

APPLAUSE

School of the Arts 5109-B West Enterprise Street, North Charleston, SC

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The Piano Issue

In This Issue:

- ◆SOA hosts 60+ colleges at upcoming fair
- ◆Middle and high school piano players talk about their craft
- ◆Work begins on Pegasus Garden



Letter from the Editor

Well here we are again: that time of the year when we realize that over 100 days of the school year have gone by and exams are less than three months away and it is beginning to feel like spring and I am graduating in three months and STOP TOO MUCH I CAN'T TAKE IT ALL. Erm, I mean, hooray, it's March!

In this month's issue we took the opportunity to highlight a somewhat underrated major: Piano. Many people seem to forget about this wonderful major because of its small size - they can take grades 6-12 on one field trip without it resulting in total chaos! - but *Applause* is here to give you the inside scoop on an average day in Piano, Piano field trips, and what a few pianists in the community have been doing.

As far as the imminent exams, just remember they are like Devil's Snare: you have to relax. If you don't, they'll only kill you faster.

MADELEINE VATH

Letters to the editor? Email your thoughts to madeleine@soa-applause.com

Desiree Horlbeck



The Impersonalization of Generation Z

Generation Z was born in a time of an exceedingly advanced technology boom. All those born since the 1990s can get current events from CNN.com and have the leisure of Dictionary.com rather than the actual physical dictionary. It is not Generation Z's fault particularly, it is how we were raised, but it is unfortunate that we scowl at a thesaurus or a paper copy of a newspaper and forget the "struggle" of generations previous to ours.

Yes, those before us did not have the Internet to fall back on at their disposal, and back in ancient times there were no smart phones. Of course, some of us do remember those dark ages when the Razor cell phone was all the rage, but as we have gotten older, technology has adapted even more to our needs. It seems that electronic devices have replaced even the human face in conversation, if a conversation is even being held at all. Many times when a member of Generation Z becomes bored, he or she will pull out a phone or tablet and scroll through social media. The increase in the popularity of various social media sites, significant contributors to the degeneration of society's physical interaction, has enabled us to know virtually everything about a person without ever speaking a word to them. Our generation has found it sufficient enough to log on to Facebook to find out surface details like relationships, or even to go as deep as religion and social views. It is all online. No conversation necessary.

Our electronic devices are slowly replacing more important social things in our lives, such as common - or what once were common - manners. For example, gratitude; we are coming to the point where we feel that because everything is at our fingertips we can take full advantage of it and move on to the next thing. This may be acceptable when using an object, but when utilizing the expertise or abilities of another human being, it is still necessary, just as it was 50 years ago, to say "please" and "thank you." Being hidden behind a screen has further enabled the ease with which we neglect such simple niceties.

Many of us can find common ground in the strong bond we feel with our electronics. When a screen cracks, it is devastating, as if a family member had broken their own skin and there is nothing we can do but stare at it and mentally calculate how long it will be until it is fixed or replaced. It is as though we feed off of receiving digital devices. A trip to the Verizon store for an upgrade brings as much joy as if it were a trip to some exotic location. It is like a two hour vacation in a room full of cell phones. And why is it that we need so many differently-sized devices with such similar functions? "Because it has a bigger screen" really does not seem like a fair justification.

It is sad to think that Generation Z has watched newspapers become towels to clean up spills, middle schoolers want Nooks instead of books, and every sixth grader has an iPhone 13. What does the "N" in "Nook" stand for anyway? "Not a legitimate replacement for a book"? It is simply a digital LED screen to read on, and because that is what the kids feel more comfortable with now, it is more widely used. It is a quick and easy distraction right at our fingertips, permitting us to neglect other social responsibilities and shrink into our own little bubbles - while others watch our every digital move - an eerily similar situation to that predicted in George Orwell's *Nineteen-Eighty Four*.

Applause

the official student publication of
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Upcoming Events

March 10-11 - Theatre Senior Thesis @ 6:30pm in the BBT

March 12 - Dance Senior Thesis: Artistic Collaborations Choreography @ 6:30pm in the RMMT

March 13 - 8th Grade Solo Dance and Art Show @ 6:30pm in the RMMT

March 14 - Grub on the Green

March 17 - HS Convocation

March 17 - HS Band Concert @ 6:30pm in the RMMT

March 19 - HS Poetry Slam @ 6:30pm in the BBT

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feedback!

Cover art by
Caroline Cash

Jefferson Club recognizes Zach Gilbert

by Ted Anastopoulos



Ted Anastopoulos

Lung disease has always been a touchy topic with Zach, a Sophomore Band major. His grandfather died of lung cancer, his father was a smoker for 17 years, and his brother suffers from asthma. When his brother began a community service project to benefit the American Lung Association seven years ago, Zach became an active member in the organization.

Zach organizes and participates in ALA events to raise both money and awareness. Just last November, Zach and his family attended the 5K Fight for Air Run and Walk. Zach also spearheaded a coffee house benefit through his synagogue that raised over \$1,500.

"I am always looking for new opportunities to raise money and awareness for the American Lung Association. Believe it or not, we are actually one of the lesser known cancer and medical organizations," said Zach. "The Susan G. Komen Foundation and American Heart Association are usually given more attention. One might not always think about the importance of lung health, but it really is an important part of our everyday lives."

The American Lung Association's next big event will be the Oxygen Ball on May 9th. Location is yet to be determined, but Zach and the Jefferson Service Club will help spread future details. We should all recognize Zach and congratulate him on his continued work to help others through something he is truly passionate about.

For questions on how you can help Zach and the American Lung Association, call 843-566-3136, or email Zach at zacharygilbert@comcast.net.

French students visit Rue de Jean and Christophe Artisan Chocolatier-Pâtissier

C. Bednarczyk

On Monday, February 24th, the students from the French 3 & 4 classes traveled to Downtown Charleston to immerse themselves in French culture. First they visited Christophe Artisan Chocolatier-Pâtissier where the owner spoke to them about the chocolate-making process.



C. Bednarczyk



After finishing their tour of the chocolate shop, the French students went to the French restaurant Rue de Jean for lunch. The students were served a variety of French foods, including Croque Monsieur, an open-face grilled cheese.

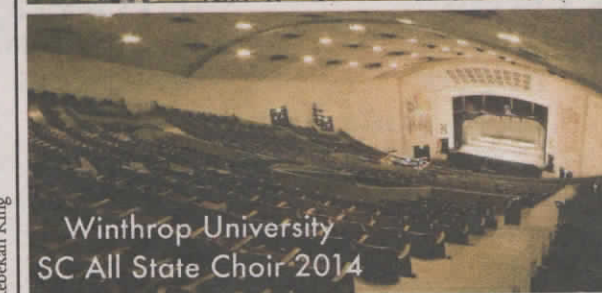
February blood drive collects 30 pints, saves 90 lives

Madeleine Vath



The most recent Red Cross Blood Drive, hosted by SOA's National Honors Society, was very successful, despite being held on a day with an Advisory schedule. The blood drive was held in the Rose Maree Myers Theater on Friday, February 21st and was well attended, collecting 30 pints of blood, enough to save 90 lives. Above, Junior Creative Writing major Dmitri Grigorieff donates a pint. Be sure to listen to NHS news updates for the date of the next blood drive!

High School Vocal takes 55 singers to All State



Rebekah King

On February 27th, 55 High School Vocal majors left SOA for their All State weekend held at Winthrop University in Rock Hill. There were three choirs: SSA (first soprano, second soprano, and alto), TTBB (first tenor, second tenor, first bass, and second bass), and SATB (soprano, alto, tenor, and bass). Many vocalists commented that this All State was one of the best yet due to the lack of negativity and increase in the feeling of community among all of the singers.

Work begins on Pegasus Garden

Editor's Note: Beth Warner is the coordinator and driving force behind the Pegasus Garden project. Without her leadership and tireless efforts, this garden would have never been funded. SOA owes her a sincere debt of gratitude in her continued efforts to organize the ground-breaking and ribbon-cutting ceremonies. We also deeply appreciate the beautiful garden design by JR Kramer and his many hours of pro bono leadership in securing plants and overseeing demolition, grading, and plant installation. Jennifer Mathis is coordinating the written inscriptions on the 400+ bricks. Many thanks to all of these volunteers!

Installation of the Pegasus Garden began in March and will be completed before Spring Break! Due to the overwhelming success of the Kickstarter campaign and additional donations to the project, we raised over \$40,000. The Kickstarter campaign resulted in 382 backers who pledged close to 400 engraved bricks, solar fountains, trees, and other wonderful elements to the garden. At this time, the video attached to the Pegasus project has been viewed 886 times! Under the guidance of Mrs. Lasley and Mrs. Castle, several 8th graders wrote letters that secured donations from business and individuals in the area. Dr. Mary Thornley, President of Trident Technical College, Mr. Chris Fraser of the School Board, and the Coastal Conservation League all made donations. We were featured in *The Post & Courier* by garden columnist Tony Bertauski. This project got the attention of and was posted on the City of Charleston's Green Initiative – Sustainable Charleston website! We received a contribution from the SC Agricultural Society through the initiative of Virginia DuBose, parent of Heath and Hunter DuBose, 8th grade Band majors.

Over 50 significant names of Muses will be included in the paths of engraved student, faculty, and alumni. All arts majors and academic areas will be represented. Look for Mandela, Picasso, Verdi, Pythagoras, Curie, Chopin, Homer, and, South Carolina's own Dizzy Gillespie.

We have a team of volunteers who will help install bricks and plants in the garden. Virginia DuBose is working with J.R. Kramer, Landscape Architect, to coordinate parent volunteers. We would like to thank Michelle Doran, Kate Bushe, Lisa Hajjar, Glenda Boyle, and Carol Killough for getting involved! Tamra Scott will assist in designing the kiosk at the entry to the garden. Mr. Kevin Short, sponsor of Horticulture Club, and Mr. Kirk Lindgren, sponsor of Ecology and Jefferson Clubs, will help to coordinate student volunteers. The students of the Deaf and Hearing Handicap program have expressed interest in working side by side with our garden team to bring this beautiful garden to reality. If you would like to get YOUR hands dirty, please contact Mr. Lindgren.

Below are some of the many supporters of our project, including several who pledged Kindness Bricks to be donated to students whose families are on very limited incomes:

Marco Lanier * In honor of Ms. Slowinski (Paige Mixson) * Colleen Martin (Catherine Martin) * The Jeffrey's * Samantha Molony * Lindsey Pitts * Anonymous Carly Edwards * Lori Stoney * Beth Crawford pledged in honor of her SOA students past and present * Amy Christine Walsh * Caroline Cash Harrison Reed * Etta Elliott * Carly Snyder * Lilli Heinrich * Piper Hue Arnold Liann Norris * Virginia Doran * Jackson Knowlton * In honor of Jackson Averill * Will Mercer * Alex James * Robert P. Bradham Family of Carson Stehling * Family of Kaitlyn Carter

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Suzanne Jackson

The creation of the SOA Pegasus Garden kicks off with a muddy start.

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Pegasus Garden Committee

Dr. Shannon Cook, Marie Nichols (Chair), JR Kramer (Landscape Architect), Beth Warner (Public Relations & Funding Coordinator), Jennifer Mathis (Engraved Brick Coordinator)

Upcoming college fair to host more than 60 different schools

by Ted Anastopoulou



Always wanted to be a Demon Deacon? A Terrapin? A Scarlet Night? How about a Commodore, Buffalo, Aggie, or Fighting Pickle? Tar Heel, Badger, Hoya, Bronco, Cougar, Wildcat, Bulldog?



All of your college questions can be answered by attending the SOA College Alumni Fair to be held in the cafeteria on Monday, March 10th from 6:30pm - 8:00pm. At the fair will be many representatives from various college institutions located around the country. It will be a great way to learn more where you will take that next big step after high school.



Former SOA students who are on Spring Break will be representing their colleges, which will allow all present SOA students to get the inside scoop on what they need to do to get accepted, what the college life is all about, and what to expect from each college.



Already, the fair has more than 40 university commitments, including in-state Clemson, USC, College of Charleston, The Citadel, Furman, Wofford, Francis Marion, Coastal Carolina, Charleston Southern, Converse, and Columbia College.



Other colleges include Wake Forest, NC State, UNC-Chapel Hill, Northwestern, Virginia Tech, Florida State, Georgetown, Rutgers, Vanderbilt, Texas A&M, Georgia, Wisconsin, Colorado, Maryland, VCU, Harvard, Cornell, Tulane, William and Mary, and many more.



Just by attending and completing a questionnaire about their interests, students will be entered into a drawing for a \$100 Barnes and Noble gift card.



Check out the Liberty Hill After School Program!

Head over to the Felix Pinckney Community Center on Hassell Street Mondays - Thursdays after school until 5pm to tutor underprivileged elementary school kids. They always need help, plus this is a great opportunity to get approved service hours!

Stop by Mr. Lindgren's room, Room 1105, after school to see if you can hitch a ride or give a ride, OR ride the newly-commissioned bus, Bus 517, over to Hassell Street.

Thoroughly Modern Millie brings Jazz Era to Rose Maree Myers Theater

by Ted Anastopoulos

Thoroughly Modern Millie showcased SOA at its finest as the roaring twenties came alive during the first two weekends of February.

Millie Dillmount, a double cast role played beautifully by sophomore Vocal major **Emily Lanter** and Senior Vocal major **Sophie Ferguson**, was the jewel of the show. An innocent girl from Kansas, Millie wants to see and explore the world. Moving to New York City, however, makes Millie realize her dream is not all it is cracked up to be. Millie is in shambles until she meets Jimmy Smith, played by Senior Vocal major **Michael Stevens**. Jimmy shows Millie a bit of forced hospitality by introducing her to the Hotel Priscilla, a place for young ladies to stay while trying to make it in the Big Apple.

The Hotel Priscilla is really a masquerade headquarters for the evil Ms. Meers, played by Senior Vocal major **Madelyn Knight**, who hilariously took her role and ran with it. Sophomore Theatre major **Ari Levine** and sophomore Piano major **Jakob Lazarro** also made the house roar with laughter while playing Ching Ho and Bun Foo. The two had numerous lines in Chinese, and perfectly delivered every word to the dot. Their song "Not for the Life of Me (Reprise)," was one of the most impressive performances of the night, as the Chinese lyrics were very difficult to memorize. Junior Vocal major **Teresa Elj** also hilariously performed Miss Flannery, head stenographer of Sincere Trust. Teresa portrayed her character as an old hag with a strict persona, easily a highlight of the show.

Group scenes and large numbers were a strong point of *Thoroughly Modern Millie*. From the opening scene featuring Millie's song "Not for the Life of Me" to the stenographers' piece "Forget About the Boy," the audience was thrilled to see such a large ensemble come together for a strong performance.

Congratulations to all behind the scenes crew and faculty members who helped direct this year's production. *Thoroughly Modern Millie* was head director by Ms. Andrea Catangay, who drew on the art deco period for inspiration. Ms. Catangay helped direct *Hairspray* last year, but took over full reigns this year. Mrs. Ratigan was the head choreographer, and Ms. Hammond was head of all vocal aspects. Mr. Clarke was orchestra director, and Ms. Nichols led all costume design operations.

Costume Design does it again, this time *Thoroughly Modern Millie* style

by Desiree Horlbeck



Millie's "new modern" dress, made by Paris Scott.

Recently, a fantastic rendition of *Thoroughly Modern Millie* was brought to life on the SOA stage. However, one important aspect of the entire production has been overlooked. *Thoroughly Modern Millie* would not have been the same without the set and scenery that made the SOA stage a picture of 1920s New York. The costumes were historically accurate and gave the actors the needed edge to emphasize their characters' authenticity.

Many students put their blood, sweat, and tears into designing and creating the costumes for Millie. Some of the standout designs belonged to Junior Visual Arts major **Julia Dotson**, Junior Visual Arts major **Paris Scott**, Junior Visual Arts major **River Kopsak**, Sophomore Visual Arts major **Amy Walsh**, Senior Band major **Margaret Szwast**, and Senior Band major **Caton Hamrick**.

Everyone in the costume design department deserves a round of applause. Many of the costumes are set up in the theater and the front office and can be viewed throughout the school day. The costume department has made the costumes for the last three musicals shown on the SOA stage and will be a new major for high schoolers next year. Be sure to stop one of these students or Ms. Nichols in the hall to congratulate them for their hard work!



Millie Dillmount and Jimmy Smith dancing the night away.

A. Catangay

Band performance counteracts ice storm with "A Musical Storm"

by Suzanne Jackson

Suzanne Jackson

Thursday, February 27th, I attended the High School Band concert, "A Musical Storm," took place in the theater. The name of the concert, as Mr. Kerr noted, originated from the fact that this event has been postponed due to the "snow days" the district experienced in the past few weeks.

To start the concert off, the Percussion Ensemble caught everyone's attention with their performance of "Shock Factor" by Nathan Daughtrey. Their performance was followed by the Woodwind Quintet, "Gold," which performed "St. Anthony Chorale" by Joseph Haydn. These first two pieces were incredibly different, but by putting them back to back they were almost complimentary.

The SOA Clarinet Quartet displayed their talent next, playing "Allegro from Sinfonia II" by Johann Sebastian Bach, followed by the Tuba Ensemble's rendition of "Marche Militaire" by Franz Schubert. Next, the Senior Woodwind Quintet played another Bach piece: "Badinerie". The Flute Ensemble performed "Here is a Fish Fat and Fine" by Rimsky-Korsakoff. The "Burgundy" Woodwind Quartet concluded the series of classical pieces with a version of "Allegro Molto," a piece by Mozart.

The Jazz Lab Band wrapped up the night with a lively performance of three pieces: a jazz version of "My Favorite Things" by Rogers & Hammerstein, "Jive Samba" by Nat Adderley, and "Blufoladas" by Mark Taylor.



The Jazz Lab Band ends the performance with their rendition of "My Favorite Things."

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ENTRIES DUE MARCH 21



Where Were They Then: Joe Clarke

by Suzanne Jackson

Joe Clarke is the Jazz Piano teacher at School of the Arts and leads a variety of jazz bands that play at events all over town. Applause asked him to take a look back at his beginnings in the field and his transformation into the talented musician that he is today.

Suzanne Jackson: When did you first start playing piano and what motivated you to continue?

Joe Clarke: I consider myself a singer that plays piano. That was the reason I taught myself piano. Since I can remember, I have always wanted to sing in front of a big band. When I was 25, I had been turned down by every established band in the area. Nobody wanted me to sing in their band. So I purchased a few books and learned how to accompany myself singing pop tunes and some jazz. I worked at Pecknel Music Company and met a lot of local musicians who gave me advice and guidance. With support from my musician friends and a desire to keep singing, I kept improving.

SJ: What is your favorite memory involving piano?

JC: Every so often, I play in another town with musicians I just met. Aside from playing in the South Carolina region - Savannah, Greenville, Asheville, Wilmington etc. - I've played in Lexington, Miami, NYC, and San Diego. When I play with new people, I am reminded of the power of what I am able to do. We come together with common understanding of what needs to be done and we all contribute equally to make something that none of us has experienced before. That's an amazing feeling.

SJ: What do you enjoy most about teaching your students?

JC: I love that moment when the light goes on for a student. I say things and demonstrate what I know. Then when it gets transferred to another person, it's a very powerful experience. I know I have planted a seed that will be forever sprouting for them. I have been enriched by music and the people I have met because of music. And now they will experience that as long as they play.

SJ: What do you find more appealing about jazz piano as opposed to classical piano?

JC: I love classical Piano. I wish I had the skills and discipline that Mrs. Benson and the kids have to play such wonderful music. For me though, classical is to jazz as photography is to painting. Every time I try to sit and learn a piece that's written out, I put in my own twist. I can pour emotions into my art and every time it's a unique experience. Another great advantage is that Jazz is a communal experience. Classical Piano is often a soloist art.

SJ: Do you have any words of wisdom that can apply to both the youngest piano majors and the Seniors?

JC: For anyone starting out, realize that getting good at anything involves daily attention. Don't ever underestimate the power of a well thought out daydream. My entire career is born of a thousand daydreams informed by experience in the real world. For the Seniors: Whatever field you decide to go in, always do the best you can do. Don't be "A" musician. Be "THE" musician. Choose what you do as if money didn't exist. Once you've honestly answered that calling, you can try to find ways to make a living at that. If you can find truth and beauty in every moment, you'll always be happy. Oh and one more big lesson: If you can't laugh at yourself, someone else will be glad to do it for you.



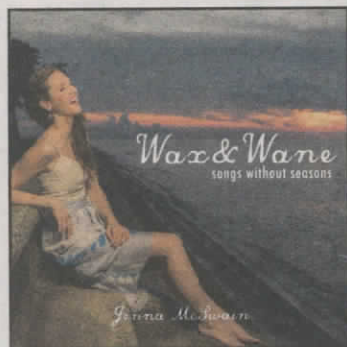
Provided

Mr. Clarke, reminiscent of a young Frank Sinatra, plays piano during the beginning of his career.

Where Are They Now: Jenna McSwain

by Desiree Horlbeck

After graduating in 2003 as a Piano major, Jenna McSwain went on to gain a Bachelor's degree in Music from the University of South Carolina and a Master's degree from the University of Northern Colorado. She has been smitten with jazz music since the age of eight and made it her focus while also studying classical piano, voice, and Portuguese, the language of her Azorean ancestors and of the Brazilian music she loves. Jenna brought her music back to the Palmetto State, where she taught on the jazz faculty at the University of South Carolina. A year later, she moved to New Orleans, where she crafted her debut album, Wax & Wane: Songs Without Seasons.



Jenna McSwain's album, *Wax & Wane: Songs Without Seasons*.

Desiree Horlbeck: I have listened to some of the tracks on your debut album, *Wax and Wane*. I love the eclectic yet undoubtedly jazzy feel to it. What drew you to jazz and inspired the album?

Jenna McSwain: Growing up in Charleston, I always got to attend the Spoleto Festival's jazz concerts with my dad, who is a drummer and in charge of providing instruments for the artists. I met the legendary jazz pianist Ahmad Jamal when I was in third grade and was enthralled with jazz music from then on. The album was inspired by many changes in my life that were accompanied by personal growth. I wrote most of the songs after moving to New Orleans, where I found myself challenged by the level of musicianship and inspired by the diversity and the soul of the city.

DH: How has your upbringing in Charleston influenced your music?

JM: Charleston is an extremely soulful city; I did not realize this until I left it and moved to Colorado for my Master's degree. I did extensive research on the Jenkins Orphanage Bands of Charleston to realize how cultural diversity and adversity helped to create a unique sound and to spread jazz music, in its beginning stages, around the U.S. and the world. I also found that my own sound was very "Southern" compared to my Colorado classmates: it had strong gospel influences and rhythmic drive that undoubtedly came from singing church music around the SC Lowcountry as a child.

DH: Do you think attending SOA as a Piano major gave you an advantage in terms of skill and experience performing?

JM: Absolutely! I had three great musical mentors in Mr. Clarke, Mrs. Benson, and Mr. Kerr. I got a truly diverse education and tons of experience performing many genres of music. I learned to read music, to understand its theory, and to use my ears. Although I was not a Vocal major, I was always encouraged to sing. Now I have a great advantage in the music business because I truly specialize in both! I also had wonderful academic teachers.

DH: What advice would you give to students hoping to use their piano or vocal skills to pursue a career in music?

JM: Throw your fear out the window. Practice, practice, practice. Once you have built upon your talent, treat it as a business and do not work for free. Treat all people with respect. Never stop composing music! You will have ups and downs - remember that this is about your love of the art. Enjoy the ride and all the growth that will result!

A look into middle school Piano Edward Hart: a career in composition

by Madeleine Vath

Applause interviewed 8th grade Piano major Keegan Vath to gather insight on middle school Piano.

Madeleine Vath: What is a typical day in Piano like?

Keegan Vath: Well, in Mr. Clarke's class we come in, take out our jazz binder and workbook, and put our backpacks in a huge, brown bin because Mr. Clarke doesn't want to see them. He then waits until right after the bell rings to get our attention and make any announcements. After that, we just practice on our keyboards with headphones until Mr. Clarke calls a jazz trio up to play. We get through as many trios and songs as we can until class is over and we are dismissed at the bell. In Mrs. Benson's class, she makes announcements and then we either practice on our keyboards or we go over scales as a group out loud. After we do scales, if we do scales, we keep practicing on our keyboards. People are called up to Mrs. Benson for repertoire, which is when we go over what we have practiced with Mrs. Benson.

MV: What kinds of extracurricular events do you get to perform in because of Piano?

KV: We go on our annual Solo and Ensemble trip, where we prepare two pieces and play them for a judge, and we also do Achievement Day. In Achievement Day, we are placed in levels depending on how well we play and how long we have played. Levels are basically letters and they start at A, then go to B, C, and so on. We prepare a certain number of pieces for a judge, play them, take a test on our level, and play scales for the judge depending on our level. If we do exceptionally well, we are invited to play at an honors recital.

MV: Tell us a little about this honors recital you played at recently.

KV: It took place at the North Charleston Performing Arts Center. The performers were picked by the judges at Solo and Ensemble. Twenty-nine people played piano and out of those twenty-nine, fourteen of them were from School of the Arts. I was the ninth person to play and, to be honest, I was actually nervous to play piano for the first time in forever. Over 110 people tried out for the honors recital.

A look into high school Piano

by Anna Kalik

Applause interviewed Junior Piano major Max Hutton to gather insight on high school Piano.

Anna Kalik: What is a typical day in piano like?

Max Hutton: In classical piano, we warm up with scales and sight reading and then we have solo practice time and Ms. Benson pulls us up one by one for a lesson with her. We usually work on one to two big pieces a year.

AK: What is the hardest song you have ever had to play?

MH: *La Cathedrale Engloutie* is the hardest song I have ever played because it was about five pages with no repetition and a lot of weird rhythms.

AK: What are your techniques for learning a new song?

MH: First I get the fingering down, and then play it line by line over and over again until I memorize each line.

AK: What is your favorite part about being a Piano major?

MH: Field trips. Just kidding, we never have field trips. My favorite part is constantly learning new skills.

AK: If you could only play one song on the piano for the rest of your life what would it be and why?

MH: I would want to play *La Cathedrale Engloutie* because it was hard to learn and I do not want to forget it.

AK: Who is your favorite composer?

MH: Debussy is my favorite composer because his style is full of heavy dynamics and big chords.



Rebecca Vath
Keegan, an 8th grader, performing at the honors recital on January 8th.

by Suzanne Jackson

Dr. Edward Hart serves as Chair of the Department of Music and is Professor of Music at the College of Charleston. He received his doctorate in Music from The University of South Carolina. He is married to Creative Writing teacher and novelist Ms. Beth Webb-Hart. He spoke to Applause about his career as a composer, pianist, and teacher.

Suzanne Jackson: What do you do when seeking inspiration for your compositions?

Edward Hart: I am often inspired by my environment, whether urban or natural. Fortunately, the city of Charleston, with its storied history, culture, architecture, and the vast and evocative salt-water estuaries of the South Carolina Lowcountry, has provided me with inexhaustible inspiration. Put simply, I only need to go for a walk or boat ride.

SJ: Was there ever a specific point where you made the decision to pursue a career in music?

EH: I began college as an economics major. Around the age of 19, I determined that Beethoven was more interesting to me than the gross national product. That was the moment.

SJ: How do you believe that the inclusion of a piano affects a musical piece?

EH: The piano is an extremely versatile instrument that can be lyrical or percussive, and can also fulfill solo or accompanying roles. Those qualities, along with its distinctive timbre and wide pitch and dynamic ranges, make it a favorite of mine.

SJ: It is commonly thought that musical education heightens children's self esteem and even positively influences their academic performance. From your experiences, do you find truth in this statement?

EH: While I have never done any formal research on this, it seems to me that the necessary qualities that develop in children while learning to play an instrument, such as concentration, memory, focus, and discipline, would certainly be transferable to other areas of academic performance. I have found that, in the college setting, music majors tend to be more successful students overall.

Joel Hamilton brings his music home

by Noah Jordan

2002 SOA graduate Joel Hamilton who toured the country with his band, The Working Title, playing alongside bands such as Counting Crows and Circa.

Noah Jordan: How did you get started with playing piano and synthesizer?

Joel Hamilton: I got all touchy with one and I couldn't stop.

NJ: What skills would you say you gained from your major at SOA?

JH: Street knowledge. The school went from trailers to penthouses immediately after my graduation and departure. I have never seen a SmartBoard. I am also forever thankful for the ability to read music and play more than one instrument and understand music theory. They are tools. But you have to learn to dodge the nets. Life is always trying to throw nets over you. Cut 'em.

NJ: When did you start performing outside of school?

JH: Well, Mr. Kerr had us (the Jazz Band) playing gigs in, like, the 10th grade outside of school. He paid us in "big bucks." My band at the time did a tour the summer before senior year. It was like 2 weeks long. I guess I was playing throughout high school.

NJ: Do you have any tips for aspiring musicians?

JH: Heart. Follow it.

NJ: Any final words?

JH: Stay true to what's real in you. Cultivate that. Don't become a part of something that refuses to let you be pure. Seek purity in what you create. Innovate. Take time to reflect. Make that a practice. Keep intentionally defining what's important to you. Take the time to really know yourself so you can be helpful to yourself and everyone around you. Fear is really bad. Every time you feel it, stand tall and face it or else it grows and spreads. It's contagious too. Respect everyone you encounter. You can learn from all of them. Win hard in school. Own that stuff, soak it all up, do all the stuff that you think is pointless that your teachers want you to do for grades. Just do it and get through it and come out the other end of it proud of yourself. Your teachers know stuff and they all deserve giant gold medals for putting up with all of you.



Provided
Dr. Hart's compositions have achieved both national and international acclaim.



Provided
Musician Joel Hamilton is both a prankster and an intellectual.



Anna Kalik
Max Hutton, caught in the rain after school.

The Monuments Men fails to walk a fine line

by Graham Crolley

Rating: 5/10

George Clooney is back at it again, this time as the writer, producer, and star of *The Monuments Men*. Based on a true story, the movie is an unconventional look at the Second World War, in which FDR assigns a group of allied men - "The Monuments Men" - to find and save the beloved European artwork from the destructive clutches of Adolf Hitler.



The intent of the movie is quite valiant, but the plot itself fell a little short of what it could have been. An almost light and aloof tone was present for most of the movie, adorned with snappy jokes in the dialogue and the whole idea of "we are art historians, and we don't know how to shoot guns, but hey, send us to Europe during the war and sure, we will save some paintings." What I mean is, the idea of having a movie where the balance is perfect between comic lines, valiant



scenes of rescuing artwork, and deep insight into the tragedy of war is impossible to do flawlessly. There is a fine line that must be walked for the viewer to leave the movie feeling lightened by the comedy but also sobered because of the loss associated with war, and *The Monuments Men* unfortunately does not quite pull this off.

But there is some redemption: the theme shining through the movie, however cheesy it may be, is that art will last forever as long as there are people out there willing to protect it and even give their lives for it. Quite a noble assessment of the relationship between man and art.

Here is the breakdown:

Pros: brilliant supporting actors (John Goodman, Bill Murray, Matt Damon, Cate Blanchett), clever cinematography, uplifting message about the longevity of artwork

Cons: shaky plot, rushed introduction to the conflict of the movie, can be unrealistic at points

Overall, not a movie that is worth seeing in theaters, but if you like World War II or European art, I would rent it when it comes out on DVD and enjoy it, cuddled up in your Snuggie with a big bowl of popcorn.

Congratulations to SOA's QUEST teams!

The 6th grade team Robby Gourdie, Jolie Crunelle, and Ellie Marino took 3rd place in Social Studies.

The 7th and 8th grade Science team made up of Zach Moody, Walker Menkus, and Meagan Holderness took 1st place in their subject, while the 7th and 8th grade Math team, composed of Jenny Yao, Graham Martini, and Fanny Cheung, took 3rd in theirs. These placings in addition to Camille Richmond taking 3rd in Visual Arts caused the SOA 7th and 8th graders to win their level overall.

Tanner Crunelle, Parris Byers, and Hannah Kelly won 3rd place for their 9th and 10th grade Social Studies team. Ethan Lopez won 1st place in French.

Congrats to all!

Joe Pasta perfects Italian cuisine

by Ted Anastopoulos

Saucy, spicy, and fresh off the grill, the food at Joe Pasta in downtown Charleston can only be described as something the great Italian chefs Cristoforo di Messisbugo and Bartolomeo Scappi could create. What was supposed to be a simple birthday dinner for Junior Theatre major **Emilie LaPlante** quickly turned into a night of gorging my face with authentic Italian cuisine.

The crowded birthday party table of nineteen ordered an array of different entrees. The palette included everything from white pesto pizzas to veal piccata. The pizzas of the night were slightly crisped and included toppings straight from pizza heaven: diced seasoned chicken, red peppers, hot sausage, zesty ham, and meatballs. Lots of meatballs. Never before have I seen such first-class quality of pie *not* from Italy itself.

Other entrees fell in the category of pasta. Penne and ziti were the two most common, and both were coated with a light layer of tomato sauce. Extra basil and oregano added a quick punch to the taste buds, and were complimented by a baguette on the side. Pasta was served with your choice of cheese. I stuck to the classic parmesan, but others chose toasted herb ricotta and melted feta.

While I am no cheese expert, the toasted ricotta was one of the most unique cheeses I have ever tasted. Not only did it go well on a parmesan pizza, but it tasted delicious just scooped off with a fork. Junior Theatre major **Teonna Breland** commented, "The parmesan was nice, but the ricotta was what hit the spot. I suggest it to go on anything."

Forget about Olive Garden, Fazoli's, and Carrabba's. If you want unique and authentic Italian food, Joe Pasta is the place to go. No other Italian restaurant serves a menu as traditional and as close to Mama Fortunata's cooking.



Joe Pasta offers authentic Italian cuisine in the heart of Downtown Charleston.

SC native Nikky Finney's *Head Off & Split* will captivate readers

by Harris Lynam

In a slight branch from the ordinary, today I am going to recommend to you what may be the scariest word to many students: poetry.

To be more precise, Nikky Finney's most recent book *Head Off & Split*, which encapsulates her common themes of reclaiming African American culture, expressing pride in who she is, and creating a kind of communal history that all people can relate to. Finney came to SOA last year to speak during the Robinson Jeffer's conference and to discuss her life and poetry with the AP Literature class.

She was raised by parents who were active in the Civil Rights movement: her father was the first black Chief Justice of South Carolina since reconstruction. Much of her work embodies the need for freedom and to salvage the past that the movement expressed.

Her poetry has a bluesy, rhythmic tone to it that makes it very easy to read and enables you to get lost in the ebb and flow of her words. One of her more famous poems, for example, "Left" enraptures the reader as it describes the pain of a black woman during the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. It stands as an example of her struggle as well as a condemnation of the response to the disaster. The woman stands on her roof with a sign reading "Pleas Help" but "Regulations require an e be at the end/of any *Pleas e* before any national response/can be taken."

Her ability to incite such intense emotion in the reader places her work among my personal favorites and I would highly suggest it to anyone with even a passing interest in poetry.



"Dear Pegasus" Advice Column

Anonymous



Dear Pegasus,

My parents think I need to invest in therapy, but I don't think my problems are big or important enough. Not to mention I'm a little worried about what all of that means. Any thoughts?

Sincerely,

Confused about Counseling

Dear Confused,

Therapy is a really scary concept, trust me on this one, but the benefits are important. First off, let me tell you that your problems, no matter how small they seem in the context of the world, are valid. They are important and huge because you are going through them, and because they are affecting you. And you deserve to have them treated that way.

Therapy and/or counseling can give you an outlet to express what those problems are without feeling like you are unloading on your friends or family. They can give you real advice, something that not all people your age can really give you, and they can act as an amazing support system. Even if you think you do not need either of them, I would consider giving it more thought, if only to really self-evaluate what you are going through. Therapy is not just for people with mental disorders. It can really help people like you, who may be suffering from day to day. Do not be afraid of looking at it as an option.

Sincerely,

Pegasus

Send your problems to
pegasus@soa-applause.com

Club of the Month: Quiz Bowl

by Suzanne Jackson

Emily Fairchild, captain of the Academic Team, also known as Quiz Bowl, spoke to Applause about what they have been doing lately.

Suzanne Jackson: What first interested you about the Academic Team?

Emily Fairchild: I had friends on the team and they dragged me along. And then that day there were a series of questions about literature and I was hooked.

Suzanne Jackson: If someone is interested in joining, what should they do?

Emily Fairchild: Show up. You can talk to me or to Mr. Clark, but everyone is welcome to just walk in.

Suzanne Jackson: What has been your favorite experience?

Emily Fairchild: I love the people, and we have a lot of funny traditions and jokes that get handed down, but my favorite part is gameplay. I love trivia. It's fun.

Suzanne Jackson: What exactly happens each meeting?

Emily Fairchild: Obviously we need to eat at lunch meetings but we also run practice games, which are the same format as competition games - basically like "Jeopardy!" but with teams.

Suzanne Jackson: When and where does the Academic Team meet? Are there any requirements to join?

Emily Fairchild: We meet Mondays and Thursdays during lunch in Mr. Clark's room (for all of lunch) to practice and then most Thursdays we have either a game or an afterschool practice.

Suzanne Jackson: How often are the competitions?

Emily Fairchild: Our "season" runs mid-January to mid-March, and we compete once a week on Thursdays at Burke. We do fairly well and we have a lot of fun.

Suzanne Jackson



The Quiz Bowl preparing to practice for their next tournament.

Sass Attack

by Harris Lynam

Sass Attack has continued under different columnists since it was begun by David Sass in 2008.



Destree Horibeck

Okay, gather round boys and girls. We need to talk about The Oscars. A self-congratulatory night for the stars, the Academy Awards are characterized by beautiful dresses, funny hosts, and (of course) the golden statues for the winners only. Not only that, The Oscars is an elitist show-off show that celebrates the misogyny and racism inherent in the Hollywood industry.

On the positive side, you have Ellen DeGeneres, who I would elect president of the world with no hesitation (the true gay agenda, by the way). She blew everyone else away with her best selfie of all time, ordering pizza with Brad Pitt enlisted to pass out paper plates, and her ability to make jokes without hurting anybody. Unfortunately, though, her joke about how either *12 Years a Slave* wins Best Picture or the Academy is racist has an uncomfortable air of truth about it. The fact is African Americans are underrepresented in the awards, minimizing their huge contributions to the cinematic arts. And addressing the problem is not going to be nearly as easy as having an African American win once in a while. A real discussion has to be had if anything is going to get any better.

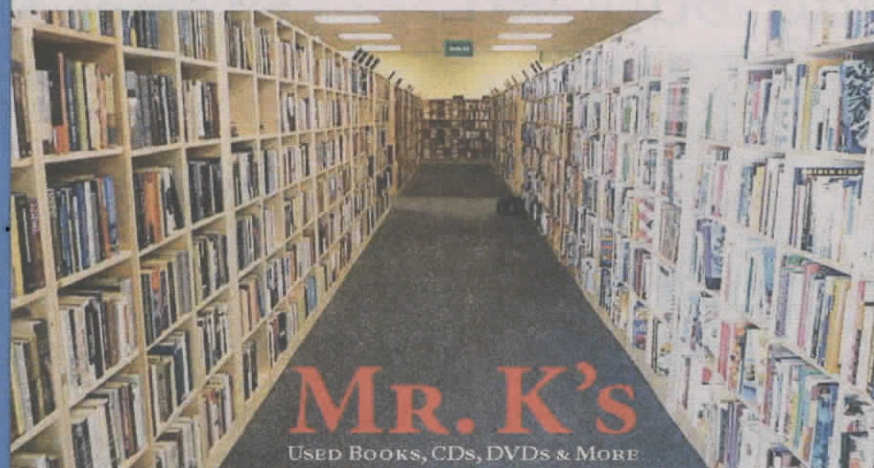
And let us not forget the consistent over-looking of amazingly constructed films because they are of the fantasy of sci-fi genre. I mean, I know the make up in Dallas Buyer's Club was impressive, but did they create a CGI dragon and turn people into mythical creatures? No?

Who would have guessed.

This is not to mention poor Leo.

All in all, the award for most overrated night in television goes to: The Oscars.

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This Week in History

by Madeleine Vath

Sources: library.thinkquest.org, wikipedia.org

MON 3/10	TUE 3/11	WED 3/12	THU 3/13	FRI 3/14	SAT 3/15	SUN 3/16
<p>1876: Alexander Graham Bell makes the first successful telephone call by saying "Mr. Watson, come here, I want to see you."</p> <p>1940: Chuck Norris is born</p> <p>1992: Emily Osment is born</p> <p>Festival of Life in the Cracks Day</p> <p>Middle Name Pride Day</p>	<p>1702: <i>The Daily Courant</i>, England's first national daily newspaper is published for the first time</p> <p>2011: A 9.0 magnitude earthquake hits Japan, causing the second largest nuclear accident in history</p> <p>Johnny Appleseed Day</p> <p>Worship of Tools Day</p>	<p>1894: Coca-Cola is bottled and sold for the first time in Vicksburg, Mississippi</p> <p>1912: The Girl Guides (later renamed the Girl Scouts of the USA) are founded in the United States</p> <p>1933: FDR holds the first of his "fireside chats"</p> <p>Plant a Flower Day</p>	<p>1865: The Confederate States of America agree to the use of African American troops</p> <p>1930: The news of the discovery of Pluto is telegraphed to the Harvard College Observatory</p> <p>Ear Muff Day</p> <p>Jewel Day</p> <p>Popcorn Lover's Day</p>	<p>44 B.C.: It is decided, on the night before the Assassination of Julius Caesar, that Mark Antony should stay alive</p> <p>1951: Jerry Greenfield, businessman who co-founded Ben & Jerry's, is born</p> <p>Learn about Butterflies Day</p> <p>National Potato Chip Day</p> <p>National Pi Day</p>	<p>1985: The first Internet domain name is registered (symbolics.com)</p> <p>Dumbstruck Day</p> <p>Everything You Think is Wrong Day</p> <p>Ides of March</p> <p>Incredible Kid Day</p> <p>International Day Against Police Brutality</p> <p>National Quilting Day</p> <p>World Consumer Day</p>	<p>1945: Ninety percent of Würzburg, Germany is destroyed in only 20 minutes by British bombers</p> <p>1995: Mississippi formally ratifies the Thirteenth Amendment, becoming the last state to approve the abolition of slavery</p> <p>Everything You Do is Right Day</p> <p>Freedom of Information Day</p>

LIFE HACKS

by Madeleine Vath

For those who, like me, are most likely going to be living on your own or with a roommate this time next year, here are some helpful tips for saving space, saving money, or for just being super awesome.

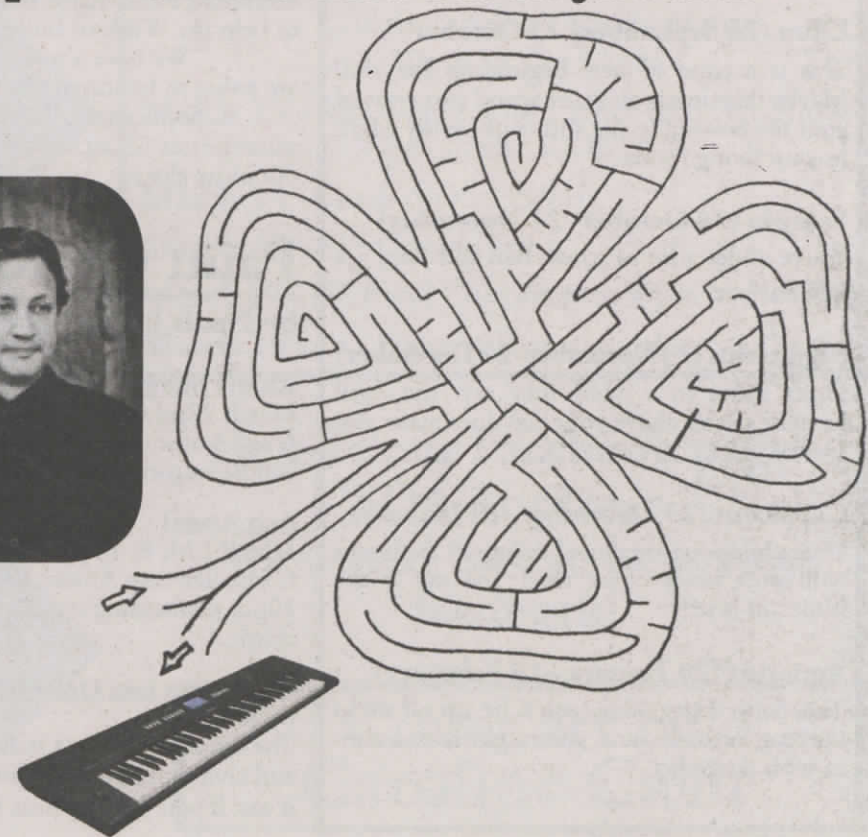
USE TOOTHPASTE TO CLEAR UP HAZY CAR HEADLIGHTS



BOOM! BACON PANCAKES.



Help Mr. Clarke find his keyboard!



Horoscopes

Pisces (20 February- 20 March)

Your skills with the recorder will finally gain you advantages in your romantic life.

Aries (21 March - 20 April)

Keep calm these next few days. Your Alien Overlord sent you to Earth to learn more about the human race, not to yell at them.

Taurus (21 April- 21 May)

You have a 1 in 175 million chance of winning the lottery!

Gemini (22 May - 22 June)

Love is in the air - savor it, enjoy your time together, and take your crush out in your grandfather's purple tux to go see the Lego Movie.

Cancer (23 June - 23 July)

You will accidentally purchase the extra crunchy peanut butter. It will be a sad day.

Leo (24 July- 23 August)

You will realize halfway through counting your millions that your stacks are made of Monopoly money.

Virgo (24 August- 23 September)

The mom jeans are looking good.

Libra (24 September- 23 October)

This is a time of new beginnings for you. Maybe this time, you won't spend two years of your life bowing to the shrine of Marky Mark in your living room.

Scorpio (24 October- 22 November)

You're under a lot of stress. Ben and Jerry are here for you.

Sagittarius (23 November- 22 December)

Don't listen to a word they say: the Avril Lavigne poster above your bed does make you special.

Capricorn (23 December- 19 January)

Your childhood dream of being an astronaut will most likely come true! The sky is the limit...or is it!?

Aquarius (20 January -19 February)

This Saint Patty's day, you'll be up all night looking for luck - and you might have a run-in with the police.

Sports Update

by Ted Anastopoulo

Lacrosse

Junior Dance majors **Margie Rhodes** and **Julia Brandon** have already made significant contributions to the program as members of the West Ashley girls lacrosse team. In their first game against Academic Magnet, Margie recorded four blocks on defense, and Julia picked up three assists. Margie and Julia attend lacrosse practice every week Monday through Friday in hopes of helping the Wildcats gain their first state championship.

"I think we have a legit shot," said Julia, "but we will have to buckle down on our defensive performances. Allowing more than three goals per game can be a problem."

In a scrimmage against Bishop England, Margie and Julia saw significant playing time and gave the Battling Bishops a run for their money.

"If we can play as good as we did against Bishop England, we can beat anybody," said Margie.



Provided

Julia Brandon and Margie Rhodes have been playing Lacrosse since January.

Track and Field

Track athlete and Sophomore Dance major **Reid Haigler** is looking to dominate both the one- and two-mile events as a member of the Wando Track Team. After a tremendous cross country season, Reid is looking to run a 4:35 time in the one-mile event and a 9:40 in the two-mile event.

"I am just trying to build a strong base right now by running a bunch of miles," said Reid. "I don't focus on speed right now. That comes at the end of the season."

Softball

Eighth grade standout **Ashley Jones** has become the youngest player on the varsity West Ashley girls softball team. The Strings major plays catcher and has an impressive .675 batting average. Ashley has already led the Wildcats to two early season wins over Hanahan and Hilton Head. Ashley's youth does not restrict her from anything. Already, she has been appointed 3rd team captain by her teammates.

"Even though I'm the youngest on the team," said Ashley, "my teammates treat me with the same amount of respect."

Tennis

West Ashley High will have three SOA students playing on the Boys Tennis team. The trio comprised of Freshman Band major **Ben Foster**, Junior Band major **John Sadler**, and Junior Theatre major **Ted Anastopoulo** hope to help the Wildcats build up a program that is not exactly at a Serena Williams level of tennis.

"We have a ton of really tall and intimidating football players on our team," says Ted, "so I know other teams are going to be scared when they see us for the first time."

Sophomore Band major **Woods Browder** will also be playing tennis, but for the Wando Warriors. Woods missed most of last season with an ankle injury, but hopes to help Wando push defending state champion Porter Gaud out of its glory.

Paint the Town Red and Gold

by Noah Jordan

Khari's Shows

March 22nd & 29th and April 5th & 12th

A series of shows put on by SOA alumnus Khari Lucas will be held at King Dusko, 542 King Street at 8pm. The events will be featuring a variety of local Hip-Hop and Electronic music.

Aziz Ansari

March 12th & 13th

Comedian Aziz Ansari, known best for his part in *Parks and Recreation*, will be at the Charleston Music Hall at 7pm and 10pm performing standup. Check it out if you love to laugh and do not mind emptying out your wallet for a comedic classic.

Charleston Jazz Orchestra: Little Girl Blue

March 22nd

The Charleston Jazz Orchestra pays tribute to the music of famous American jazz singer, songwriter, pianist, arranger, and civil rights activist Nina Simone. There will be two sets at The Charleston Music Hall at 4pm and 7pm. Come check it out if you want to hear some great music played by local Jazz Artists.

The Trivia Challenge

by Suzanne Jackson

Get excited, because it is astronomy trivia! Being awestruck by the night sky is a universal experience, and I believe it is a fair topic for the new generation of trivia champions. I will mainly stick to our pleasant little solar system though, because everything beyond has strange names and is located unimaginably far away. We will have Junior Vocal major **Callie McLean** go against Junior Theatre major **Gavin Quinton** for glory, respect, and riches.* Although they will both spread their wings of knowledge and fly into the unknown, one will surely be shot down and plummet into the depths of eternal shame and unintelligence.

*We actually do not have any prizes, sorry.

Questions:

1. True or false: the moon is moving away from Earth by a few centimeters a year.
2. Which planet in our solar system has the strongest winds?
3. Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and ___ are all made up of gas and do not consist of any solid material.
4. Which is the hottest planet?
5. Which is the largest of the modern constellations?
6. Pluto is not considered to be a real planet anymore, but it is referred to as a what?
7. True or false: the density of a neutron star is so great that a teaspoon of its matter would weigh more than all the people on Earth.
8. NASA beamed what Beatles song into deep space?
9. True or false: since Neptune's discovery in 1846, it has made three revolutions around the sun.
10. A new star is born into our galaxy every 18 days, 18 years, or 18 hours?



Suzanne Jackson

Callie McLean

1. True
2. Neptune
3. Neptune
4. Mercury
5. Perseus Jackson and the Olympians
6. Dwarf planet
7. True
8. Here Comes the Sun
9. False
10. 18 days



Suzanne Jackson

Gavin Quinton

1. True
2. Mars
3. Neptune
4. Venus
5. The Big Dipper
6. Dwarf planet
7. True
8. Hey Jude
9. True
10. 18 years

Answers:

- | | |
|--|------------------------|
| 1. True | 2. Neptune |
| 3. Neptune | 4. Venus |
| 5. Hydra | 6. Dwarf planet |
| 7. True | 8. Across the Universe |
| 9. False, it has made three-quarters of a revolution | |
| 10. 18 days | |

And the winner is...
GAVIN QUINTON

Much to everyone's surprise, Gavin Quinton is now the SOA Trivia Champion. Sorry Callie, I hope you enjoyed your month of glory. Congratulations, Gavin! Enjoy it while you can.

Student Artwork



"Unfathomable Reflection" photography by Melanee Molette, Junior Vocal major



"Sophia" in graphite by Zoe Hyman, Seventh grade Visual Arts major

