjust to 6<sup>th</sup> grade at SOA. You were always happy to see me at school and you were really nice to my friends. You are a GREAT big brother. I will miss you soooooo much next year!  
Love you! Isabel Adele Hubbard

## Ann Louise Pitner



Dearest Ann Louise,  
Here you are...ready to launch into a new world of college and living away from home. We are very proud of you for all that you are and have accomplished. You are bright, beautiful, and very creative. We love you dearly.



**Danie Johnson**

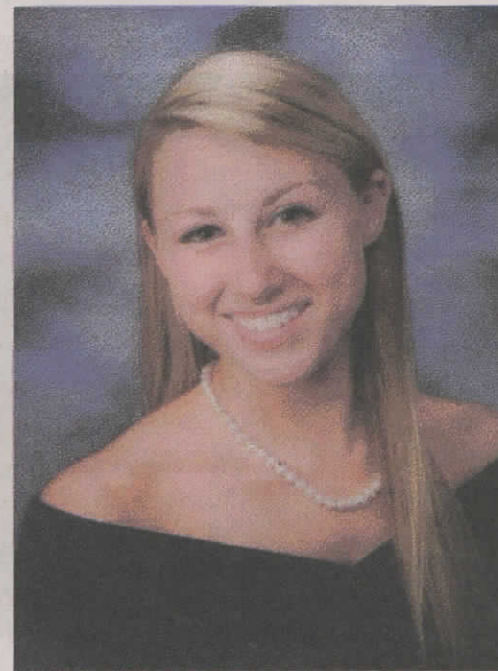


Congratulations, Daniel!  
SOA  
Class of 2013

College of Charleston  
Class of 2017

“the undiscovered planet, the unopened book,  
the moment just before sunrise”

Love,  
Mom, Dad and Tanner



**Sam Molony**



Samantha,

You are a beautiful, confident young lady and we are all so proud of you!

We love you,  
Grandmommy, Dad, Jamie, Ashley and Brianna



### Dale Bennett

Congratulations, Dale!

We are very proud of you!

Love, Dad, Mom, Austin, and Cydney



### Cory Stegelin



We are so proud of you, Cory, and we can't wait to see what you will accomplish next!

Love - Mom, Dad, and Caleb

### Eli Dent



**Eli**...Right There Always  
...To Infinity and Beyond  
...**BELIEVE**

"We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence therefore, is not an act but a habit." Aristotle

. . . .We Love you Up to the sky and Back!!!

Mama, Addison, Papa



### Caneiceeah Harrison



Dedicated to my teachers. Many beautiful things cannot be seen or touched; they are felt within the heart. What all of you have done for me is one of them. And I thank you from the bottom of my heart. I could not have done this without you!



### Sarah Cockcroft



Congratulations, Sarah! We are so proud of you! Best Wishes for continued success at USC Honors College!

Love, Mom and Dad  
And Sallie too!

### Ren Fish & Henry Cain



“A friend is someone who gives you the freedom to be yourself...”  
~ Jim Morrison

Congratulations, Henry!  
Congratulations, Ren!

Your families love and celebrate you!

“Go confidently in the direction of your dreams. Live the life you have imagined.”  
~ Thoreau



### Alex Berlinsky



Mazel Tov!!

Congratulations, Alex Berlinsky and the entire Class of 2013.

Follow your passion and always dream big!!!

Much Love,  
The Berlinsky Family & Friends



## Brittany Gadsden



Congratulations, Brittany!

We are so very proud of you & we wish you well in your journey to USC-Columbia in the fall.

Love Mom, Dad, Shel & Briana

## Cameron Lloyd



Awesome job Cam- you stayed focused and finished well! We are very proud of you and love you so much! On to the next chapter- it's going to be great!

Love- Mom, Dad, Collin and Caroline

## Ty Tanner



Ty,

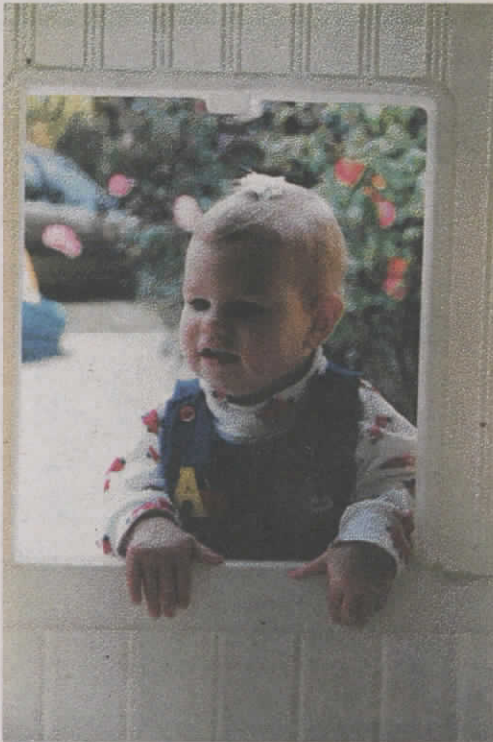
You have reached a milestone in life! Celebrate this time - we are proud of you and love you very much! You are truly a blessing from God to us. Thank you for filling our lives with joy and our ears with song. Continue to be a leader in the right direction and keep your priorities straight. Set your goals high, stay focused, "be strong and very courageous." (Joshua 1:7)

"Life is one grand, sweet song,  
so start the music." (Reagan)

Love,  
Dad, Mom, Steven,  
Shiloh, and Rocket







## Ashley Prentice

Ashley Beth

You are bright and beautiful and we are all so proud of you. Always pray and seek God's wisdom. We wish you happiness and fulfillment in all you do along with the very best life has to offer.

Love,  
Mom, Dad, and Daniel  
Proverbs 3: 5-6



## Julia Woodward



Wow! It seems like only yesterday we were walking to Belle Hall with your "Powerpuff Girls" lunch box for the first day of school. Now you are walking across the stage with your high school diploma! We are so proud of you and all of your accomplishments!

## Dale Bennett



"Keep singing, Dale!"

Love, Dad, Mom, Austin, and Cydney



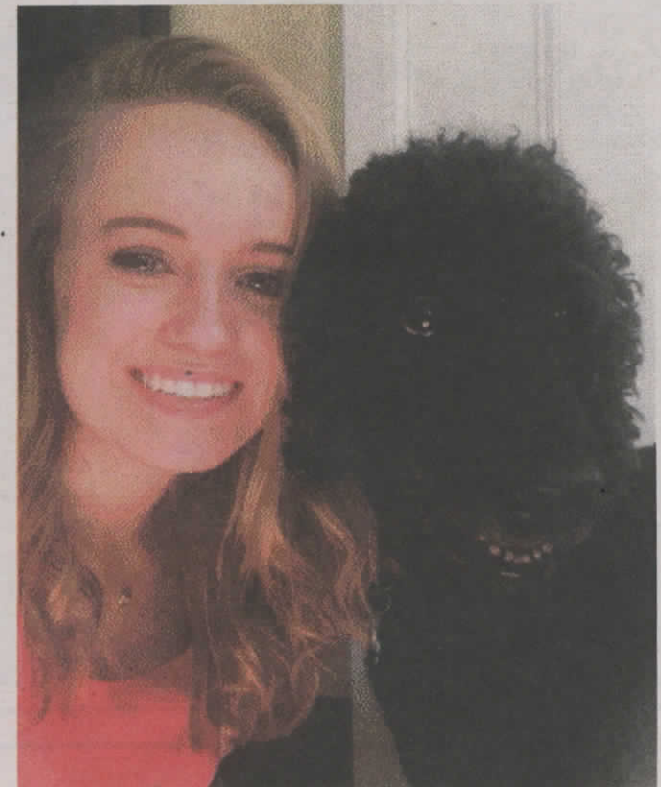


### Alexandra Grant

Congratulations, Alexandra!

We wish you the best as you move on to college and the happiest of futures. Remember Aunt Maude always said, "Be good and you'll be happy!"

Much love always,  
Daddy & BoJo



### Will Waters



We're proud of your accomplishments at SOA!  
Wishing you much happiness and success as you begin another journey and new adventure.

Love, Mom and Dad

### Christiana Keinath



Christiana Marie Keinath

Congratulations to another shining star in the family constellation! What a joy to watch you become the beautiful, intelligent, caring woman you are! Best wishes for a bright future! We love you "right up to the moon - and back."

Mom, Dad, Caroline, Grandma and Grandpa Markham

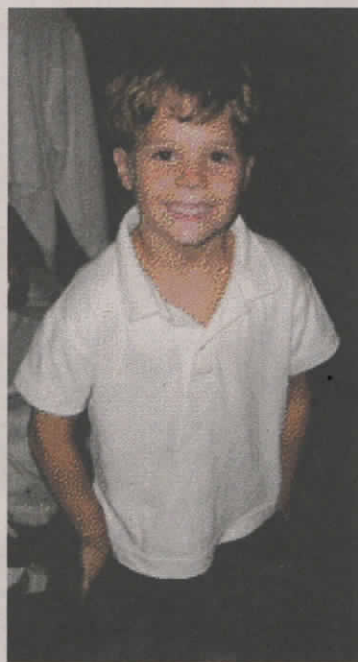


### Josh Perez



Congratulations!  
We know you are destined for great things!  
We love you, and are proud of you!  
Mom, Dad & Amanda

### Price Long



Congratulations Price!  
We can't wait to see your future unfold!



### Alyssa Black

Dear Alyssa!

"We hope your dreams take you... to the corners of your smiles, to the highest of your hopes, to the windows of your opportunities, and to the most special places your heart has ever known."

Love, Mom, Jim, Ashley, Jackie & James

### Aaron & Haley Charpia

Our little babies are growing up!



We are so proud of you! We love you!  
Mom & Dwayne

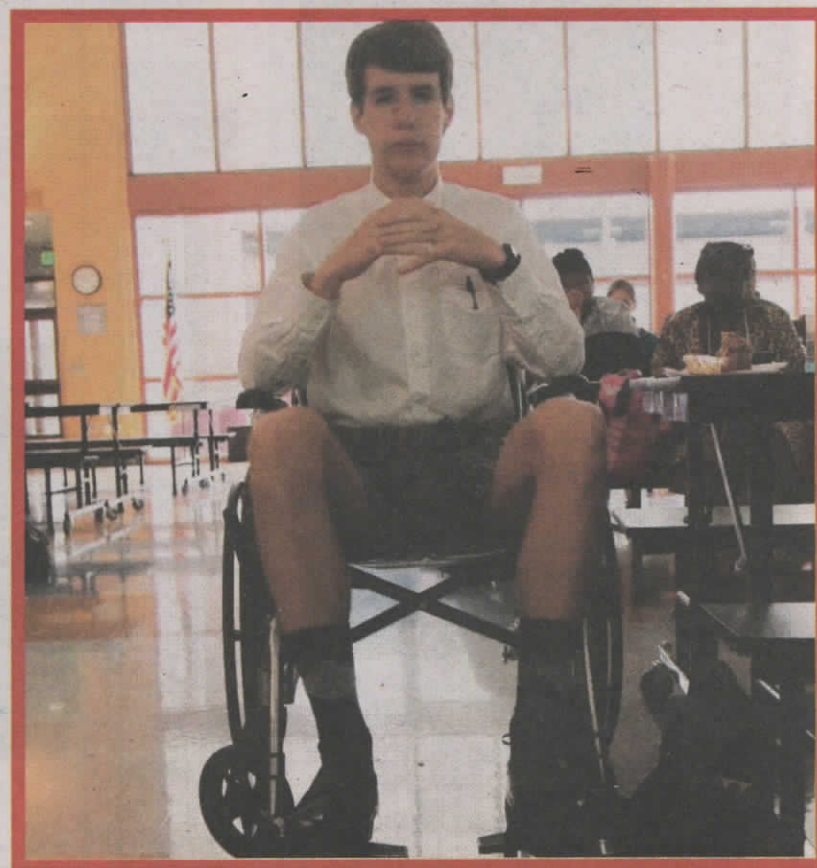
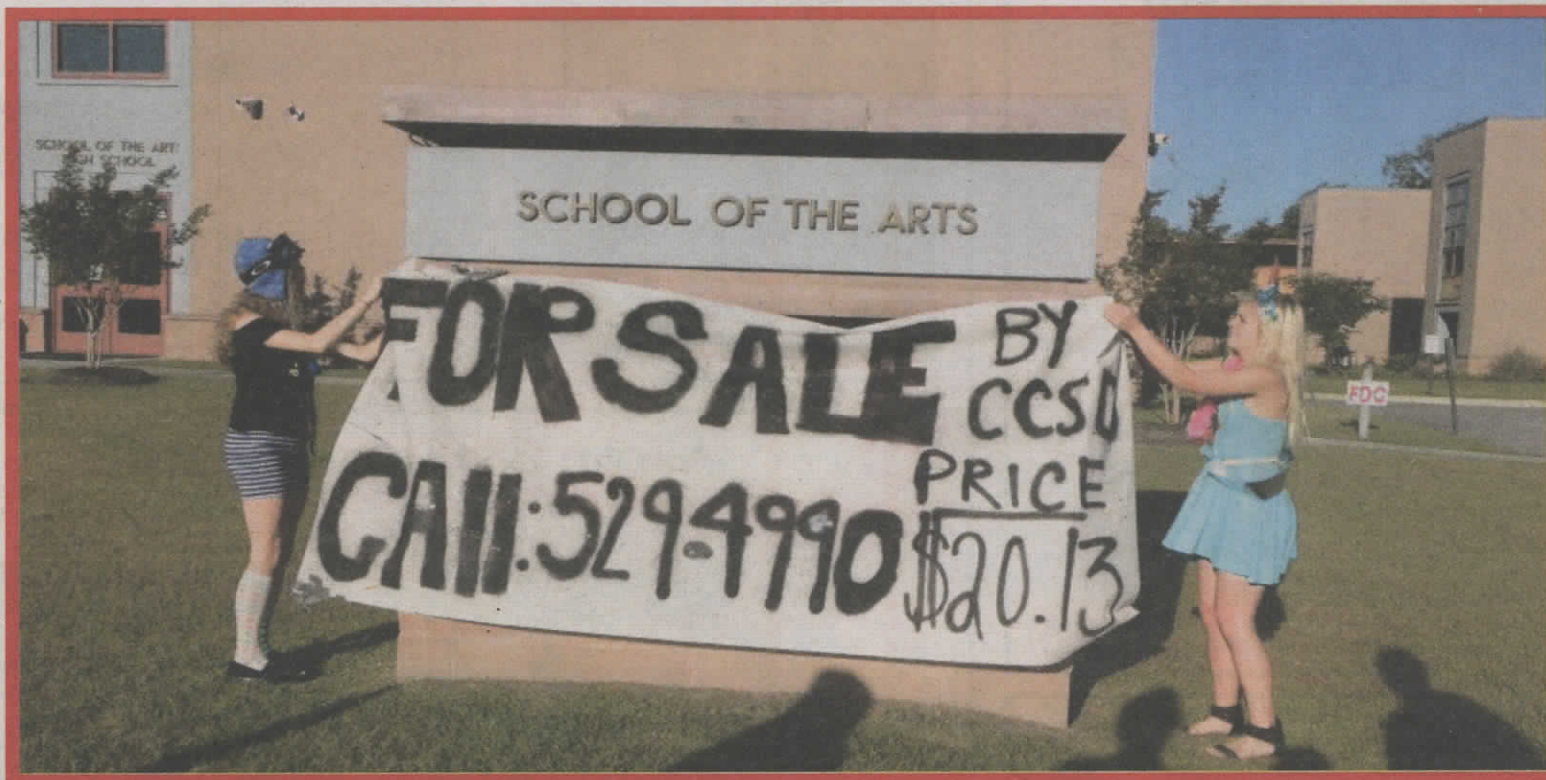


Congratulations Aaron & Haley Charpia  
Class of 2013



# SENIOR SPIRIT WEEK

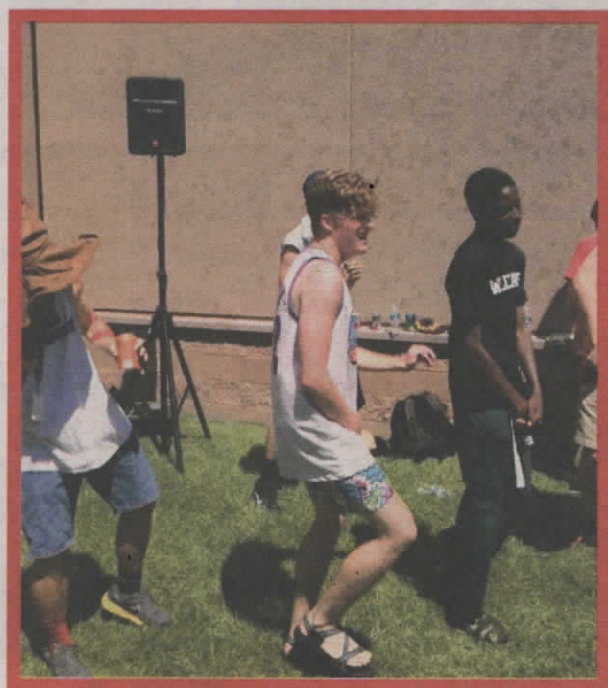
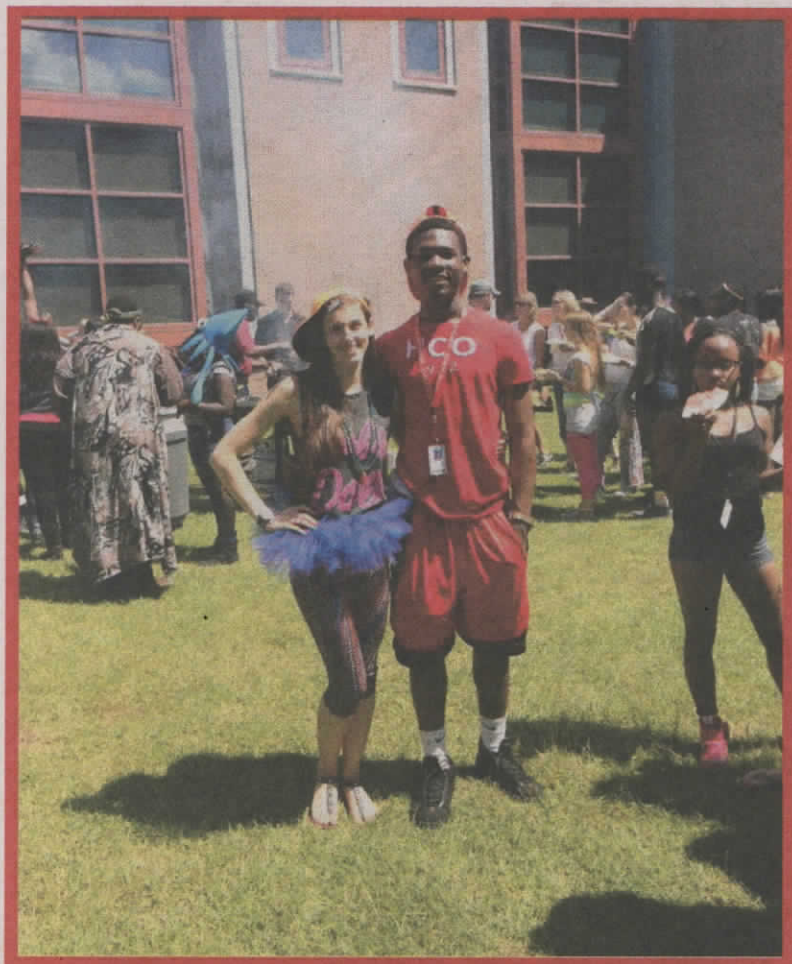
PHOTOS BY KATIE BAILEY





# SENIOR SPIRIT WEEK

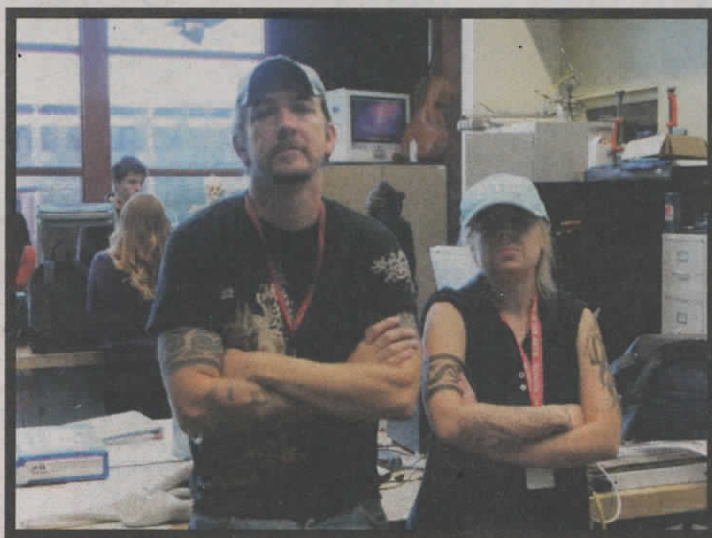
PHOTOS BY KATIE BAILEY, JAZZY REDDICK, AND SARAH BROWN





# Visual Arts: A Pictorial Year-in-Review

Visual Arts has been too busy for words (almost). Field trips to museums, gardens, wild life preserves, a fashion show, art shows, art competitions across the state and country, as well as several local artists working with students one-on-one made for an exciting year in both middle and high school levels of Visual Arts.







**CONGRATULATIONS  
CHRISTIANA  
KEINATH**

**SOA CLASS OF 2013  
VALEDICTORIAN**

**CONGRATULATIONS  
NICHOLAS BENTZ**

**SOA CLASS OF 2013  
SALUTATORIAN**



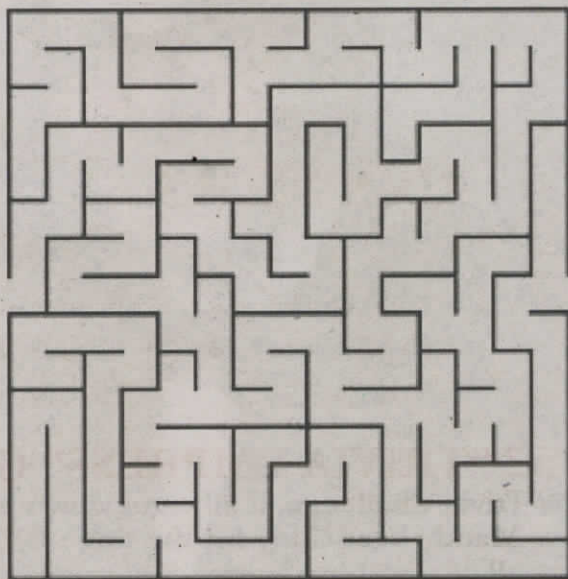


## This Week in History by Madeleine Vath

Sources: [library.thinkquest.org](http://library.thinkquest.org), [wikipedia.org](http://wikipedia.org)

Mon 6/3	SAT 6/4	SUN 6/5	MON 6/6	TUE 6/7	WED 6/8	THU 6/9
<p><b>1808:</b> Jefferson Davis is born</p> <p><b>1826:</b> Russian writer Nikolai Mikhailovich Karamzin dies</p> <p><b>1888:</b> "Casey at the Bat" is published in the <i>San Francisco Examiner</i></p> <p>Repeat Day</p>	<p><b>1876:</b> An express train arrives in San Francisco via the First Transcontinental Railroad only 83 hours and 39 minutes after leaving NYC</p> <p><b>1919:</b> The U.S. Congress approves the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment, giving women the right to vote</p> <p>Old Maid's Day</p>	<p><b>1851:</b> Harriet Beecher Stowe's <i>Uncle Tom's Cabin</i> starts a ten-month run in an abolitionist Newspaper</p> <p><b>1956:</b> Elvis Presley introduces his new single, "Hound Dog", scandalizing the audience with his suggestive hip movement</p> <p>Festival of Popular Delusions Day</p>	<p><b>1833:</b> President Andrew Jackson becomes the first President to ride a train</p> <p><b>1946:</b> The NBA, with 11 original teams, is created</p> <p><b>1984:</b> <i>Tetris</i> is released</p> <p>Teacher's Day</p> <p>National Applesauce Cake Day</p>	<p><b>1892:</b> Benjamin becomes the first U.S. President to attend a baseball game</p> <p>1995: Boeing 777 enters service with United Airlines</p> <p>National Chocolate Ice Cream Day</p>	<p><b>632:</b> Muhammad dies</p> <p><b>1845:</b> Andrew Jackson dies</p> <p><b>1859:</b> Smith Wigglesworth is born</p> <p><b>1949:</b> George Orwell's <i>Nineteen Eighty-Four</i> is published</p> <p>Name Your Poison Day</p>	<p><b>1870:</b> Charles Dickens dies</p> <p><b>1916:</b> Robert McNamara is born</p> <p><b>1973:</b> Secretariat wins the Triple Crown</p> <p><b>1978:</b> The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints opens up its priesthood to black men</p> <p>Donald Duck Day</p>

## Help Ms. Cimballa find her paintbrush!



## Sudoku

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



## HOROSCOPES



**Gemini** - Congratulations, I predict gross food and creepy apartments in your future.



**Cancer** - Hide your gold, I've heard a leprechaun is on the loose.



**Leo** - While in your dark room this summer, think about all of the fun things you could be doing.



**Virgo** - You'll be living life like a pirate.



**Libra** - While climbing the mountain of dreams, watch out for mountain goats.



**Scorpio** - I hope you can live without a computer for a while, I have a feeling it's going to break.



**Sagittarius** - Have you eaten squirrel before? You will when your camping trip goes horribly wrong.



**Capricorn** - Sunburn? Sure! Painful sunburn? Without a doubt.



**Aquarius** - When you go to the beach next, bring Band-Aids. The mutant crab might find you.



**Pisces** - I'm feeling nice; you'll have a great summer.



**Aries** - I'd watch your mail; your neighbor has been stealing it.



**Taurus** - Don't eat chicken. I predict salmonella in your future (vegetarians -- you're lucky).

## THE TRIVIA CHALLENGE

by Jakob Lazzaro

### THIS MONTH'S TOPIC

School is almost out, and everyone is looking forward to summer! The final issue of The Trivia Challenge is celebrating with summer-themed trivia. Also, since it is the end of the year, the title of "Trivia Emperor/Empress" must be awarded. This is decided by having the two champions with the most consecutive wins compete against each other. This year, former champ Cody Beasenburg (9th grade, Vocal), is going up against current champ Maddy Seabrook (10th grade, Creative Writing) in this spellbinding final contest.

### QUESTIONS!

1. True or False. Thomas Jefferson and John Adams both died on July 4th of 1826.
2. Is the Summer Solstice in June, July, or August?
3. True or False. The month of July was named after Julius Caesar.
4. What was the Bikini named after?
5. What ancient culture wore the first bathing suits?
6. True or False. 65% of people in the United States don't know how to swim.
7. What US state has the most swimming pools?
8. What world culture (EG: Mayans) invented and wore the first pair of sunglasses?
9. On average, does a single scoop ice cream cone take 50, 31 or 74 licks to eat?
10. What is the most popular ice cream topping?

Contestant A: Cody Beasenburg, 9th Grade Vocal

Contestant B: Maddy Seabrook, 10th Grade CW

1. True.
2. June.
3. True, he chose the name himself.
4. The French guy who invented it? I know the inventor was French.
5. Egyptians?
6. False.
7. Texas.
8. The Greeks.
9. 74.
10. Chocolate.



1. True.
2. It is in... June, isn't it? The start of summer.
3. True.
4. I don't know.
5. The Greek.
6. False.
7. Florida
8. I don't know!
9. The 50 option.
10. Sprinkles.



## ANSWERS

- |                   |   |                      |
|-------------------|---|----------------------|
| 1. True.          | 4. Bikini Atoll, a US nuclear testing site. | 7. Arizona.          |
| 2. It is in June. | 5. The Ancient Greeks.                      | 8. The Chinese.      |
| 3. True.          | 6. True.                                    | 9. 50 licks.         |
|                   |   | 10. Chocolate Syrup. |

### THE TITLE OF "TRIVIA EMPRESS" GOES TO...

In the true style of The Trivia Challenge, it all came down to one point. With jso little between them, Maddy beat Cody for the title of "Trivia Empress!" Maddy therefore recives all of the eternal glory *Applause* can muster. It's been a great year!





“My brother Tyler Coons because he’s really strong-willed and smart.”  
Summer Coons, 9th grade Band



“Joel Chapman because I can talk to him about anything and he’s a good actor.”  
Justice Murray, 11th grade Dance



“The entire senior class has inspired us in many different and unique ways.”  
Ms. Fitz and Mr. Moore, Senior Advisors



“Taylor Brobisky because she’s so organized and she gets stuff done.”  
Ashtyn Laserna, 11th grade Dance



“Keith Howard because he makes me want to play better.”  
Chase Martin, 9th grade Band

## Which SOA senior inspires you the most?

By Madeleine Vath & Shelby Oltmann



“Jen Smith because of her accomplishments at SOA and because she made it into USC.”  
Dean Britt, 11th grade Vocal



“Austin Worth because of his American mysticism.”  
Katarina Lanier, 11th grade Dance



“Erik Green because his success in band motivates me to do better.”  
Jarby Brown, 10th grade Band



“Sam Funk because he’s nice to everyone and he always has a smile on his face.”  
Bonnie Scarborough, 11th grade Band



“Maria Voronina because she inspires me to be myself.”  
Lexie Griffin, 9th grade Strings