APPLAUSE

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SOA Graduating Class of 2014

Letter from the Editor

As the school year is coming to a close – nope. I'm sure you can all agree with me when I say time has flown – nope. Here we are again – nope. Although we are moving on, never forget – nope. How does one effectively begin a finish? Well, let's see, time spent is important: six years at SOA, two years on the newspaper staff. Quality of that time is important: educational, certainly. Inspirational. Unique. Stressful, of course, but rewarding. Nothing has ever been exactly what I expected, or in some cases anywhere near what I expected. Many times I was pleasantly surprised, but there will always be those times when the difference between what you expect and what you get is devastating. Keep moving forward. Always. That's all we can do, really. Many of the senior essays and survey responses speak to this universal predicament. Some take a more lighthearted approach to it while others address its reality.



In an effort to not cause the majority of readers – whether you are reading this at graduation,

in the hallway before exams, or in the car/train/plane on the way to your chosen summer vacation spot – to enter into an existential crisis, we have littered this issue with some of the more fun aspects of the last few weeks of the year, such as pictures of some students' Spring Break adventures, Senior Spirit Week, staff-chosen Senior Superlatives, and pictures of this year's seniors from over the years.

As this is the concluding issue of the school year, we have included overviews of most of what most of the majors have done this year, from singing in Italy to winning numerous writing awards here at home. Staff members were able to go to many of the majors' Senior Thesis performances, reviews of which can be found on the same page as their respective major.

Whether you read every issue or this is your first, I hope you enjoy it. To the Applause staff of 2013-14, it has been a pleasure working with you all. We have had our ups and downs, but overall it has been a good year and I am honored to know each of you. To Dr. Cusatis, thank you for always requiring my best work. You confirmed to me what I always knew about attention to detail: it's important and I shouldn't let anyone tell me otherwise.

Stay zany, SOA.

MADELEINE VATH

Applause

the official student publication of Charleston County School of the Arts

Founded in 1995 by Rose Maree Myers

Madeleine Vath, Editor-in-Chief Ted Anastopoulo, Sports Editor Suzanne Jackson, Copy Editor Graham Crolley, Copy Editor Desiree Horlbeck, Business Manager Noah Jordan Anna Kalik

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Nicole Sadek represents SC in Mr. GQ Pageant proves more funny national Poetry Out Loud contest than formal

Nicole Sadek reciting her poem at the state level.

Graham Crolley

Sophomore Creative Writer Nicole Sadek won the state Poetry Out Loud title on March 15th at the Columbia Museum of Art and went on to finish tenth in the national competition in Washington, D. C. on April 29th. Applause caught up with Nicole to discuss her winning the state title.

Graham Crolley: Competing at the state level of the Poetry Out Loud competition is quite an honor. How did you feel to have made it to this point?

Nicole Sadek: I was very shocked and, of course, relieved to have made it to the state competition. I competed with really talented individuals, and while I felt quite intimidated, I was happy to have been recognized among them.

GC: What poems did you perform at the competition? NS: I performed "The Hospital Window" by James L. Dickey, "The New Colossus" by Emma Lazarus, and "To Live With a Landscape" by Constance Urdang.

GC: What was it like to perform your recitations on the state stage?

NS: Competing on the state stage was much different than the regional stage. There was a larger audience, a bigger auditorium, and professional judges. After I got over the initial fear, I tried to think about performing at my best.

GC: What was your reaction to winning for the state?

NS: It took me a while to process that I had won, but after I received so many "congratulations," it finally kicked in. My family, teacher, and the other competitors were incredibly kind.

by Noah Jordan

On a pleasant Saturday evening a large collection of the SOA student body gathered in the RMMT to witness the most beautiful and skilled of our male peers battle it out in a competition of beauty and skill. In proper fashion, nearly all of the contestants treated the event as an opportunity to squeeze a couple of laughs from the crowd.

Though there were several stages of the competition, the most prevalent of these was the talent section in which contestants were given a couple of minutes to show the crowd what their talent is. Junior Theatre major Manny Byas came out swinging, promising the crowd he could eat eight hotdogs in a matter of two minutes. He walked on stage and played the hit classic "Who Let the Dogs Out" as

Senior Matt Watson performing stand up.

he attempted to conquer this incredible task. He unfortunately was only able to eat three of his hotdogs, but honestly it was way funnier that he wasn't able to eat all the hotdogs. The whole thing was hilarious in a very baffling way; at one point I was sure he was really going to try and shove five hotdogs down his throat at once.

Senior Visual Arts major Matt Watson got up on stage and took the mic with his standup comedy set. Most of his jokes were about farms: they were gold.

The winner of the first annual SOA GQ Pageant was Freshman Theatre major Nigel Walker who, during his talent portion of the contest, did a fabulous dance routine to a dubstep song. It was the only non-comedic act of the show, but it was still highly respectable and appreciated by the audience. I look forward to next year's competition. Good luck to you future contestants - the competition is rough.

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Pegasus Ceremony sets the mood for spring

by Madeleine Vath

On May 1st, SOA played host to honored guests, alumni, performers, and other key contributors to the Pegasus Garden for the Pegasus Garden Ribbon Cutting Ceremony. Completing and perfecting such an extensive project takes time and, although the landscapers were a little behind schedule due to persistent rain, it was decided that the ceremony go on as planned.



Mr. Clarke performing "Tiny Dancer" by Elton John.

All of the music performed throughout the ceremony had a message that tied to the meaning behind the Pegasus Garden, from the seasonal feeling it is intended to bring, represented by "Spring" from *The* Four Seasons by Vivaldi, played by Strings majors Elliott Cihlar, Cecelia Ostapeck, Savannah York, and Benji Kidder, to the positive environmental effects it is intended to produce, represented by "What a Wonderful World," sung and played by Senior Vocal major Michael Stevens with sign language interpretation done by Mr. Dean Walters.

The central statue dedicated to Ms. Cecilia Slowinsky was also acknowledged through music by senior and junior dancers and Mr. Clarke, who played and sang "Tiny Dancer" by Elton John while the dancers promenaded around the stage, each holding a single red rose.

Mr. Kevin Short spoke on the academic and environmental importance of our garden as a representative of the High School Science department and sponsor of the Horticulture Club. Creative Writer **Emily Fairchild**, representative of the Senior Class, gave and eloquent speech on its importance to our students.

After a touching dedication by Reverend Danny Reed, father of Freshman Theatre major Harrison Reed, and a few closing words by Ms. Rene Miles, the audience was led out of the theater to the entrance of the Pegasus Garden. Once there, **Dr. Cook** spoke a few more words before cutting the ribbon and officially opening the Pegasus Garden.

Fashion Show continues stun audiences

by Noah Jordan

The SOA Fashion show has established itself as an incredibly prestigious event. This year's was no different with wonderful music and fashion, everyone really came through with a solid performance.

The night began with a showcase of fashion from the *Thoroughly Modern Millie* play, which was put on earlier in the year. This was accompanied by some wonderful music by the SOA Band Department and performances from the Vocal Department. Included in the fashion display was Junior Theatre major Lauren Anne Patterson in Southeast Asian garb.

Later in the show there was clothing designed by Junior Creative Writing major Astrid McGlone, who incorporated a large use of the color pink. Her collection her own fashion pieces. also included a beautiful pink checkered shirt worn by Junior Vocal Major Maddy Rodeffer.

Astrid McGlone modeling

There was also a shocking collection by Junior Visual Arts major **Paris Scott**, including a dark color scheme. Her models wore pale makeup and had slicked back hair. Her collection was centered on the topic of new-age evangelism and included a Wikipedia link sewn into the middle of a long black dress worn by Senior Dance major Katarina Lanier.

Garden Ribbon Cutting Inaugural Poet visits classroom via Skype



Poet Richard Blanco shares a laugh with Dr. John Cusatis's AP Literature students on May 23, 2014, from his home in Maine. Blanco who recited his poem "One Today" at the 2013 Inauguration of President Barack Obama and composed the poem "Boston Strong" for the victims of the Boston Marathon tragedy, was the first immigrant and the first openly gay poet invited to read at a presidential inauguration. He spoke about that life-changing day and about his vision of an increasingly more tolerant America. The interview, along with nine others conducted by the AP Literature class of 2014 with poets such as Naomi Shihab Nye, Thomas Lux, and Martin Espada, is scheduled for publication in Twenty-First Century American Poets, Volume 3, edited by Dr. Cusatis. Lasting nearly 90 minutes, the talk was arranged after senior Kat Murchison contacted Blanco's New York agent. Blanco was extraordinarily kind, interesting, and funny. "The students were incredible," Blanco wrote in a text message to Dr. Cusatis after the interview. "Great questions and really engaged."

Spanish 4 class creating a bridge among three languages

by Madeleine Vath

Madeleine Vath

Ms. Crawford's Spanish 4 class is not very large - only seven students – but this size has proven to be perfect for teaching seventh grader Kendi Garcia, part of the Hearing-Impaired Program, enough Spanish to communicate with her extended family in Guatemala and, more importantly, to better communicate with her mother and stepfather, all of whom speak only Spanish. Communication with any of her family has likely been difficult for

The Spanish 4 class used PowerPoints to present groups of vocab words and learned sign language in the process.

Kendi, but fortunately she and her mother at least have a unique method of communication that they adapted over the course of Kendi's childhood.

One of the Spanish 4 students, Senior Piano major **Tyler McKeown**, came up with the idea to help when Ms. Crawford mentioned the unique language barrier problem Kendi and her family were having. Since the middle of third quarter, the Spanish 4 class has been teaching Kendi basic vocabulary and verbs through methods such as PowerPoint presentations and flashcards and have in turn been picking up some American Sign language from Kendi. Needless to say, it has been a tremendously educational and unique experience for both parties.

"We've been teaching her basic words that she can use to communicate with her family: junk food, family members, colors - that sort of thing," said Junior Vocal major Teresa Elj. "It's been a lot of fun because we've been learning how to communicate from Spanish to English to American Sign Language."

Pegasus Garden Progress

Ever since early spring, SOA has had the pleasure of watching our beautiful Pegasus Garden develop from a pile of rubble and dirt to the glorious product we see outside our windows today. Applause took the opportunity to chronicle its growth throughout construction. All photos were taken by Suzanne Jackson.





May





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Creative Writing Overview, 2013-14

by guest writer Mr. F. Rutledge Hammes



Middle School Creative Writers at Bull Island.

This year, the Creative Writing Program at SOA has made a big splash on the national stage, earning numerous awards in some of the country's most prestigious writing competitions, including nearly 400, more than any other school in the country, regional and national Scholastic Writing Awards, the nation's oldest and most prestigious contest for teenage writers. Our program won eighteen National Scholastic Medals that will be accepted at the worldfamous Carnegie Hall in June. On

that night, the top of the Empire State Building will be lit in gold in honor of their achievements. What is more, our Creative Writers won first place in the state in the Poetry Out Loud Competition as well as winning the South Carolina Poetry Society's Skylark Prize.

The sixth grade began their year with poetry and nonfiction. They took a ferry to Bull Island and spent the day hiking the island in search of characters and conflicts for their puppet shows. Each student wrote a novel-in-verse inspired by Sharon Creech's Love That Dog and a pupper show with the Visual Arts majors. In the spring, students were introduced to fiction and scriptwriting. They wrote two short stories, several vignettes, and collaborated with the Dance and Theatre majors to produce traditional Kabuki plays.

Seventh graders focused on fiction and poetry during the first semester. They studied plot structure, pacing, and characterization within a short story and crafted four pieces that explored different techniques of narrative voice. In the spring, they studied poetry, creating works from unusual points of view, constructed like letters, based on current events, and embedded with memories. They also explored nonfiction, writing essays which examined a single trait in an individual and how it related to them. Finally, they gave a literary reading in the Black Box Theater which proved to be a magical evening.

Eighth graders began their year studying fiction and wrote two full-length short stories, centered on experience and perspective, narrative voice, folklore and magical realism, as well as ways in which writers plant their endings early on in a story. 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 selected essays, 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 Theater.

Freshmen 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, sonnets, and Ars Poetica. In Fiction Workshop, they wrote three short stories and several vignettes for Mr. Hammes, and studied a number of advanced fiction techniques like minimalism, crisis of faith, narrative uncertainty, and the role of objective correlatives. During the second semester, freshmen and sophomores 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 l



Sophomore Julia Goller reading one of her pieces.

Sophomores learned to craft a script for the stage and the screen as well as how write and perform slam poetry, and, in the process, produced 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, the lives of relatives and friends, the essence of Creative Writing class, and childhood memories. Students gained insight into the daily work of a writer through their interview with Gary Smith, senior writer for Sports Illustrated.

Juniors studied the works of Nobel 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 the Place and Gender course, juniors took an in-depth look at what role both locus and gender play in the alchemy of creating a work of literature. Students wrote three linked episodic stories based on a fictional place as well as personal essays about the culture in which they find themselves and some aspect of nature in their unique locale. In addition, students wrote a story from the point of view of the opposite gender, challenging themselves to see from another perspective, and they wrote a series of coming-of-age poems and stories where a protagonist comes to adulthood through a process of epiphanies, obstacles, strengthening, and

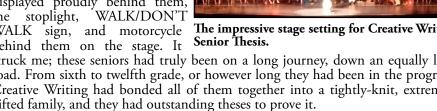
The intensive yearlong Senior Thesis course afforded twelve seniors the enviable opportunity to learn the ins and outs of the writing profession. They each worked one-on-one with a renowned writer to write, revise, and publish an original 100+ page book, now available for purchase at Amazon.com. The year culminated in numerous state, regional, and national awards, along with a well-attended Senior Thesis reading, themed "The Road."

For all their hard work and dedication to their craft this year, and for their countless awards and recognitions, the Creative Writers deserve a big round of applause.

Creative Writing Senior Thesis delivers touching message of home

by Graham Crolley

The 2014 Creative Writing Senior Thesis was entitled boldly The Road. As I sat in the audience of our school's lovely Rose Maree Myers Theater, I took it all in: the twelve seniors sitting on park-style benches, the covers of their books displayed proudly behind them, the stoplight, WALK/DON'T WALK sign, and motorcycle behind them on the stage. It



The impressive stage setting for Creative Writing Senior Thesis. struck me; these seniors had truly been on a long journey, down an equally long road. From sixth to twelfth grade, or however long they had been in the program, Creative Writing had bonded all of them together into a tightly-knit, extremely gifted family, and they had outstanding theses to prove it.

Teacher F. Rutledge Hammes opened the event with a touching poem praising the seniors for their virtues, hard work, and closeness. After that, the night was filled with a variety of excerpts from the senior's books, which themselves varied in genre; the spectrum included novels, collections of poetry, even a collection of short plays. It was captivating to see and hear the seniors share with the audience what serves as an accumulation of all their hard work in their major, from Kat Murchison's reflective piece on familial death, to Conor Gatton's humbly honest and colloquial short story and poem, to Emily Fairchild's biting satire on modern relationships, to **Lucas Eaton**'s whimsical humor crafting the perspective of God. Listing names aside, every single senior read eloquent and mature writing that transcended their years and wowed everyone listening.

The seniors mixed things up a bit this year as well: Ayla Jensen and Harris Lynam performed a high-energy slam poem that dominated the stage. Alex Peeples and Miles Counts also acted out a laugh-out-loud scene from Alex's collection of short plays, and Kat and Alex performed a musical interlude of "Home" by Edward Sharpe & The Magnetic Zeros. The song was touching in its message that Creative Writing had become their home over the years, and during the song each senior came up to the microphone and said their favorite thing about the program.

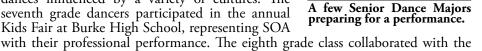
Arguably one of the most important and lasting things SOA creates is a family out of one's major, creating a group of people united by a shared passion for art and its expression. The Creative Writer's thesis represented just that and created a night and a goodbye that will not soon be forgotten.

Dance Major Overview, 2013-2014

by Suzanne Jackson

Over the course of the academic year, the Dance Department has achieved multiple awards and honors. Ms. Ashlee Ratigan, Ms. Linda Cline, and **Ms. Desiree Sampson** have worked with both the middle and high school Dance majors to perfect each individual's style and put on a variety of performances.

The new sixth grade Dance majors initiated their School of the Arts experience by performing dances influenced by a variety of cultures. The seventh grade dancers participated in the annual Kids Fair at Burke High School, representing SOA



Visual Arts majors to put on a successful show of their solo performances. The high school portion of the department experienced a year packed with activities and performances as well. The major had students represent School of the Arts at the South Carolina Dance Association Conference, SCDAncing Festival,

Charleston Dance Festival, and the National High School Dance Festival. Junior year of high school is widely believed to be the most difficult and stressful of one's academic career. Despite their stress, the Junior Dance majors completed two very successful Junior Composition performances. If they were at all nervous about their performances, it certainly didn't show.

Finally, the Seniors held four Senior Thesis performances, a cumulative overview of the skills they have gathered in their years at SOA. One of the most miraculous things about the Dance Department is the ability they have to express their art form in a way that seems absolutely natural on stage. These final performances are no exception.

Vocal Major Overview, 2013-2014

by Ted Anastopoulo

The Vocal Department proved to have quite an ambitious year. Kicking off the fall of 2013 was the high school's groovy "Shake Your Groove Thing" musical revue of the 60s, 70s and 80s, followed by the departmentwide enchanted production of Disney's Beauty and the Beast, the Broadway musical. Thirtytwo middle school students were selected for ACDA Junior High All-State Choir. Keeping with tradition, both groups performed their



SC All State Choir 2014

Winter Holiday concert with the Strings & Symphony departments.

This spring was also jam packed with events. Fifty-five high school students were selected for SCMEA All-State Choir, and the department presented its second annual dinner concert featuring traditional spirituals and gospel music. Another great success was the kids' Winter Vocal Camp featuring songs from the hit movie Frozen." It was sold out with 105 kids, so a second camp was added to allow 65 more kids to participate.

Ms. Hammond led the charge of successfully planning two major trips for the month of April. Accompanied by Mr. Smyth and Mr. Tesenair, 45 high schoolers toured Italy, enjoying sight-seeing as well as performing in venues throughout Verona, Tuscany, Florence, Venice, and Rome. Forty-eight middle schoolers also experienced New York City as they participated in the "Choirs of America" choral clinic with composer Randall Stroope at Queens College. Dr. Cook joined Mr. Rogers for their stirring Carnegie Hall performance of "Ritmo," which is written for four-hand piano. Concluding the year, middle school presented their spring concert. High School Vocal & Symphony Orchestra presented an inspiring Masterworks concert, which also featured the debut of "Behold the River," composed specifically for the Vocal Department by Kevin Memley. They were proud to have the Creative Writing Department's **Ms. Miles** and **Virginia Doran** write the text for this beautiful piece. It was a wonderful tribute to her retirement and finale to the Vocal season.

SOA Foundation Gala represents all majors

by Desiree Horlbeck

The SOA Foundation held a gala on May 9th that showcased all the arts majors and showed parents and community members alike why donating to the foundation would be such a fantastic idea. It was a parade of non-stop talent and entertainment on every corner of the school from the beginning of the event to the end. Performing in fifteen minute increments, students displayed their numerous artistic abilities in groups such as the band flute ensemble. These ensembles also included live paintings by Visual Arts majors to readings from middle school Creative Writers to freestyle hip-hop routines by high school



Mrs. Zerbst and major Jack Martini showed passersby the art of pottery.

Dance majors to the costume design showcase near the end of the night. There were many more standout acts throughout the night, far too many to be mentioned in one review, but every student performer did a superb job. Amongst them were the performance of "Red Overall" by Senior Theatre majors **Brooke Bazemore** and **Alexis Fletcher**, the high school Band jazz combo, and songs executed by the Vocal students recently returning from their Spring Break trip to Italy.

Of course, the actual funding came from the silent auction held that night. Spectators were encouraged to bid high and bid often. There were a variety of prizes for the visitors to choose from, including boat cruises around the downtown Charleston Harbors and a number of creative art pieces. The event as a whole was a very successful venture, bringing in revenue for the Foundation to be used for scholarships and equipment to improve both the artistic and academic quality of education at School of the Arts.

Vocal thesis as long as Les Mis, well worth the time

by Ted Anastopoulo

Vocal Senior Thesis was a stunning three hour performance loaded with the blood, sweat, and tears of SOA's Senior Vocal majors. Every senior put it on the line by performing arduous pieces, and the outcome was spectacular performances by Parrish Brown, Jess Rames, Michael Stevens, Ali Brown, Ethan Courville, Madelyn Knight, Halle Murphy, Bianca Pallilo, and our very own Applause editor, Madeleine Vath.



Vocal Class of 2014

included performances collaborative efforts from other majors. Michael

Stevens in particular brought students from Theatre, Strings, Band, and Piano into his performance. Some recognizable tunes came up in the thesis mix—songs from beloved movies and musicals like Frozen, West Side Story, Les Miserables, and Wicked. The theatrics amongst the performers really made the show. Madeleine Vath brought her song "O ,batti batti" from *Don Giovanni* to life by taking on the song's character, and Parrish Brown pulled out his soulful side while singing "Joshua Fought the Battle of Jericho." And who could forget the breathtaking performance of "It Is Well With My Soul," sung by Michael Stevens, Junior Raven White, and Sophomore **Shelby Levine**? Standing ovation anyone?

Special thanks to Tyler Sim for assisting the Vocal majors with his wicked piano skills. If you missed this performance, you missed out on an incredible show.

We'll miss these special seniors next year.

Piano Major Overview, 2013-2014

by guest writer Mrs. Debbie Benson

The Piano Department kicked off their year with a performance at a RiverDogs baseball game in late August. Several of the Piano students sang the national anthem, Dr. Cook threw the first pitch, and then the Piano students performed on the terrace until the end of the game.



Tony, Nolan, Max, and Tradd perform jazz music toward th eend of the year.

The high school pianists had their first performance at the beginning of October. This performance was a collaboration with the Dance Department. Students performed piano ensembles with two and three pianos as the dancers enhanced the music with beautiful visual movement.

In November all of the piano majors performed solo pieces on several nights of recitals. Selections from all of the musical time periods were performed. Also in early November, several students represented us at a performance at the Coastal Carolina Fair. Various trios played the jazz standards of the past. Provided

Piano students gave several jazz concerts during December

at La Fontana Restaurant. Sunday brunch was enjoyed to the sound of jazz piano. Many of the great jazz standards were performed.

In February, several of the Piano majors performed in

Thoroughly Modern Millie on stage and in the orchestra pit.

Piano competitions and honors recitals were the bill of fare during February, March, and April. The South Carolina Music Educators Conference was held in February and sixteen students performed in the Honors Recital at the Convention Center. Students were chosen based on their superior performances at the Solo & Ensemble Festival the previous April.

In early March students participated in Achievement Day Steven Schlosser and Tyler Sim held at Charleston Southern University. This competition rating playing jazz at the Fair. is based on performing two pieces from memory, technical skills,

sight-reading and written theory tests. Based on their scores, several students were

chosen to play in the Honors Recital the following week.

Also in March, many students participated in the District Auditions. Quite a few students received a rating of "Outstanding" at these auditions and were eligible to audition at the state level at the end of April. Jay Baek, 7th grade Piano major won state for his division. Several other students were alternates for the state recital or among the top 5 in their division.

Provided



Part of the sixth grade Piano class at Carowinds.

Right before Spring Break, 48 Piano students attended the Solo & Ensemble State Festival at Lander University followed by a jazz performance at Carowinds. Out of 24 performers selected for the Honors Recital for next year, fourteen are our very own Piano majors.

The Senior Piano majors presented 3 days of Senior Thesis performances. They began on April 27th with Callie Carmichael, Jalesia Claxton, **Emily Stillwaggon**, and **Andrew Byrd**. On April 28th Olivia Pharis, Anthony Vaird, and Emma Lieberman took the stage. We concluded with Tyler McKeown, Tyler Sim and Ben Cohn on

April 29th. All of these performances were amazing and creative, including some collaborations with

Dance majors, Vocal majors, and other Piano majors.

The middle school Piano majors will be presented ensembles in the May 16th concert, while the high school Piano majors performed their ensemble concert

In addition to all of these performances and competitions, Piano students also performed at the Ronald McDonald House one Friday each month and several played at community functions and private events throughout the year.

Piano Senior Thesis brings fond memories

by Madeleine Vath

At the end of April, I was fortunate enough to be able to the first of the three nights that the High School Piano Department held Senior Thesis. On this night, Emily Stillwaggon and Callie Carmichael performed their theses and JayC Claxton presented her Piano Education thesis.

Emily went first, performing total of four pieces. She began with All of the performers from the first night of

"La Vallée des Cloches," meaning "The thesis.
Valley of Bells," by Maurice Ravel. This piece is soothing and peaceful to the listener, feelings that Emily got across very well. It was a nice way to ease into the beginning of her thesis. "Op. 90 No. 4 from Four Impromptus," the next piece she played was in stark contrast to the previous song. The Schubert piece was fast-paced with clipped phrases and contrasting dynamics. I know from experience that playing such phrases takes precision and skill, both of which Emily clearly demonstrated.

For her third song, "Poison and Wine" by The Civil Wars, Emily collaborated with Junior Dance major Mackenzie Glasgow and fellow Senior Piano major Olivia Pharis. Both Piano majors sang along while Emily played and Mackenzie performed an interpretive dance. I rarely get to see such collaborations and found it a privilege to be present for one executed with such grace and emotion.

Mrs. Benson played a piano duet with Emily for her final piece. When I for one think of a piano duet, I think of two people playing on one piano. However, for this piece, "Concerto in G Minor Op. 25 No. 1" by Mendelssohn, the two pianists were playing on two separate pianos. It was spectacular! If I had not been watching, I would have thought that only one person was performing the piece on one piano because of how fluid and together they made the

After Emily's pieces, JayC Claxton was wheeled out on stage to present her education thesis. Throughout the year, JayC taught a seven-year-old different techniques and songs fit for a beginner pianist. She used the books that she first learned with, which made the experience that mush more memorable. JayC showed us pictures of her student and of the progress she made through the books during the year. It was very clear through her presentation that she had learned from and enjoyed the experience just as much as her student.

The final thesis of the night was Callie Carmichael's. She performed nine pieces, and unfortunately I do not have room to describe how eloquently she performed each one, but the ones that stood out most to me were the last few she played, all of which were performed with other people, either on the vocals, the drums, or the bass.

She and fellow Piano major Emma Lieberman performed the classic "Summertime" by George Gershwin. I must admit that I have never heard this song in full, and I am glad to have heard the entire piece for the first time performed by such wonderful musicians.

After a piece with fellow Piano majors Tyler Sim, a senior, on drums and Tradd Zanin, a junior, on bass, Senior Vocal major Michael Stevens came on stage to perform "My Funny Valentine" by Miles Davis. Tyler and Tradd stayed on their respective instruments for this piece while Callie played piano and Michael sang. The four parts fit together very well and made for a very enjoyable song.

For her final piece, Callie played the famous "Linus & Lucy" from Charlie Brown with Tyler on drums and Tradd on bass. This was a perfect song to close her thesis with as it made the audience bob along with the beat. It proved to be a sentimental choice, but not so much so that it was cheesy.

I regret that I was unable to attend any of the other Piano theses as I heard that they were all wonderful, but I am thankful that I was able to hear these three. The Piano Senior class is full of multitalented individuals who will hopefully continue putting their talents to good use wherever they go next.



Visual Arts Major Overview, 2013-2014

by Desiree Horlbeck



One of Abby Rumph's senior pieces.



of Amanda Ortiz's senior pieces.



Amanda Kasman's senior pieces.

The Visual Arts Department had a very successful year! They had four art showcases, two involving a collaboration with another art form. The first showcase was the "Sight & Sound" concert, combining the high school Visual Arts and Strings programs on February 26th. The second showcase occurred during March and was in collaboration with Dance. The third art show was purely a middle school Visual Arts showcase and the year culminated in the final show (besides the final Senior Thesis showcase) during the "FAME" Annual Fashion Show.

The department is split between three teachers. Marie Nichols teaches sixth grade Visual Arts, seventh grade Visual Arts, and Costume/Fashion Design I, II, III. Mr. Moore teaches Visual Arts Level 4, Visual Arts Level 6, Graphic Design, and AP Art. Anne Cimballa teaches eighth grade Visual Arts, Visual Arts Level 5, and AP Art History. All the teachers are experienced professionals and very good at their

Visual Arts students have participated in a number of competitions throughout the year such as the Coastal Carolina Fair Creative Arts Contest, the Southeastern Wildlife Expo (SEWE) - Middle School Photography and High School Bird House Competition, the SC PTA Reflections Competition, the Sargent Art Competition, the Scholastic Art & Writing Competition, the Junior Duck Stamp Competition, the SC DNR Reel Art Competition, and the North Charleston Arts Festival.

A large percentage of the Visual Arts students have won awards. Senior **Amanda Kasman** won a national gold key award for her work of art called "Dream Caused By The Flight Of A Bee Around A Pomegranate A Second Before Awakening." Regional awards were a lot more widespread and many students were awarded gold key awards. These students include Sade Adewale, Copeland Barrett, Kenneth Brabham, Caroline Cash, Michael Convertino, Madison DeLoach, Hannah Demos, Shayla Green, Madison Hall, Collette Harper, Anne Herring, Chloe Hogan, Frederick

Horton, Amanda Kasman, Mary Knox, River Kopsak, Jessica Martin, Alissa Melsopp, Bena Parker, Teagan Prichard, Olivia Provosty, Emily Richardson, Kannon Rickell, Holly Rizer, Abby Rumph, Paris Scott, Alston Singletary, Halie Stevenson, Victoria Vanderpool, and Matt Watson.

Another component of the Visual Arts program is the Costume & Fashion Design classes that are open to students of all majors. The major event within the program this year was the fifth annual Fashion Show on Friday, May 2nd in SOA's Cafeteria. This event showcased their original garment designs. The high school students had been working hard all year on machine stitching techniques and pattern



One of Rachel Burnett's senior pieces.



One of Caroline Cash's senior pieces.

adaptations. First semester, the students read the script for Thoroughly Modern Millie and researched 1920s clothing in preparation for designing and constructing over 100 original costumes for the 47 actors. The musical was performed in February. Many of the costumes were shown on the runway.

During the last semester, students deconstructed garments as well as constructed their own original designs by adapting commercial patterns. Recycled items were also incorporated into innovative original garments and accessories.

As a special treat, the student orchestra and vocalists from *Thoroughly* Modern Millie, led by Joe Clarke, were featured in mini-concerts throughout the fashion show. All proceeds went to the Jasiri Whipper Memorial Scholarship awarded annually to an SOA Senior pursuing higher education in preparation for

an arts-related career.



One of Matt Watson's senior pieces.



One of Lucy Davenny's One senior pieces.



of Smoak's senior pieces



One of Michael Convertino's senior pieces.



One of Jessica Martin's senior pieces.

Strings Major Overview, 2013-2014

by Anna Kalik

The Strings majors have accomplished a variety of things this year, including a Fall Side-by-Side concert featuring both the middle school and high school Strings students, and a fall Symphony Concert in November. Forty-five students qualified and performed at Region Orchestra in Myrtle Beach, and they had two performances at the Holiday Spectacular with the Vocal Department. In December, the orchestra had an Oyster Roast and raised over \$8,000 for their department. In



February, the symphony had a feature performance at the State Music Educators Conference at the North Charleston Convention Center. Eleven students made All-State Orchestra at Furman University. Strings also collaborated with the Visual Artists for the Sight and Sound concert in February. They received first place for their performance at the National Orchestra Festival in Louisville, Kentucky, and had two performances at the Sotille Theater with the Charleston City Ballet in March. In April, the Seniors had their Senior Thesis recital, and in May the Strings majors had their second annual end of the year Masterworks Concert with the Vocal Department.

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Making Her Own Hoops: A Farewell to Mrs. Miles

Graham Crolley

After 18 years of teaching Creative Writing at SOA, the beloved Italian fireball Mrs. Rene Miles is going into retirement. In an effort to honor her, her student of six years, Graham Crolley, interviewed her one last time.

There is a specific type of interview a journalist lives for— one of engaged back-and-forth conversation, one of honest communication, one in which each question is a step further into the character and colors of a person. The interview ceases to be a work of journalistic literature and becomes its own entity, an interaction, a bookmark stuck in time. The journalist is swept from their objective viewpoint and wholly plunged into the environment of the person at hand. The type of interview a journalist lives for is not an interview at all— it is a depiction of a genuine human

This year is Mrs. Rene Bufo Miles' last year of teaching in the Creative Writing program, a program that she created at School of the Arts 18 years ago. This is the last interview Mrs. Miles will ever do for our school paper, and I am happy to inform its readers that it is one of those interviews journalists dream of.

I am a firm believer that a person's room tells a lot about their character. And so it is with the classroom of Mrs. Miles; as I walked in to interview my writing mentor of six years, I was instantly surrounded by the tell-tale signs of a teacher who takes pride in her students. Letters written by students to acclaimed poets were taped to the walls, and posters of senior theses were proudly displayed. The room was warm, and to me, emanated a sense

of home away from my own. Mrs. Miles welcomed me warmly as I pulled a chair to the side of her desk. The desk was similar to the environment of the room, covered with stacked papers of student work and adorned with pictures of her family, one of my personal favorites being an older picture of Mrs. Miles with her husband and their young son on a sunlit boat.

It was at that point that Mrs. Miles began to tell a story, as she often has over the years I've known her. The story was a long one, and it was hers. I listened to the writer weave her words.

"I grew up in Springfield, New Jersey which is probably about 25 minutes from Manhattan," she began. She is an engaging woman when she talks, careful to look you in the eye, and that day she was no different. "The town itself was a farming town when I was a little girl."

Mrs. Miles seemed to extract the atmosphere of Springfield from her memories and beckon them back to life in her classroom. She talked of her family members' farms with a brightness in her eyes. "One had a dairy farm and one had... a *chicken* farm," she recounted, laughing. "That's how rural some of it was."

As a little girl, Mrs. Miles had visited those farms almost every weekend, exploring the barns and riding horses, let loose in the natural beauty of the world. Her world, as she related it to me, was a unique one, an interesting "intersection of time and place," a phrase I picked up from Mrs. Beth Webb Hart, my current Creative Writing teacher and Mrs. Miles's first co-teacher way back when.

Mrs. Miles's parents had grown up in the town next to Springfield called Milburn. "In Milburn, there were about seven streets," she told me. "They were called The Seventh Ward. Doesn't sound very nice, does it?" She said this smiling. She went on to describe the Seventh Ward as the location in town where all the Italian immigrants had settled. Her parents had grown up there, and when they married, they moved only a mile away to Mrs. Miles's hometown of Springfield.

"On the street I grew up on, there were all kinds of immigrants," the teacher recalled. "On either side of us, there were men from Sweden, and across the street there was a German couple." She looked at me seriously and addressed me by name, a personal gesture, making a point. "People in the area, Graham, sort of defined themselves by their heritage because they were only one generation away from it."

Young Mrs. Miles also spent much of her time as a girl at her grandmother's, aunts', and uncles' houses where only Italian was spoken. Sitting there in the room with her, I could imagine her as a bright, observant child, drinking in the culture



Mrs. Rene Bufo Miles

around her, documenting mentally as writers do.

At that point in the interview someone suddenly appeared at the window behind Mrs. Miles. My subject smiled and reached around to open the window, and Mrs. Lawson leaned in smiling. Mrs. Miles beckoned towards me with a broad smile. "The final

interview," she proclaimed in a regal tone to Mrs. Lawson.
"Don't get me started now," the history teacher replied. I couldn't help but feel a slight pang of something between sad and satisfied, seeing Mrs. Miles's good friend stopping in to see her but also having to recognize that I was there to facilitate her last interview at School of the Arts.

I took advantage of this guest appearance as best as I could and asked Mrs. Lawson if she'd like to say what Mrs. Miles meant to her for the interview. "She's my best friend," Mrs. Miles had insisted. "BFF, Big Fat Friend!"

After a few moments of trying to come up with an adequate response on the spot, Mrs. Lawson said she would have to give us an answer on her way back from the cafeteria when she wasn't "blubbering" as she had put it. It was evident in her voice how much Mrs. Miles meant to her as a friend, and that was all I really needed.

Mrs. Miles shut the window when she left and looked over at where I sat with my pencil, paper, and voice recorder. "She's gonna miss me, Graham, can you tell?" She laughed.

We immediately dove back into Mrs. Miles's childhood in Springfield. It was all coming together what had shaped my teacher into what she was today. She told me a story of two little girls who had lived across the street from her who had been asked what political party they were as they neared an election. The little girls had answered either Republican or Democrat, and when five-year-old Mrs. Miles had been asked the same question, she answered, "I'm Catholic." In the chair across from me she reflected, "I didn't even think of myself as American. I just thought I was Italian, because it was all around me."

Mrs. Miles went to a Catholic school growing up, and was very shy. "I stuttered," she said. "I was very nervous, and the school had benedicts and nuns walking around, wearing these habits on their heads, and veils. They were very scary

She told me that school, consequently, frightened her, and she made poor grades because of this. Mrs. Miles started to write in the sixth grade, which, coincident or not, is when the Creative Writing program starts today. "When I graduated from the eighth grade, I asked for the collected works of Carl Sandburg,'

she told me a calm, precise voice. "I remember my mother said, 'You want what?" Mrs. Miles used this as a testament to her love for poetry, even that early on.

When she entered high school, Mrs. Miles said she gained confidence. "I knew I wanted to write, and I knew I wanted to teach," she said. "I began keeping journals and writing poems about relationships I had, not just with boys, but with friends and parents." She told me of a collection of poems she had created as a sophomore or junior in high school, a book she had made herself with ink and pen



Best friends Rosamond Lawson and Rene Miles getting festive with Christmas headbands.

on high quality paper. She had been proud of the book, and today considers that when she really saw herself as a writer that could produce published works. The young Rene Miles I was learning about had then started to remind me of the woman of convictions and passion I know today.

The Mrs. Miles in the classroom with me reflected on the social environment of the 60s, telling me that there weren't many options for women then, and how young women in high school weren't encouraged to become doctors or any profession of that caliber. It had been socially acceptable at the time to be a schoolteacher, and Mrs. Miles said she knew she loved children and literature. "I remember thinking that I wanted to be a decorator," she pointed out. "I loved to sew. But my mother had told me 'Nobody does that, that's not a job.' And that was the attitude back then." Mrs. Miles then made sure to assure me that she did in fact *want* to teach writing and that she didn't just accept it as a more practical career. "I wanted to teach."

After high school, she attended Seton Hall University outside of Manhattan and majored in English. She minored in Education so as to get a teaching degree. "That's how they used to do it. Back then, you majored in what you were going to teach." As her student, I found this appropriate as she was so devoted to the craft of English and literature. She also told me of how she had always thought she wanted to teach Creative Writing, but that she couldn't major in it as it was always an elective.

Mrs. Miles suddenly sat up, as if struck by an idea. "I can make you laugh," she said, walking into the other room. "I think I have my high school literary magazine."

She returned to where we sat with a small booklet, and flipped it open, searching through its pages. "*The Flute*," she said, pointing to a page. "That's a story I wrote. Rene Bufo."

She then showed me her picture from the magazine, laughing at how young she looked. Mrs. Lawson then made her reappearance, this time coming through the door. Mrs. Miles offered her best friend a look at the photo. "How old do I look?" she asked her.

"Like, 13," Mrs. Lawson promptly responded.

Mrs. Miles had been 16 or 17 when the photo was taken.

The response Mrs. Lawson had prepared for me ended up being a story. When she had been a long term substitute at SOA, she told Mrs. Miles about a job interview she had at Academic Magnet. Mrs. Miles, with no disrespect whatsoever, had encouraged Mrs. Lawson to stay at School of the Arts, for she believed Mrs. Meyers was going to hire her. Mrs. Lawson has been at our school ever since. "That was probably the best advice I've ever had in my life," she said, looking admiringly at her best friend. "She told me to stick with it here, because this is the place for me. I'm an artist." She even divulged some not so serious information about Mrs. Miles. "She kicks me in the

serious information about Mrs. Miles. "She kicks me in the butt sometimes, and I kick her back. It's what old friends do." My 8th grade history teacher thanked me, talked to her best friend for a little while longer and left soon after.

After college, Mrs. Miles taught for a year in New Jersey before moving to South Carolina where she first taught at an all-minority school in North Charleston. "I had a knifing in my classroom," she said bluntly. "That's how rough it was." She taught basic English there for three years, and then taught at Fort Johnson (now James Island High School) for two years. "I actually loved that job," she remembered, "but then someone told me that the Baptist College, which is now Charleston Southern University was looking for a writing teacher." Mrs. Miles became one of the pioneer writing teachers there in a program for freshmen on what she called "shaky ground." After teaching there for six years, Mrs. Miles said that she missed the relationships with her students that she had when teaching public school. "In college, you don't have the same relationship with your students. I said I was going to go back to teaching public school and everybody said 'You're crazy, you're nuts!' But I did!"

She went back to teaching in North Charleston, this time teaching only gifted classes at North Charleston High School, before she caught wind of big news.

"I heard they were going to start the Academic Magnet," she told me. "It was there, it was happening, and I thought 'I want to teach there.' It was like being trailblazers, pioneers, we were gonna start this new school." She said this with an eager wonder.

"I was there for eight years, and I loved my job. And then Rose Marie Meyers, the founding principal of School of the Arts called me and wanted me to teach in the Creative Writing program."

At this point, as I interviewed her, I felt anticipation towards the outcome of Mrs. Miles's teaching career, even though I knew the conclusion. She had a way of drawing me into the story of her words.

She told me she eventually came in for an interview. At that time, only $6^{\rm th}$ and $7^{\rm th}$ grade were being taught at SOA. Mrs. Miles was at first reluctant to teach middle school, but then reconsidered. "I thought about what she was telling me. I would create the entire program. I would have complete freedom." She said that after a few days of mulling it over, she made up her mind to take the job. "I'd always wanted to only teach Creative Writing," Mrs. Miles said, now leaning back in her chair at the desk of her job as head of the Creative Writing department.

Mrs. Miles had to create the entire curriculum, and for the first few years had to teach the majority of the classes with little help. When it became apparent that she couldn't do it all on her own, Mrs. Hart was hired. "She was my first partner," Mrs. Miles said with a smile.

She then leaned forward and spoke with me in a one-to-one fashion, almost as if what she were saying was confidential. "I never stayed at any job too long, it was two years here, three years there, six years somewhere else... I never left my job here. So that tells you."

Mrs. Miles told me of her love for her job, how she got to stay with the kids for seven years, how she fought for the first Creative Writing reading at the Congregational Church downtown. "I had fifteen kids and three computers," she told me. She had to truly fight to secure what she thought the program needed.

The rest of Mrs. Miles career at SOA is known history. Ask any past or current student of hers and they will tell you of the triple role Mrs. Miles plays: part teacher, part mentor, part mother. There is a reason the phrase "Creative Writing

family" exists; it has a mother figure to unite it.

Former SOA Creative Writer Jessica Atkinson had a very close relationship with Mrs. Miles during her schooling. "She encouraged my talent, and I was always seeking her praise. She was also not afraid to give my writing the criticism it needed to grow." Jessica also gave testament to Mrs. Miles's character and dependability. "In the hardest years of my life, I knew I could always turn to her," she said. "She was and continues to be one of the most steadfast and loving people in my life."

Before I had to draw my interview to a close, Mrs. Miles gave me some sound advice, as she tends to do. "Life is jumping through hoops. High school is a hoop. College is a hoop. But at some point in your life, you have to make your own hoops." I knew that for her coming to School of the Arts and creating the Creative Writing program was Rene Miles making her own hoop. I knew that Creative

Writing, that SOA, meant the world to her.

I turned the voice recorder off and with that the interview was over. The rest of what Mrs. Miles would say to me that day would float out into the air surrounding us and soon after disappear, undocumented. What I mean to say is, it doesn't matter what we say if there is no one to hear us. Mrs. Miles will always be heard, and her words and advice ever-remembered. She hugged me as I got up to leave, and I hugged her back, not as my teacher, but as a close friend for six years, as a criticizer, as an encourager, a mother, a writer.

I said I am a strong believer that a person's room tells a lot about them; I am also a strong believer that writers stick together. Mrs. Miles will always be a part of my life, as she has impacted the way I write and the way I act towards other people, with unrelenting honesty and compassion. SOA will miss her, but she leaves behind one of the best writing programs in the nation, something that she created. Of course we'll miss her, but you see— she will never truly be gone from this school.

Talking earlier of the book she had made out of her poems in high school Mrs. Miles had said something that I felt was spot on. "I see it as playing at being a writer. But not in a negative way— like a girl would pretend she's a housewife and wash a baby and make fake meals." Rene Miles looked at me, and I clung to every word she said. "And what were we doing? Well, we were making books."



Mrs. Miles posing with SOA alumnus Jessica Atkinson, Scholastic winner.

Stress and its effect on the teenage mind

by Desiree Horlbeck

Desiree interviewed several SOA students to uncover the effects that stress has on them and what they do to unwind. Disclaimer: from the viewpoint of a teenager.

Most teenagers have an established routine. We wake up, stumble around

to fit in chores alongside numerous other activities. Seems pretty simple, right? In reality, it is far from easy. Most adults do not fully understand how stressful their teens' lives really are. There has been a tendency to downplay the stress of being a student in comparison to living in the "real world." One of the phrases most often heard is, "Oh, you think you're stressed out now? You think your life is hard? Wait until you're living in the real world." However, Teenagers are living in the real world and life can still be pretty crummy even before becoming an official adult.

Let's not look at it as a competition. An excessive amount of stress affects everyone negatively, but it can have a profound effect on a student because of the internal struggles of any teen just trying to found out who they are and where they fit into the world and the added expectations that students suffer under, especially in this

day and age. Students in this generation have so many options with the technological advancements that society has achieved that it can quickly get overwhelming for

School is often the main contributor to the stress plaguing a teenager's life. Parents are always putting such emphasis on the importance of grades. That's not to say that grades aren't important: they are. Grades can be regarded as a determinant for both higher education institutions and employers in the work force. However, as Senior Creative Writer **Miles Counts** stated, "Too many people tie their grades with their self-worth, and it helps to remember that those two aspects don't correlate well."

Parents may unintentionally be encouraging this point of view, where higher grades mean a smarter and all around better person, by putting a lot of pressure on teens to do well even though they just want the best for their child. However

"Too many people tie their grades with their self-worth, and it helps to remember that those two aspects don't correlate well."

nice it is to do well in school, it is not worth the risk of destroying anyone's mental, emotional, or physical stability. Students of arts schools, like SOA, have the added stress factor of their dedication to the arts entering the picture. Sometimes, artistic pursuits can conflict with academic duties and students have to learn to maintain a very delicate balance that can quickly dip into an overpoweringly frustrating situation at any moment when both sides are not in agreement.

Students within SOA's decorated halls have very different methods for dealing with the stressful situations they encounter. The situations themselves vary but seem to center the most on tests, homework, and projects. The end of the year is crunch time and students are often assaulted with a multitude of tests and projects all at once. To the student, it may seem that each teacher is trying to monopolize all their time without regard to the load of work assigned to them by other teachers in the same time period. SOA students also have to add in the time and work for practice and performance in their art majors, sometimes in addition to the extracurricular activities most students engage in to make themselves more attractive to prospective colleges. When you are up to your neck in work and your stress levels are rapidly climbing, how are you supposed to handle anything? You can't. It's unhealthy for any one person to try to handle everything at once. Stress overload can have very serious effects.

Signs of stress overload can include "anxiety or panic attacks, a feeling of half awake getting ready for school, hang out with friends, and occasionally manage being constantly pressured, hassled, and hurried, irritability and moodiness, allergic

reactions, such as eczema or asthma, problems sleeping, drinking too much, smoking, overeating, doing drugs, sadness, or depression." It may also include physical symptoms such as stomach problems, headaches, or chest pain. Everyone reacts to stress a little differently. For those with certain illnesses, symptoms may flare under the overload of stress. Others become angry or internalize this stress and become withdrawn. Parents, if your teen is a little sullen or snappish, don't be afraid to talk to them. They may just be under a lot of stress at the time.

For students such as eighth grade Vocal major Georgia Peaden, who have yet to find a tried and true method, try one of these. One poll lists listening to music, a method that a majority of teenagers including Sophomore Band major Kyle Winstead employ, and exercising as American's top two methods of stress relief.

Taking a small break with small pleasurable activities peppered throughout or a quick nap also seems a popular method, with Senior Creative Writers David Doboszenski and Miles Counts and sixth grade Dance major Dean Monk employing this technique. Other students, such as Senior Band majors Caton Hamrick and Ryan **Kerr**, prefer to concentrate all their stress in a shorter time period rather than stretch it out over the course of a few weeks. This is a technique that seems to work for many students, no matter how ill-advised it may seem to some. Some people, like Senior Vocal major Halle Murphy, find it easier if they "try to start hefty assignments at least two days before [the] due date to lighten the work load per day." For minor assignments, students such as Sophomore Piano major Ben Zuber prefer to manage their time by "doing some homework every day." It is also a good idea to take preemptive measures and prevent overscheduling. If you know that several events are occurring in the same time period, and you're feeling stretched, contemplate cutting out a couple activities, leaving only the ones you view as most important.

One of the most important factors in building resilience to stress is a positive attitude. Try to think of challenges as opportunities for internal growth and stressors as temporary problems. Don't be afraid to ask others for help and guidance rather than complaining and letting that stress build. Always make time for relaxation. Be optimistic, believe in yourself, and breathe. Let stress motivate you to reach your goals. So, the next time you feel bogged down by life, take a break, just a small breather, and use anyone of these techniques to get right back on track.



INTERACTING WITH THE OTHERS: AN ANALYSIS OF OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH ACADEMIC MAGNET

by Suzanne Jackson

In an effort to better understand the differences between us and our brainy counterparts, Suzanne looked into what it really means to go to Academic Magnet and how it differs from SOA.

It is common knowledge that both School of the Arts and Academic Magnet High School are home to some of the best students in the state. At the high school levels, both schools score at least a full point higher on standardized mathematics and English testing each year than the rest of the Charleston County School District.

Both Academic Magnet High School (AMHS) and School of the Arts (SOA) are located on the Bonds Wilson Campus in North Charleston. At first glance, one might note the most stereotypical differences between the two student bodies: AMHS is home to the more pedantic individual and SOA recruits students to focus on their specific talent instead of academic achievements. This assumption could not be farther from the truth.



Of course, there are definitely very prominent differences, including the fact that School of the Arts does not have team sports. Some may say that SOA lacks a certain school spirit that comes along with participating in pep rallies and attending athletic events. However, the school makes up for these shortcomings with an academic year full of dance performances, theatre pieces, creative writing readings, piano recitals, art shows, band performances, and other general displays of student talent.

Both schools require a senior project: a cumulative collection of information or skill that one has discovered and honed over their high school career. This process begins most often in the student's junior year and becomes the focal point of their last year of high school. At School of the Arts, a student's thesis must be related to his or her major. At Academic Magnet, the senior thesis project is not limited to any specific category of information. Some students choose to focus on a more academic topic, while others take this opportunity to focus on a particular art form that they enjoy. The idea that Academic Magnet is comprised of bookish teenagers who have no artistic talent is simply ignorant.

The faculty and administration of both schools appreciate the shared campus the benefits that come with it

and the benefits that come with it.

"I think that most AMHS and SOA students enjoy a positive and productive relationship...many are siblings; many are friends outside of school and ride the same bus; many share similar interests such as drama, music, and art and participate together in community organizations," notes **Ms. Judith Peterson**, Principal of Academic Magnet High School. In addition, many Academic Magnet students attended School of the Arts for middle school, so they will always hold a connection to their former classmates and keep in touch with their old friends.

Under certain circumstances, School of the Arts students have the ability to take certain classes at Academic Magnet. For example, it is where **Dean Spyropoulous**, SOA Junior Vocal major, takes AP Psychology.

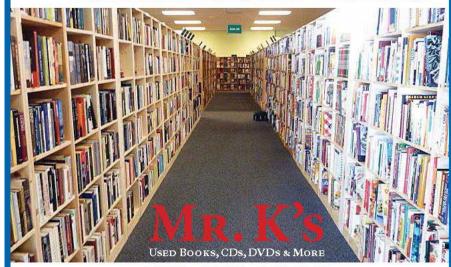
"There are a lot more puns at Magnet," he says. "On average, they're funnier than the kids at SOA." **Zoe Abedon**, a Junior Creative Writer, was present to hear Dean say this and noted that no one should be offended, because Dean has no sense of humor. This is all in good fun, of course. Dean is sometimes amusing.

As far as the more technical aspects of sharing a campus, **Dr. Cook** expresses some of the periodic inconveniences: "We have to remember that any change can impact the other school - auditions bring additional traffic and people, outdoor activities can interfere with testing, and using a shared space like the cafeteria, gym, or media center requires communication."

To keep everything in line, Dr. Cook explains that she and Ms. Peterson often meet to discuss emergency drills, altered schedules, or anything else that may throw off the balance between the schools.

School of the Arts and Academic Magnet High School have plenty in common while also maintaining the individual aspects that make each school so appealing. Daily, students at SOA or AMHS are surrounded by others with which to share their thoughts. The diversity of interests within each school is not unique, as one can find a variety of opinionated teenagers all over the world. However, the fact that the Bonds-Wilson campus is not home to just one, but three different schools drastically increases the variety of ideas that can be found within the buildings.





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American Idol: Myths Debunked

by Madeleine Vath

In the past decade, a new type of show has become highly popular: the singing reality show. From the original televised talent show, *American Idol*, to the newest of this genre, *The Voice*, singing reality shows have become the show to watch. Who doesn't want to see extremely talented people fight for the right to chase their dreams? These shows, *The X Factor*, *The Sing-Off*, and even *America's Got Talent* have shown the world real talent and given us all a competition to drool over.

But how real are they actually? Sure, some of the winners, such as Kelly Clarkson and Carrie Underwood, go on to have successful singing careers, but how much of the process that go them to where they are today was staged?

I'm speaking specifically of the audition process. Even the most honest of the singing reality shows, *The Voice*, enabling the judges to choose singers for their teams based solely on their voices, must have some sort of pre-audition because surely more than the 50 people shown in "The Blind Auditions" episodes want to be on the show.

Unfortunately, I do not have the time nor the space to discuss all of the things that lead up to that first audition episode for every one of these singing shows, but I was able to talk to a few of SOA's own students who auditioned

for American Idol a few years back and find outside accounts about the "hidden barriers," for lack of a better term, to America's oldest singing reality show. I looked for the commonly accepted "truths" (myths) about the show and compared them to the facts given to me by Senior Vocal majors Madelyn Knight and Bianca Palillo, who auditioned in 2011.



Myth #1: The contestants all audition for the celebrity judges. The televised audition is their first audition.

The most emphasized fact I found from every one of my sources was that there are many rounds of judging; thus not everyone gets to audition for whomever the celebrity judges may be for that season. The first audition level, taking place nearly two months prior to the televised, celeb auditions, occurs in a semi-mob format in front of talent scouts.

Aspiring singers arrive at their audition as early as three in the morning - or earlier - simply to wait in one line for a few hours in order to wait in another line inside the audition location. After several more hours, the singers are divided into groups of four and each group is assigned to one of twelve booths in which two talent scouts are waiting. The booths are divided by thin curtains and the insides can be seen from the groups of people waiting, so the privacy many may like while auditioning is hardly available. Each person has 30 seconds to sing for the talent scouts before either getting to move on or having their official audition wristbands clipped and being sent home.

Both Madelyn and Bianca were sent home after this first round because they "weren't what they were looking for, but had good qualities."

The next level of auditions is judged by the producers of the program, the following level the executive producers, then, finally, the four celebrity judges.

"Those who get through the round of auditions judged by the producers are told that some of them are "horrible" singers. You read that correctly - some of the singers are put through because they are so bad."

Myth #2: Every "judge" has some sort of musical background.

Seeing as it is not a requirement of a television show producer or executive producer to have any sort of musical background, regardless of the type of show they work for, it would make sense that not every judge has experience with music. The point of having the producers and executive producers of the show oversee two levels of auditions seems to be to weed out the mediocre and boring. At the very first audition, singers must fill out a form about their life story; those who are not interesting enough are sent home. As one source who went through the audition process put it, "it is not a singing contest - it is a reality TV show." Making the show interesting certainly seems to be the priority.

Those who get through the round of auditions judged by the producers are told that some of them are "horrible" singers. You read that correctly - some of the singers are put through because they are so *bad*. This is yet another ploy used

o keep the snow interesting.

(Side note: one account of the first level of auditions claimed that anyone even remotely affiliated with the show - "light guys, assistant to assistant producers, a girl from the vending station" - was a judge in one of the twelve booths. This factor was not mentioned in any of the other interviews and thus may not be entirely true, but as it were, it would further back up my point.)

Myth #3: Most of the people in the lines hoping to audition act crazy or dress up in costumes.

Many of the clips shown in the final cut of the show feature crowds with some random guy dressed up as a banana or a pumpkin, as in the case of Madelyn and Bianca's auditions site, or wearing some other absurd outfit. There are so many, in fact, that it may seem as though every other person is wearing a costume. While this is not the case, those people certainly get more attention than those who come simply ready to audition. If your primary purpose is to get on TV, "dress up like a pumpkin," as Madelyn put it.

Myth #4: Everyone has an equal opportunity to get on the show.

Unfortunately, as much as I would like to believe otherwise, this is not true. A reality show can only stay on the air as long as it interests its viewers, and sometimes a spectacular voice isn't enough. Unless you are the next Christina Aguilera at only 13-years-old, you have to have some sort of elaborate backstory to keep the show interesting. People like a good story more than a good voice. And by "people" I mean the unartistic masses, because, obviously, anyone from an arts school knows better.

Shows such as *American Idol* are highly unlikely to be what they seem on television because they are just that: shows. They are shows meant to captivate audiences, and sadly the way to do that is not as cut and dry as presenting the best singers and having them compete for the top spot.

While neither Bianca nor Madelyn plan on auditioning again, neither regrets auditioning. Opportunities such as professional auditions are great life experiences whether you wish to become a professional singer or not because they give you a small taste of what show biz is actually like. Despite having to arrive in the wee hours of the morning, all of my sources found the experience worthwhile and interesting, plus Madelyn got to touch Ryan Seacrest.

SOA's college choices over the years: where does the Class of 2014 fit in?

by Ted Anatopoulo

Ted gathered as many of SOA's graduation programs from over the years as he could to discover the trends of where SOA students have attended college. The 2001, 2006, and 2008 Commencement Programs could not be located.

Graduation Day, without a doubt, is the best day of the year. Forget draggedout Christmas, your birthday, Labor Day, St. Patrick's Day, or even beloved Flag Day: Graduation Day's epic magnitude demolishes other wimpy epochs of 24 hours because it is the highly anticipated day on which thousands of new graduates will take that next big step in their lives, eager to take on a whole new meaning of freedom.

For many of those graduating from SOA, that next big step is college: an exciting, and somewhat hectic, journey that requires preparation like no other. Between application forms, essays, campus tours, and scholarships, in addition to eight hours of homework every night, it can be easy to see why so many are diagnosed with senioritis. Students from SOA, however, have a history of an incredibly high college-bound rate. Taking programs of graduation ceremonies from previous years, *Applause* was able to track where SOA students were headed over the past twelve years.

In the year 2002, School of the Arts saw its second graduating class of 65 students. These 65 students represented 27 different colleges, including the College of Charleston, the University of South Carolina, Howard University, Elon University, East Carolina University, UNCG, SCAD, Vassar College, and Morehouse College.

The 2002 class saw 26 students, or 40% of the class, attend the historic College of Charleston. In the years following, the statistic of students attending the College of Charleston remained high. The 2003 graduating class had 15 of its 45 students attend the College of Charleston. Other notable colleges receiving students from the 2003 class include Dartmouth University, George Washington University, Georgia Tech, and Appalachian State University.

The Class of 2004 was significant because it showed a spike in the number of college bound seniors attending out-of-state universities. These include Rutgers

University, New York University, the University of Georgia, Spelman, Tuskegee, and Georgia Tech. The 2004 class had a total of 35 colleges represented. The Class of 2005 sent its students even further from the Palmetto State, with students attending American University, Duke, Colorado, Rochester, North Florida, North Carolina, and Wisconsin. This was the first class where the College of Charleston did not receive the most SOA graduates, as that title went to the University of South Carolina with 16 students to the College of Charleston's 14. Up to 2005, Clemson had still only received one SOA student.

Graduates of 2007, however, saw more students begin to turn back to in-state colleges. The Class of 2007 had almost every in-state college represented, including the College of Charleston, South Carolina, Charleston Southern, Coastal Carolina, Francis Marion, Columbia College, Limestone College, SC State, Winthrop, Converse, The Citadel, Furman, Wofford, USC-Upstate, and USC-Beaufort. The following Class of 2009 saw 40 colleges represented, the most of any class up to that point in SOA history.

The Class of 2010 saw over 50 colleges represented, including Davidson, Harvard, George Washington, Penn, Georgetown, Rice, and Boston Conservatory. No other class saw more than one Ivy League attendant, but 2010, as you can see, saw two. Nineteen students in the Class of 2011 attended Clemson, a dramatic increase from the Class of 2010, who owned the previous record of eight students.

What has caused the SOA student body to consistently expand in the number of colleges represented? As the reputation of our school continues to grow, so do our students' confidence in where they will be accepted. Long gone are the days where nearly half the class attends the College of Charleston. Our students today are continuing to venture out across the country to find the college that best fits them.



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image post-SOA

by Madeleine Vath

Christiana Keinath, last year's valedictorian, opens up to Applause about her accomplishments and aspirations at USC Honors College.

Madeleine Vath: Is the USC Honors environment challenging?

Christiana Keinath: Yes. It can be as challenging as you like, depending on which courses you take and how involved you are. There is usually, true to the advertising, a palpable difference between the level of interest and dedication in an honors class and that in a non-honors class, which I appreciate.



(R to L) Christiana Keinath and Sam Clyburn, members of USC's Feminist Collective, in a march on the International Day of Peace.

MV: What are you majoring in?

CK: I am enjoying being a biology major, not least because I've been able to improve my prowess with a scalpel. I'm very much looking forward to the next level of bio classes and I'm also planning to declare an English minor and a neuroscience minor next year.

MV: What are some of the major accomplishments you have made since graduating from SOA?

CK: I have mastered the art of doing my own laundry! Well, and I was an assistant in a plant pathology lab over the summer and I aced a 400-level honors English class first semester. In all seriousness though, I would argue that becoming a functionally independent human being is not an insignificant achievement for anyone.

MV: Are you still at the top of your class? **CK:** Well, I'm certainly not at the bottom! All I

currently know is that I should close this semester with a 4.0 in hand, as long as I go forth boldly and destroy my examinational foes.

MV: What do you do in your free time?

CK: A little bit of everything, from community service and Bible study to iceskating, museum visiting, and writing to Netflix marathons and ice cream with my best friend. And occasionally I read things like Self Comes to Mind: Constructing the Conscious Brain, by Antonio Damasio. I'd still recommend it, though it was slightly over my head.

MV: What leadership positions have you taken up since leaving SOA?

CK: I became an active member of the Feminist Collective, USC's feminist organization, and with them I help spread the message that feminism is simply about equality for all genders. We held a "die-in" this year, during which we lay spread-eagle over a pedestrian pathway displaying signs meant to draw attention to the somber reality of domestic violence. I was also interviewed about this for the school newspaper.

"I have mastered the art of doing my own laundry!"

MV: Do you use your major every day?

CK: I certainly used my creative skills first semester, when I took a book-making class. All four of my books have hand-sewn bindings, and one is entirely filled with watercolor patterns and pen-and-ink drawings. Since then, I've just ended up with very elaborately adorned margins in my notebooks! So, I will be on the lookout for new opportunities in the fall.

MV: Where do you hope to be ten years from now?

CK: I hope to have earned a Ph.D. and be working to establish myself in the field of neuroscience.

Christiana Keinath keeping up her Nick Bentzmaking strides in musical composition

by Desiree Horlbeck

Nick Bentz, last year's salutatorian, discusses his recent musical accomplishments in his freshman year at The Peabody Institute at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore where he is a double major in composition and violin performance.



Nick Bentz, musical genius.

Desiree Horlbeck: Are you considering continuing your SOA major, Vocal, in the future?

Nick Bentz: In a way I am still pursuing Vocal in that I've been involved in three opera productions so far (albeit all in the pit), and the training I received at SOA regarding vocal music has definitely helped me here at Peabody. However, as a career, I definitely see myself as a composer. It's just more fun for me to conjure up worlds rather than to interpret them for an audience. There's something very amazing in the action of allowing someone into a universe entirely of your own creation, letting them interact with a piece of you that could never be put into words. That's one of the main reasons that I put my all into composition: there

is a huge sense of liberation in vocalizing these things that can't find any other way out, and sharing that experience with an audience is an added bonus.

DH: What inspired you to pursue a career in music?

NB: I've always felt like music was something I was bound to end up in one way or another, and I've had hundreds if not thousands of moments that have told me that this was the path to choose. But if I had to be more specific, I would say that the

event that really opened my eyes to the idea of being in music (and, in particular, a composer) occurred three years ago during the Spoleto Festival. My composition teacher at the time recommended that I go see the production of a new opera, Émilie by Kaija Saariaho. I had no idea what to expect, but I was shocked with the amazing sounds I heard. She created some textures that I've never heard before, weaving sounds together masterfully, and I was in awe the entire show. After I experienced that, I wanted to be able to somehow replicate the same astonishment I experienced with my own

"It's just more fun for me to conjurg up worlds rather than to interpret them for an audiénce."

music. You could say that I'm constantly trying to surprise myself with what flows out of me. Seeing that opera was definitely one of the most significant, if not the most significant, moments in my artistic development so far.

DH: How did you feel when you were first informed that the Charleston Symphony wanted to perform your composition?

NB: I have to admit, at first it's nothing short of daunting. The Charleston Symphony has put their faith in me, and I'll have to deliver the best artistic response I can muster. Also, writing a piece for a larger ensemble means I have to cater to a larger audience, so there's a little less room for experimentation, since there are now patrons and ticket sales on the line. This piece is by nature going to have to be more conservative, which is something that I've never tried to do before. I normally shy away from tonality in general, or at least try to balance it with something more exciting for me, but this is the challenge in writing a larger piece: you need to find your voice while at the same time trying to accommodate the audience. I'm sure that getting this piece to satisfy both the audience as well as myself will be tough, but that's the beauty in it. All in all this is an exciting project. I'm grateful for this opportunity and I can't wait to see how it turns out. [continued on Page 22] [continued from Page 21] DH: Who is the biggest influence on your music in regards to both performance and composition?

NB: As far as performance goes, my teachers are definitely my biggest influences. They gave me the technique that I have and make sure that I'm always operating at 100%. Composition is (of course) a much more complicated story. By nature, my teachers Kevin Puts and Yiorgos Vassilandonakis are huge influences on my work, as they observe my process and advise me in my pieces. Outside of my teachers are my colleagues. There are only three freshman composers at Peabody, and two of us have definitely bonded over the past year. We're always editing and helping each other out, harvesting a mutual creative bond between us. In the larger world, there are definitely some amazing composers to look at such as Magnus Lindberg and George Crumb, just to name a few. Beyond that, I am a huge fan of Benjamin Britten. He wrote some amazing stuff and I can never get bored with his music. Also up there with Britten is Erich Wolfgang Korngold. Known primarily as a film composer during the Golden Age of Hollywood, Korngold basically invented the "Hollywood" sound that we think of today. A lot of people fail to realize the extent of his work outside of the movies, which is unfortunate, because I feel that some of the best pieces from the past hundred years are yet to move into the mainstream because of the stigma he received as a film composer. Composers aside, I listen to everything from Gregorian Chant to Biggie to Buddy Holly in order to ascertain a greater grip on music in general. After all, music is music.

Valedictorian shares her study habits and interest in art conservation

by Madeleine Vath

This year's valedictorian is Amanda Kasman: a Visual Arts major looking to pursue a career in art conservation. Applause spoke to Amanda about her successful high school career and how she hopes it has prepared her for her future.



Amanda in unit 1055 which she worked on the majority of her time at Archeology camp.

Madeleine Vath: What methods have you employed over your high school career to ensure your place as valedictorian?

Amanda Kasman: Though I will list some of my practices, the following advice can be summed up as "be competitive." I don't know to what degree one's competitiveness can be changed. I discovered I was competitive as a sophomore and I think having a drive to surpass expectations was key for my success. In terms of homework, I always did it.

I don't think it was rational to do it all because some of it I am sure was busy work, but I did it anyway. Some of the things I memorize I am quite

sure will not be on the test, because the details are so minute or the information is clearly in excess. I memorize these anyway just to see if I can, and more importantly to learn and know as much as I can. This last bit was especially true when I began to worry that I wasn't worthy for such a title as valedictorian. I don't think this is a major scientific discovery, but seeing how this year's and last year's valedictorian and salutatorian were from Visual Arts and Vocal, respectively, I think there are some conclusions that can be drawn about those majors. I can speak for AP Visual Arts: it is horribly unfair that Visual Arts gets an AP credit while other majors don't and the grades in this class are typically at either extreme, very high or very low, because there are only 4-6 grades a quarter. So to be valedictorian just be in Visual Arts.

MV: What college are you planning on attending and why?

AK: For several years, my interest and study of art conservation has strengthened my certainty that I would thoroughly enjoy it as a career. By focusing on this career path, I applied to the four universities that offer art conservation BAs and other universities that were strong in chemistry and art history, the two primary components of art conservation. After a very stressful season, I committed to the University of Delaware in Newark which has a well renowned art conservation department including 17 conservators on staff with whom I have already acquainted myself and a widely recognized internship at Winterthur. I look forward to meeting likeminded people, getting hands-on training at the undergraduate level, and being in close proximity to some of the nation's best cities.

MV: What career do you plan on pursuing and how has your position as valedictorian helped prepare you thus far?

AK: The incredibly kind staff at University of Delaware tell me that graduate programs in art conservation are extremely selective, allowing as few as 7-10 students per year, and my experiences thus far are on track to prepare me for such competitivism. On a lighter note, I am incentivized by the alluring prospect of a full stipend at all the available slots. Wish me luck!

"It doesn't bother me now that my ideal weekend experience is to paint with watercolors...but I wonder if the gravity of this will hit me next ygar."

MV: What was your most enjoyable high school experience? AK: Jump, Jive & Wail stands out in my

memory. SOA students always say there is no bullying at this school and, as I have attended SOA my entire life, it seems that if there is one place in which there is sheer unity, universal respect, and shared pride regardless of grade level, major, or clique it is at Jump, Jive & Wail. It also satisfies my dream to live as though it were another century.

MV: What types of things do you do with your free time?

AK: My interest in art conservation has give way to several off-shoot interests including archeology, millinery, costume design, and fashion design, each of which I dabble in. The eureka moment when I first considered art conservation as a career occurred while traveling abroad, which is always fun. And most of all, I look at, get inspired by, and think endlessly about art. On another note, here is a warning: a clear drawback of my aforementioned competitiveness is the isolationism that I fear it has brought on. It doesn't bother me now that my ideal weekend experience is to paint with watercolors in my room while listening to This American Life, Wait Wait . . . Don't Tell Me, Car Talk, and A Prairie Home Companion, but I wonder if the gravity of this will hit me next year.

MV: What advice do you have for underclassmen who are striving to be at the top of their class?

AK: Though I do set goals for myself, being in the top ten percent of the 2014 class was not an interest or goal of mine until after the honor was bestowed upon me. The specificity of this honor means that there WILL be a valedictorian and salutatorian whether or not we create world peace or the planet plunges into an ice age. I guess what I am saying is that everyone reading this has a high statistical probability of having high class rank. To all future recipients of this honor, I wish the best. If you are striving to be at the top of the class, don't fret over it. If you get it, all it means is you were the one kid stupid enough to do all that busy work.

Salutatorian describes his approach to school

by Madeleine Vath

This year's salutatorian, Jess Rames, is a Vocal major interested in radiology and biochemistry. Applause asked him about how he got to where he is rank-wise and where he plans to go from here.

Madeleine Vath: What methods have you employed over your high school career to ensure your place as salutatorian?

Jess Rames: I find that the easiest way to be successful in my classes is to find something about each subject that I find truly fascinating. Things come easier if I enjoy the work as I'm doing it. Even the classes that would normally bore me can

be compelling if I view the subject material as a challenge, not minutia. MV: What college are you planning on attending?

IR: I have chosen to attend Clemson Honors College. Before deciding, I was debating between Clemson Honors and Chapel Hill; I was drawn to the friendly atmospheres at both. Many of the schools I have visited seemed stressful. I would rather enjoy where I am then attend a school because of its well-renowned reputation and name.

"I would rather enjoy where I am then attend a school because of its well-renowned reputation."

MV: What career do you plan on pursuing and how has your position as salutatorian helped prepare you thus far?

JR: I hope to become an Interventional Radiologist or work in a field of research as a biochemist. I feel that it is more the classes that I have taken that have helped shape my interests than my academic position. Teachers such as Dr. Price and Mr. Short have helped ignite my interests in the field I plan to further study.

MV: What was your most enjoyable high school experience?

JR: It would be hard to constrain my experiences to a single event, as I have enjoyed so much of what School of the Arts has offered. I have loved getting to work alongside many of my peers in the performing arts; however, it is impossible to compete with the feeling of winning my first state championship with my fellow Ravens.

MV: What advice do you have for underclassmen who are striving to be toward the top of their class?

JR: If you had asked anyone my freshman year of high school if I would be academically successful now, they would have probably laughed. I was driven by my interests in mathematics and science; doing well is much easier if it's something you love. Numbers are just numbers in the end though. Find something you love doing. Find people you like being with. High school is not something to stress about. You have so much time ahead of you. Enjoy what you have now!

Will Dodge's Applause experience helps him as a freshman

by Noah Jordan

Applause caught up with former editor Will Dodge to see how his experience with journalism has been helping him in his first year of college.

Noah Jordan: So, Will, you've spent the last two semesters at Emerson in Boston. How was that? Did you like the school?

Will Dodge: My time at Emerson so far has been amazing. Boston is an awesome city, and being at a school at the heart of it all made my freshman year all the more awesome. The workload has been intense, but classes were genuinely great. In the spring, I'll be spending my semester at a castle two hours outside of Amsterdam in Well, Netherlands. Although I'm amped to call Charleston home for the next couple of months, I'll be migrating back North in the fall for my sophomore year excited as ever.



Will Dodge's "Best EDM Show" award.

NJ: And I heard you were a DJ for the college radio station. Did you take any big lessons away from that experience?

WD: Having my own weekly two-hour DJ mix show, and a separate hip hop show with the big homie Brook second semester, was an incredible experience that I plan to stick with in the coming years. I learned about a lot of new and old music and the importance of patience within my own DJing. Emerson's underground station, WECB, is one of the only freeform college radio outposts in the country. To be able to call their studio home a few times a week was truly a privilege. Although I specifically told them in the interview I'd be playing house and techno as opposed to tunes of the "EDM" variety, being named "Best EDM Show" last month was a huge honor. Shouts to everyone who's tuned in, watch out for Barred Out with Bars this fall on weeb.fm. #dontsleep

NJ: Was there anything that you brought to the table at Emerson that you learned from being the Editor of the *Applause last* year?

WD: My experience at the helm of *Applause* was invaluable to my first year up North. All the sleepless nights pouring over page after page of content made me all the more prepared to go the extra mile academically, and I credit it in no small part to my two placements on the Dean's List. Dr. Cusatis' mentorship and the opportunity to work with such a creative staff of writers is something that will stick with me for a long time. Although I switched my major from journalism to marketing/communication before the school year began, I've been considering writing some articles for Emerson's feminist magazine *Isis*... who knows, might have to get that *Applause* syndication on deck.

Making the choice to study abroad

by Desiree Horlbeck

Wanting a taste of the international life? Dying to travel outside of the country and experience a foreign culture? There is a college program just for you! Studying abroad is the opportunity to pursue an education in a country other than your own in a duration of time that can last from about eight weeks to a summer term to an entire academic year. There are four types of programs: island based, integrated, hybrid, and field-based programs. Island based programs allow American students to study along with other American students in a study center. Integrated programs place American students in classes amongst local students at the host university. The hybrid programs mix the island and integrated style of study. Field-based studies allow students a more liberal structure to their education, in which they have field-training, a thematic focus, and an independent study project at the end of the students' time in whatever foreign country they have been studying.

The study abroad program has been a staple in the American higher education system since the 1870's when Indiana University invited students to attend courses in a number of summer sessions in countries such as Italy, Switzerland, and France. However, the first "official" study abroad program was created in the 1920's at the University of Delaware. As the program spread and was adopted by other universities, many grants and scholarships became available to students looking to study abroad. These include the Federal Pell Grant, the Federal Stafford Loan, and the David L. Boren Undergraduate Scholarship for Study Abroad. Two of SOA's alumni have capitalized on the opportunity through their respective colleges. Gabrielle Wolfe, a Fine Arts major from Winthrop University, has recently returned from a sojourn in Florence, Italy, while Katie Clancy, a Psychology and English double major from Clemson University, will be going to the same location this fall.

A lot of thought has to go into the process of studying abroad. Some people, like Gabrielle, have wanted to study abroad since high school, but others, like Katie took the opportunity to benefit from available programs at their colleges. The first step is taken "when you see a flyer, ask your adviser, or go to an 'info session' at your university." Search for information online and then try to attend a basic info session. Info sessions tend to be led by students who have already gone abroad. Katie, for example, was partially persuaded to study abroad because of the enthusiasm and excitement some such students showed.

The process after these steps is different from college to college, but generally students apply for the program they are most interested in and hope that the specific college approves of your expedition. Depending on the program, it may be necessary to apply to the student's selected college, often chosen with the help of an advisor. Once accepted to a program, advisors guide students through the steps in signing up for classes and arranging housing. It is smart to plan ahead. Sometimes the process of



is smart to plan ahead. Sometimes the process can take a very long time, so try to be completely finished with the semester before your chosen going away date.

When choosing a location, many factors have to be considered. It is important to pick a location and culture that will match your personality. Italy is a particularly great location for a Fine Arts major like Gabrielle, as well as most majors, because Italy is a "central location to so many iconic places and landmarks in Europe" and remains a popular location. There are so many things to see and do. Students can hop over to the Grecian islands or Paris for a weekend, visit the Coliseum in Rome, or ride the Gondolas in Venice among other activities.

Cost should also be a factor a student looks into. Expenses for universities such as Lorenzo de'Medici can be paid through the school using the same tuition you pay to the home university. The hardest part about studying abroad will be the language barrier and slowing down or speeding up to match the pace of life in other countries. It will surely be far different from American life. It helps to teach yourself a bit of the language beforehand. Having some knowledge of the language helps you to feel more comfortable in your new environment. In Europe in particular, it tends to be very easy to keep in contact with family and friends through technical advancements in this day and age. Coming back to the States may be a bit strange because of the significant shift in cultures, but the experience is one you would never forget

Applause

SENIOR



Most likely to become MVP athletes: Conor Gatton & Clayton Rosenbaum



Most likely to start his own country:

Alex Wertz



Most likely to accidentally become the protagonists of an anime:

Jesse Holmes & Caroline Cash



Most likely to star in a soap opera: Emma Lieberman & Parrish Brown



Most likely to become Disney princesses:

JayC Claxton & Brooke Bazemore



Madeleine Varh

Most likely to lose all their hair by 25:

McKenzie Betfort

& Timothy Shaw

Applause

SUPERLATIVES



Most likely to be mistaken for teachers: Kat Murchison & Miles Counts



Most likely monogram everything they own: Elizabeth Rose Grech, Sarah Moser, & Patterson Fralix



Most likely to become world renowned fashionistas: Caton Hamrick & Katarina Lanier



Most likely to end up living with twelve cats:
Benji Kidder &
Jessica Martin



Most likely to wear bowties for the rest of their lives: Carter Inabinett, Ethan Courville, Mando Smoak, & Victor Swatzyna



Most likely to not get a superlative: Halle Murphy & Nick Cavanaugh

Best Wishes to the Senior Class from the SOA Administration



Dr. Shannon Cook, Principal

Congratulations, Class of 2014!

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 press through to reach your goals. You are a strong, talented group of students and your experiences at SOA will stay with you as you go on to the next opportunity life offers you. I look forward to hearing about your future successes; I'm certain you will string them together as you take the unique paths that will bend and unfold and eventually reveal who you are and what you are meant to be. 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 in the local community or on the global stage.

With much respect,

Dr. Cook



Ms. Gretchen Looney, HS Assistant Principal

Dear Class of 2014,

Many attempts to write this letter were halted as I became overwhelmed with emotion. I will truly miss each and every one of you. You are a special group of young artists, and your individual talents will take you far. I have learned so much from your class. I am so very proud of you and look forward to learning about your future feats of greatness!

Best wishes,





Mr. Robert Grant, MS Assistant Principal

Senior Class of 2014,

Luck is what happens when preparation meets opportunity.

Passion is what develops when talents, gifts, and ambition are orchestrated on one accord.

Achievement is what is accomplished when honesty, character, integrity, faith, love, and loyalty are your core values.

It's show time! The fireworks begin now... each diploma a lighted match, each of you...a fuse.

Mr. Grant



Abby Michele Rumph We are so proud of the amazingly talented, beautiful and compassionate woman you have become and look forward to seeing what God has in store for you as you leave SOA and journey out into the world. Remember your Faith, Family and Friends are always here for you no matter where life takes you. Boo, we loved you even before you were born, 'Way Past the Max'!

CLASS S

Cooper Donoho



Cooper, since you were little we have known that you would do great things. So proud of you!

Love, your family

Rachel Hunsinger



Rachel, we are so proud of all that you have accomplished and we look forward to what is in store for you in the future.

We love you! Mom, Dad and Molly



Caroline Cash

Caroline Cash is graduating from SOA!

Like other gifted Charlestonians, Stephen Colbert & Abby Rumph, you will go out into the world and be a huge success!

Much Love, Mom, Dad, Alex and Lucky









Jess Rames

Who would have guessed this little boy would grow into such a "Beast"? We are proud of you, Jess Rames!

Love, Mom, Dad & Sam



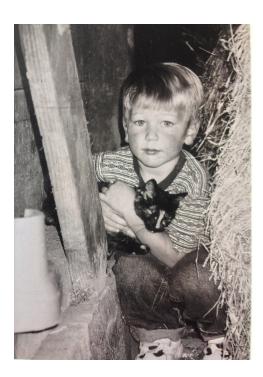




Amanda Kasman

Congratulations and love always to Amanda Kasman, our excellent, superlatively talented, gorgeous grand-daughter of distinction from Grandpa Jim and Grandma Bert. Yes, we're bragging!

Ben Cohn



Ben, we are so proud of your progression with your performance academically & musically over the last four years! Best wishes @ MTSU!

Love, Mom & Dad



Mariama Brown



Mariama, you are a precious gift. See yourself as that person God design you to be. He is the lights to your path.

Callie Mathias



Congratulations, Callie! We are so proud of you! Love, Mommy, Daddy, and Anna

Anna Bostick



Anna,

You did it Baby Girl and we are so proud of you! We are looking forward to see where your next jourey will take you! Congratulations! WE LOVE YOU TO THE MOON AND BACK!

Mom and Dad

Jeremiah 29:11

Olivia Doniphan



Congratulations, Olivia!
We can't wait to hear you say "I got it!"
We are so very proud of you!
Love you always,
Mom and Dad

Ashlyn Spitz

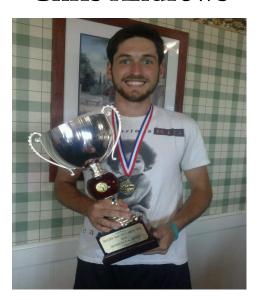


Your focus, perseverance and attitude will continue to empower you to achieve your goal of becoming a veterinarian. We know you will continue to do amazing things with your life! You're a treasure!

We Love You,

Mom and Dad

Chris Andrews

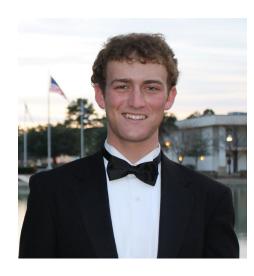


Proud, happy, excited, no matter how we say it, you did it! Well done, Christopher!

Love,

Mom, Dad and David

Marc DeLoach







CONGRATULATIONS!!

What a great experience at SOA!! What anamazing inspiration you are! You led us to victory in sailing, delighted us in "Jump, Jive and Wail", showed us why helping others is such a powerful blessing, and transformed every daunting challenge into an unquestioned success!

Your remarkable enthusiasm, your powerful optimism, and your excitement for life are why your friends and family find being around you so much fun! With delight, we celebrate your success with you. With confidence, we look forward to your bright future that awaits. Marc, you have made us all extremely proud!!

With much Love,

Dad, Mom, Sarah, your extended family and your countless friends and fans!!! You did it!!

Conor Gatton



Conor we are so proud of the young man you have become. We love you so much!

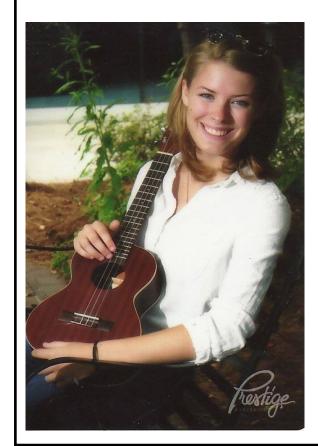
Dad, Mom, and Kellen

Jessica Martin



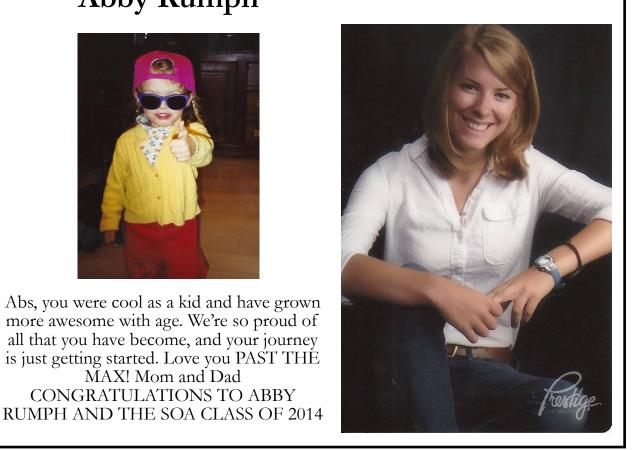
"All you need is faith, and trust, and a little bit of pixie dust"
-Peter Pan
With Love,
Mom, Dad, Nanni and Grandpa

Abby Rumph





Abs, you were cool as a kid and have grown more awesome with age. We're so proud of all that you have become, and your journey is just getting started. Love you PAST THE MAX! Mom and Dad CONGRATULATIONS TO ABBY



Katri Heitman



Katri, We are so proud of your hard work, commitment to excellence and passion for our natural world. Love,

Dad, Mom, Karl & Pippen

Justice Murray



Congratulations! We are proud of you and are excited about all that God is going to do in your life. - Jerome, Fran, Savasha, Jasmine, Jessica

Isabelle Jur



Ode to Isabelle
"I look wicked in leopard" should have been your first words,

Days spent singing on a turtle outside with the birds.

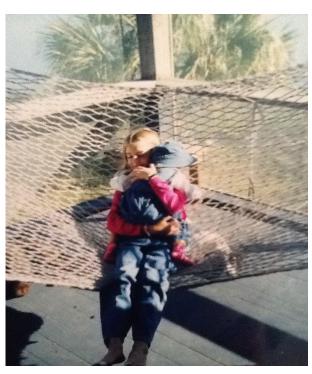
"Man, I feel like a woman" with stockings worn high, led
quickly to Ke\$ha and glitter, oh my!

Now a beautiful young woman to this place we've been led/We wish you the best as you soar ahead.

PROM DRESS

Love from Dad, Mom, Austin and Thomas

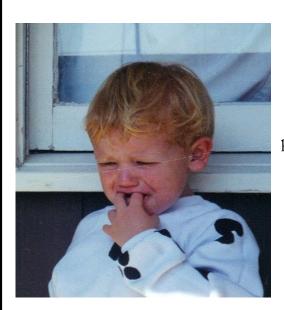
Abby Rumph



Congratulations on everything you've accomplished at SOA, academic and artistic.

Montreat is lucky to have you! Love, Jessie

Ben Rindge



Ben Rindge

You've taken the path less traveled and we are so proud of you for that! Great things await at CofC!

Love, your Fam

Sarah Moser



Go confidently in the direction of your dreams.

Live the life you have imagined. We love you!

Mom, Dad, Mary Claire, Grandma and Papa

Tyler Sim



Tyler, we are so very proud of the young man you have become. You are smart and talented and we know you will be successful in everything that you do. We love you! Mom, Dad, Elliot and Christopher

Delaney Hogan



Congratulations on your graduation! We are so proud of your hard work and accomplishments! Love, Mom, Dad, Chloe, and Mariah

Abby Rumph



Congratulations, Abby! Now it's time to step out boldly into the world. Remember to think critically, live ethically, love extravagantly, and listen first.

Love, C

Rachel Burnett



"You are a wonderful creation. You know more than you think you know, just as you know less than you want to know."

-Oscar Wilde, The Picture of Dorian Gray

Desiree Horlbeck



I'm VERY proud of you! Aim high and follow your dreams. No doubt that you will be successful...and then you can pay me back! Lol Love you!

Ali Brown



Congratulations Ali on Your High School Graduation! We are very proud of you and your accomplishments! Always be true to yourself, reach for the stars and pursue your dreams!!

Love, Mom and Dad!!!!

Olivia Pharis



Oliva Grace Pharis

We couldn't be more proud of you, your accomplishments, and the lovely lady you have become.

We are so excited to watch your future unfold.

"May he give you the desire of your heart and make all your plans succeed."

We love you forever and always.

Mom, Dad, and Lillian.

Harris Lynam

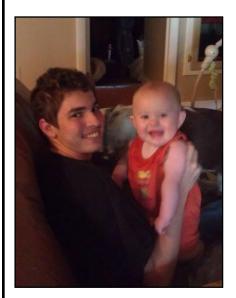
Applause





The whole family is proud of Harris Lynam, two time national winner of the Scholastic Writing Award, and an authentic explorer of Middle Earth.

Joshua Clarke





Congrats to Joshua Clarke on your graduation from Charleston SOA! We are so proud of you and wish you success! Mommy, Keith, Alden, Justin, & Jackson

Ansley Warford



Ansley-We are so proud of the beautiful woman you have become, and cannot wait to see all the wonderful things you will do! Watch out world, here comes our little red head, and yes, she is wearing monogrammed sassy pants!! Keep being you! We love you! Momma, MOD, Ben

Nori Page



Nori Page...We love you forever and always. Mom, Dad, Pete and Patrick. For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11

Andrew Byrd



ANDREW BYRD: Congratulations and best wishes as you go away to App State!
From Mom, Dad and William.



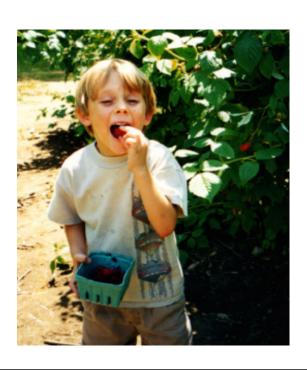
(Though why you would want to leave us a mystery!)

Matt Watson



Congratulations, Matt!
We are SO proud of you!
From the moment you entered our lives, you have brought us joy!

Love, Mom and Dad



Laila Tesenair



Laila,
You've been around the world and seen a few things. Heck, you're almost grown up. But you'll always be our little girl! We've got your back,
Mom and Dad



Madeleine Vath



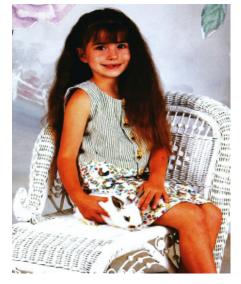
We are so proud of you and wait with bated breath to see what God has planned for you next.

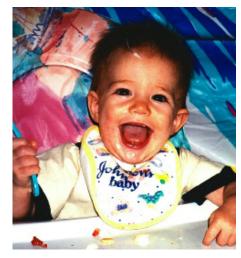
Love, Mummy & Dad











What is the most important thing you have learned at SOA?

Eduardo Abreu: Friendship is important it alone. Life is a gift, and no matter grade.

Sade Adewale: Words travel fast in small communities. That can be good or bad. **CJ** Anderson: The most important very hardest so you can be proud of everything you produce.

education and the value of friendship.

individuality and seeking attention. Brittany Baxley: To truly admire art in Marc DeLoach: To do what I want to all its different forms.

Grace Benigni: I've learned that if you change yourself for other people, you will never be happy.

Anna Bostick: The most important thing I have learned at SOA is to be accepting of

Ali Brown: The most important thing will reflect you as a person most of all. that SOA has taught me over the last *David Doboszenski*: At SOA I learned not harder. seven years is to not care about what sometimes the hardest questions are the **Rose Houpe:** To appreciate the arts. other people think about me.

Parrish Brown: Being proud of who you are. No matter the learning disability, sexuality, skin color, or size. Only God is perfect!

Mariama Brown: Sometimes you have at everything you do. to stay places and do things that you don't want to do for your best interest so you can leave school at lunch. later in life. Something that's awful now might be great for you later.

other fields of art.

Andrew Byrd: The most important thing to repeat that twelve that I've learned at SOA is how to work well with other musicians. I had never played in an ensemble before I moved to fun at SOA you should SOA, and the experience I have gained change something so in this field has been invaluable.

Caroline Cash: The most important Carlo Garcia: The thing I've learned? To avoid teenage most important thing angst at all costs.

Nick Cavanaugh: The most important how to work well with thing I have learned at SOA is how to be others, even if I have a responsible student and adult.

JayC Claxton: The most important Conor Gatton: "Shoot thing I learned at SOA was that it was for the moon, even if one thing that made me shine.

Ben Cohn: Always be yourself, being mentor Mr. Hammes. Thanks, you the best thing you can do. lame is better than being fake.

thing I've learned here is to try your dance, to joke, to laugh, to sing off-key, to cry, to work, and to simply exist with

Chris Andrews: Over the seven years Ethan Courville: I learned the and respect. at SOA I've learned the importance of importance of maintaining an open mind and tolerance.

Matt Baker: The difference between *Lucy Davenny:* SOH CAH TOA - Mrs. Rickson

do and not to care so much about what other people think. Jordan DiGregorio: Delaney Hogan:

Writing is hard.

easiest to ask.

Cooper Donoho: How miserable life is when you try (and fail) to be successful

Rashaad Edwards: How to transpose

Allison Burke: I learned to appreciate *Emily Fairchild*: I've learned to have fun. I know that's silly—I know I'm going

> times in this survey, but if you aren't having that you do

I learned at SOA is differences with them.

taught me everything I know.

Miles Counts: If there's one thing that Elizabeth Rose Grech: The value of the yourself; don't let others judge you and or not. If you are happy with who you I've learned is that you don't have to go knowledge and not just the number don't get caught up in drama... SOA is are and what you believe in, it's all good.

Katie Heinen: The value of friendship Carly Ĥildebrand: I've learned how to keep an open mind watching when performances and collaborating with my fellow Dance majors.

Structured arts class and binding thesis thing I've learned at SOA SOA is... Jeez, Sydney Dixon: The requirements allow for unlimited, that's a hard one... Whatever happens, important unparalleled artistic freedom!

thing I've learned is *Brandy Holcomb:* To try your best and that you will always never give up on anything.

be assessed by your *Desiree Horlbeck:* Throughout all of my work ethic and it years at SOA, the most important thing I've learned was how to work smarter,

Rachel Hunsinger: I've definitely Olivia Doniphan: Do your Bronk learned a lot about communication while attending SOA. Through my

experiences here I've realized that if you thing I've learned at SOA is to be yourself want to be able to put forth something and to accept and love others for who great, an idea or a piece of art, you have they are. Karl Edwards: Be friends with Mr. Kerr to be able to not only communicate the Jackson Knowlton: That SOA is unlike skills to communicate how you want to get to the final project.

Carter Inabinett: The severity of a code look, act, or feel as a person. yellow lock down.

Jensen: *Isabelle Jur:* I have but be productive. others think.

The most important musician and as a person.

that I wasn't going to be accepted in Pre-Algebra. But I also learned how to with so many memories and friendships way than another person. society but that that was going to be the be looking fresh as helicopter when and I can't believe everything is coming Jessica Martin: The most important

famous for drama!

how burdensome it can seem at its Caton Hamrick: The most important Amanda Kasman: After seven years dimmest, we all get the special, almost thing I've learned at SOA is that the best balancing art and academics, we holy opportunity to share it with others; feeling in the world is finishing your have honed our skills at achieving we should cherish the fact that we get to homework at least a full hour before it's both our academic and artistic goals

simultaneously. In the same way, there is no need for us to settle for just one in our career. There are so many ways to blend history, science, math, English, and art in a fulfilling, lifelong occupation.

Brandon Kerr: To be vourself, do vou.

Benji Kidder: absolute most important

no matter grades, friends, family, or whatever, you must always do your work. I know: that's a no brainer, but for me, I took that for granted, and nearly bit it at the end. However, when you are drowning in work, no matter what, don't give up, and keep going. I think that has saved me multiple times at SOA.

Ellen Kitchens: The friendship!!!!!!!!

Madelyn Knight: The most important

final piece to others, but also have the any other school when it comes to having friendships. The students here are very accepting regardless of how you

Will Koste: The most important thing that I have learned at SOA is that my learned how to be friends always have my back.

confident speaking Katarina Lanier: Prioritize your in front of crowds. I seriousness, but not too much.

learned how to write *Marco Lanier:* The most important papers in one night. thing I've learned at SOA is how to relax

learned to be myself *Victoria Lewis:* Be yourself no matter and not care what what anyone else says or thinks.

Emma Lieberman: I learned a lot about *Emily Kahn-Perry:* who I am and who I want to be as a

thing I've learned at *Pierce Maheu:* I've learned that all art SOA is to make the is subjective and entirely based upon alright to be different. I learned that just you miss you'll land among the stars." most of the time you have. The three interpretation. One person can see or because I was an oddball didn't mean Ms. Wojo taught me this in sixth grade years I've spent at SOA have been filled hear something a completely different

> the federal agents are watching by my to an end. Cherishing the moments is thing I learned at SOA is not to be afraid to be yourself; it does not matter whether Ellison Karesh: Two things... Be you fit into the mold that society builds

Vol. 15 No. 7 Applause Senior Surveys June 2014 Page 35 What is the most important thing you have learned at SOA?

Justin Mercado: It's important to decide individualism who you are and what you believe, or creativity. you won't really know what to do with Alex Peeples: What time your life.

Caitlyn Miller: To just be myself and Elizabeth Pena: to accept yourself and your life. Another most important thing I've thing that is just as important that I learned at SOA is to never learned was theatre history and facts by stop dreaming because in Mr. George Younts.

Sarah Moser: Never give up.

Katherine Murchison: Pay close attention to the people around you. Your -9.81 m/s². peers, especially at an arts school, are Olivia Pharis: How to all extremely talented. Support them in appreciate working with their endeavors.

thing I've learned from my seven years at SOA is that hard work in your major such a distinguished major as the Vocal rigorous training and dedication. the last detail, making for immaculate ones. Take them.

the rare occasion something does go wrong, the directors of department the always take full responsibility and reward us for our efforts despite the faults. These past few years as a Vocal student

have taught me

the value of good faculty members in the better than kids. a time to work and a time to play.

always hidden potential within everyone. school.

Amber Myers: The most important thing I've learned at SOA is that by the end of the year, you are happy to leave high school and all the drama that the people there create.

Nori Page: The most important thing I learned at SOA is that it's alright to be because no one will judge you.

the end you'll achieve your goals in life.

Oliver Peneger: Gravity is

other artists.

Jess Rames: I have learned to conquer always pays off. I love being involved in my fear of public performance through

fairly. After a long day of reviewing pieces all people no matter what they've done. days before a concert, we Vocal majors Abby Rumph: The most important are greeted with positive, constructive thing I have learned at SOA is that there criticism to refine the sound of the are endless opportunities to become a choir. The Vocal Department budgets better person, to meet new friends, and its time wisely, perfecting each song to to improve relationships with the old

performances like "Shake Your Groove Bonnie Scarborough: The most Thing" and Beauty and the Beast. On important thing I have learned at SOA

is that working hard and being passionate about what you love will make you successful.

Bethany Schroeder: back.

learned arts I wouldn't have acquired at other schools.

Tyler Sim: Adults don't always know

arts, equal opportunity, and that there is Alston Singletary: Over the last four years, I have learned to be open to all Justice Murray: The most important kinds of people. We're all different and thing I've learned at SOA is that there is those differences should be celebrated, not discouraged.

I also learned who my genuine friends Ashley Smalls: Through my seven years were throughout my seven years at this at SOA I've learned that hard work and perseverance in school will allow me to become successful in any career of my choosing after high school. SOA has also taught me to enjoy the little moments in

> Taylor Smith: I have learned how to perform in front of large amounts of people.

yourself. Everyone is so creative here. *Mando Smoak:* The most important It makes it easier to stand on your own thing I've learned at SOA is how to be more accepting. While in attendance at Bena Parker: I learned the value of SOA, I've become more open to ideals



my fellow classmates have, which has allowed me to develop many friendships from people that grew up in different sociological, economic, and ethnic backgrounds from mine.

James Solomon: I've learned that nothing you imagine is too hard to reach. That as long as you can fathom it, it is obtainable. If I learned anything from attending this school, it is that it

Halle Murphy: The most important Morgan Powers: Do not take life for builds your character, and whether it be good or bad, there is always an influence that will stick with you forever. So it's your choice to decide what you want to be influenced by.

Department because everyone is treated *Clayton Rosenbaum*: I learned to respect *Ashlyn Spitz*: There are two very important things I have learned in my many years at SOA. One is how to be an independent, creative individual. I have learned how to freely express myself through art and take pride in the work I create. The other major thing I have learned is the importance of friendship and coming together as a class to live and learn together.

> *Michael Stevens:* I've learned at SOA that a person has to be open to new people and their opinions.

> Victor Swatzyna: No matter how many absences you have, Ms. Peeler's got your

an Margaret Szwast: Time management, appreciation for the and I am still learning.

Caroline Tweedy: It's cheesy but I learned an appreciation for the arts I couldn't have gotten elsewhere. I attend every show I can if I can afford it from the Charleston Jazz Orchestra, concerts, Charleston Stage, Woolfe Street, Piccolo, SOA performances, etc. Though I could never imagine pursuing theatre, I have chosen a major cultivated from the respect for the arts I've gained over the

Tyler Vandygrift: The most important thing I have learned at SOA is a true appreciation for the arts that I could not have gotten if I opted to attend any other school in the area, namely if I had chosen to attend Academic Magnet for high school instead

Madeleine Vath: No matter what life throws at you, you have to react in a way that is true to your character, to who you are, or you will be selling yourself short.

Ansley Warford: Be yourself and don't gossip.

Matt Watson: The most important thing I've learned is how to learn.

Alex Wertz: That the most important thing is to have fun over all else.

Logan A. Williams: Don't be afraid to be yourself.

Logan B. Williams: I came to SOA loving dance, but I've learned to appreciate all art forms.

Joseph Yu: The most important thing I learned at SOA is not to slack off too



Hogan:

were

What quote do you want to be remembered by?

Eduardo Abreu: "Procrastination is or get out of my way" the art of keeping up with yesterday." **Sade Adewale:** "You are wrong if you think Joy emanates only from human relationships. God has placed it all around us; it is in everything and anything we might experience." -Christopher McCandless

CJ Anderson: "Each day I count wasted in which there has been no dancing." -Friedrich Niezsche

Destini Anderson: "Destiny is not a matter of chance, but a choice. Not something to wish for but to attain." Chris Andrews: "Real G's move in

silence like lasagna" – Lil Wayne *Matt Baker*: "Meow"

Brittany Baxley: "An effort made for the happiness of others lifts above ourselves." – Ľvdia Child

Grace Benigni: "I'm just a gwirl"

Ali Brown: "It is during our darkest moments that we must focus to see the light." - Aristotle Onassis

Parrish Brown: "The ultimate measure of a person is not where they stand in comfort and convenience, but where they stand in times of conflict and inconvenience." - Martin Luther King Jr. Mariama Brown: "Great minds discuss ideas. Average minds discuss events.

Small minds discuss people." - Eleanor Roosevelt

Allison Burke: "Change is good"

– The Lion King Andrew Byrd: "There is nothing new under the sun, but there are lots of old things we don't know." -

Ambrose Bierce

Caroline Cash: "Gary was here, Ash is

Sam Cass: "The best form of revenge is tremendous success." - Frank Sinatra

Nick Cavanaugh: "With time what once was your tragic flaw can become your strongest advantage."

Jalesia Claxton: "You will never get a second chance to make a first impression so shine while you can!"

Ben Cohn: "İt's better to keep your mouth shut and appear stupid than open it and remove all doubt."

Michael Convertino: "You do not have to be profound, just whatever comes to mind.

Miles Counts: "My chest bumps like a dryer with shoes in it." – Infinite Jest by David Foster Wallace

Ethan Courville: "Lead me, follow me,

- Patton

Applause

Lucy Davenny: "Sometimes I sit and think, but mostly I just sit." – Homer Simpson

Marc DeLoach: "If at first you don't succeed, redefine success.'

Hemingway

Jordan DiGregorio: [Exit, pursued by a at you." Hannah Dille: "When you get caught

up with dissatisfaction with yourself, you can no longer bring life to the world." **Sydney Dixon:** "If you're going through hell, keep going." - Winston Churchill David Doboszenski: "A man can be destroyed but not defeated." - Ernest

Olivia Doniphan: "We do our best work when we are invisible." - David

Cooper Donoho: "Yeah, I'm enjoying what I'm doing." - Steven Prince Karl Edwards: "With the doohop

zigzag jello pops kids nowadays beezop rudy ha ha ha ziggity zaggity puddin" -Bill Cosby

Rashad Edwards: "Live life one day at a time.

Emily Fairchild: "Throw your phone

in the cooler like a honey badger" -Jessica Martin Also, "You're braver than you believe, stronger than you seem, and smarter than you think." – Pooh Bear

Alexis Fletcher:

"Free yourself, nobody else can."

Carlo Garcia: "Who dat? ASAP but I'm fly like I never left. You's a lie, like fly without the letter F." -A\$AP Ferg

Conor Gatton: "One thing about a skater: they never quit. So a skater, to sum it up, is awesome." - Lil Wayne

Elizabeth Rose Grech: "The most important thing is to enjoy your life – to be happy – it's all that matters." – Audrey Hepburn

Caton Hamrick: "I'm too busy writing history to read it." - Kanye West

Katie Heinen: "It's not Lupus" - House Katri Heitman: "I want to have fun like they do in the catalogs" - Heywood

Carly Hildebrand: "I got a lot of white people following me lol swag love y'all too." - Soulja Boy



Jesse Holmes: "The world is big and therefore you should begin to explore the universe and search for the faint moonlight at the end of the ocean. The forest has beauty, go quickly, laugh, and never look back. Artemis will guide you with her light."

Delaney

Minaj

"Starships

meant to fly." - Nicki

Brandy Holcomb:

"Life is too short

to be serious all the

time so if you can't

laugh at yourself,

call me...I'll laugh

Desiree Horlbeck: "'Have fun' is my message. Be silly. You're allowed to be silly. There's nothing wrong with it." -Jimmy Fallon

Rose Houpe: "Every child is an artist. The problem is how to remain an artist once we grow up." - Picasso

Rachel Hunsinger: "I regard the theatre as the greatest of all art forms, the most immediate way in which a human being can share with another the sense of what it is to be a human being"- Oscar Wilde Carter Inabinett: "Ma'am! Ma'am! [taps on desk]" - Dr. Cusatis

Ayla Jensen: "Education is an admirable thing, but it is well to remember from time to time that nothing worth knowing can be taught." - Oscar Wilde

Ellison Karesh: "Get down!" - Mrs. Passarello

Amanda Kasman: "Everybody is a genius. But if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life believing that it is stupid." -Albert Einstein

Ana Kidder: "Hakuna Matata."

Benji Kidder: I want to be remembered as someone who is really friendly, fun to hang around with, and will always have your back: "Be well, do good work, and keep in touch." -

Garrison Keiller. *Ellen Kitchens:* "Crying:

acceptable at funerals and the Grand Canyon." Ron Swanson

Madelyn Knight: "When I'm dead, I want to be remembered as a musician of some worth and substance." -Freddie Mercury

Iackson Knowlton: "A penny saved is a penny earned." – guy on hundred dollar bill Will Koste: "Life's tragedy is that we

get old too soon and wise too late." -Benjamin Franklin Katarina Lanier: "No wasted words! No WASTED words!" from an Amazon

product description Marco Lanier: "I'm sorry Ms. Jackson." - André Benjamin

Ashtyn Laserna: "I never look back, darling. It distracts me from the now." Edna Mode (The Incredibles)

Victoria Lewis: "Life is one big dancing bear Grateful Dead sticker on the window of an old volvo." - Marya

Emma Lieberman: "I believe that everything happens for a reason. People change so that you can learn to let go, things go wrong so that you appreciate them when they're right, you believe lies so you eventually learn to trust no one but yourself, and sometimes good things fall apart so better things can fall together." - Marilyn Monroe

Pierce Maheu: "I'm at war of head versus heart, and it's always this way, my head is weak, my heart always speaks, before I know what it will say." - Ben Gibbard Callie Mathias: "Swag defines an artist." - Soulja Boy

Jessica Martin: "Life is way to short to drink crappy coffee and cry over boys who don't care." -Matthew Healy And, "I'll never second guess the things

that I have done. I've got too much left to say and too much to become." - Alex Gaskarth

"Everything , in Justin Mercado: moderation...including moderation." Caitlyn Miller: "At the height of laughter the universe is flung into a kaleidoscope of new possibilities." - Jean Houston

Sarah Moser: "But first, let me take a selfie." -The Chainsmokers

Katherine Murchison: "Do twice as much for others as you do for yourself." Halle Murphy: "I've been through a lot

in the past six days, five minutes, twenty-sevenand-a-half seconds, and if I've learned anything during that time, it's that you are who you are. And no amount of mermaid magic, or managerial promotion, or some other third thing can make me anything more than what I really am inside: a kid" -SpongeBob SquarePants Justice Murray: "Our greatest glory is not in

What quote do you want to be remembered by?

we fail." - Ralph Waldo Emerson

Amber Myers: "No great genius has ever existed without some touch of madness."

- Lucius Annaeus Seneca Nori Page: "We are shaped by our thoughts; what you think says a lot about you even if you don't say it out loud."

Bena Parker: "We have to find things in this world to entertain us" -Anne Herring *Alex Peeples*: "Don't plan

ahead too much. It may

not come out right." - Tommy Wiseau Elizabeth Pena: "So if diva means giving your best, then yes, I guess I am a diva. - Patti Label

Oliver Peneger: "Women are like an artichoke: you have to do a bit of work before you can get to the heart." - The Pink Panther

Emily Kahn-Perry: "A boom boom."

Olivia Pharis: "Never dive into the unconscious until you're armed at the teeth." – Anonymous

Morgan Powers: "Don't look at the past, darling. It distracts us from the now." -Edna Mode (The Incredibles)

never failing, but in rising up every time Jess Rames: "If people are good only Ashley Smalls: "There is a time for do." - Saint John XXIII because they fear punishment, and hope for reward, then we are a sorry lot indeed." – Albert Einstein

Applause

Ben Rindge: "Hi Ben, what's your major? "Dance" "Oh...that's "Oh…that's nice..?!?..?"

Clayton Rosenbaum: "Figured out birthday is on the same day I was born. Life is crazy." - James Franco Abby Rumph: "Some things are worth caring about. People

are worth caring about. Things matter much less than people. Don't care about things." Bonnie Scarborough: "Live like there's

no tomorrow. Laugh like no one's listening. Love like you've never been **Bethany Schroeder**: "Authority figures

are so manipulative" - Katarina Lanier Tyler Sim: "I was broke last week but today be a new day" - A\$AP Ferg

Alston Singletary: "Insanity: doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results." - Albert Einstein

everything, a time to be born and a time to die, a time to weep and a time to laugh, and a time to dance." – Ecclesiastes 3:2-8 Ann Branham Smith: "Dance like nobody is watching.

Taylor Smith: "We do these things not because they are easy, but because they are hard" - John F. Kennedy

Mando Smoak: "In order to succeed, your desire for success should be greater than your fear of failure." - Bill Cosby James Soloman: "Strive not to be a success, but rather to be of value" -Albert Einstein

Ashlyn Spitz: "The past can hurt, but the way I see it, you can either run from it or learn from It." -Rafiki (The Lion

Michael Stevens: "Don't cry because it's over, smile because it happened."

Emily Stillwaggon: "You need chaos in your soul to give birth to a dancing star"-Friednch Nietzche

Victor Swatzyna: "No" –Rosa Parks Margaret Szwast: Consult not your fears, but your hopes and dreams. Think not of your frustrations, but of your unfulfilled potentials. Concern yourself not with what you tried and failed in, but with what is still possible for you to

Laila Teseniar: "You mustn't be afraid to sparkle a little brighter, darling." Kirsten Kuehn

Caroline Tweedy: "Give me a place to stand, and I shall move the earth" -Archimedes

Anthony Vaird: "Music is the language we all seem to understand" - Myself Tyler Vandygrift: "All I know is that I

know nothing" – Socrates *Madeleine Vath:* "I go to seek a Great

Perhaps." - François Rabelais Ansley Warford: "I'd rather have an enemy who admits they hate me, instead of a friend who secretly put me down" –

Matt Watson: "I'm Matt Watson" -Matt Watson

Alex Wertz: "Once in a while you get shown the light in the strangest of places if you look at it right." - Jerry Garcia

Logan A. Williams: "Take time to laugh it is the music of the soul." Logan B. Williams: "Be kind whenever

possible. It is always possible." – Dalai

Joseph Yu: "The character of a man is measured by how he treats those who have nothing to offer him" - Anonymous

What will you miss most about SOA?

Eduardo Abreu: The atmosphere that Ali Brown: I will probably miss the ended up being some the students and teachers create.

Sade Adewale: I will miss Mrs. Fairchild, Parrish Brown: I am going to miss people that I've ever had

Dr. Price, and **Mr. Short**. And I will miss having lunch with my friends. CJ Anderson: I

will definitely miss my friends. I've gone to school with all of these people for the past seven years, and we're not going to be together

any more. It's a new beginning, but I'll definitely miss my SOA family.

Destini Anderson: Mash potato day in

Chris Andrews: Raven's Rugby.

Matt Baker: The family I've made here. Brittany Baxley: Being able to participate in my major every day.

Grace Benigni: I will miss all of the amazing friends I have made here over

teachers the most.

allowed to manifest. I across. will miss Ms. Looney Ben Cohn: Being able and Mrs. Williams; they to mess around have been my shoulder instruments for three to cry on and my biggest hours a day...for free. supporters. I love them! Mariama Brown: I will friendly environment.

miss pottery class. the accepting people. environment.

miss my fellow Piano majors the most. Lucy Davenny: The high school art We've gone through so much together room. over the past four years, and I feel that we *Marc DeLoach*: I'm going to miss the were truly a family.

Caroline Cash: The people, the studios, high school. the complete lack of organization.

Sam Cass: Ronnie Price.

Nick Cavanaugh: What I will miss the phase. most about SOA is the community and *Hannah Dille*: I am going to miss the friendships I have made.

JayC Claxton: Honestly, I will miss the with throughout the years. **Anna Bostick:** The Senior Dance majors! staff and teachers the most at SOA. They

of the most supportive the individuality that is the pleasure to come

Michael Convertino: The The

Miles Counts: Allison Burke: I will people, man. I'm going to miss the

Ethan Courville: I will miss the free-*Andrew Byrd*: I think I'll flowing environment and Ravens Rugby.

fact that SOA isn't like the stereotypical

DiGregorio: Consistently Jordan reminding **Hammes** of his frosted tips

wonderful people that I have bonded



Sydney Dixon: I'll mostly miss my family that is the Theatre Department of this school.

David Doboszenski: my Creative Seeing Writing class every day. Olivia Doniphan: Sade

playing with my hair in Brehm's class.

Cooper Donobo: Mr. Hammes's classroom.

Karl Edwards: The people!

Rashad Edwards: The lunch. Emily Fairchild: I'm going to miss SOA as a school, but I'm really not going to miss high school. So the artistic, goofy, off-the-wall group of people and atmosphere—I appreciate those.

Alexis Fletcher: Creativity. Carlo Garcia: I will miss SOA's relaxed and liberal atmosphere the most; the warmness of the students is unlike that of any other schools.

Conor Gatton: The basketball games, the Friday Night Lights, and the majestic beauty of the Pegasus Garden.

Elizabeth Rose Grech: I will miss most

What will you miss most about SOA?



the family I have made at SOA that has supported me for the past seven years through everything.

Caton Hamrick: What I'll miss most about SOA is seeing the fantastic friends I've made over the past seven years a guaranteed five days a week.

Katri Heitman: I think I'll miss the mashed potatoes.

Carly Hildebrand: Being with all of my friends every day.

Delaney Hogan: Being surrounded by so many amazing people that truly appreciate the arts.

Brandy Holcomb: My friends and some

Jesse Holmes: Playing bass in symphony with the friends I've made over the years. **Desiree Horlbeck**: I'll miss my friends, the free and creative atmosphere on the SOA campus, and the awesome, caring teachers (like Mr. Short) that have taught me so much.

Rose Houpe: The small, close-knit school atmosphere.

Rachel Hunsinger: I will miss the familiarity of it all. Being here seven years has made this place as close to me as my own home, and it may be even harder to leave.

Carter Inabinett: The smell of the administration building in the morning that reminds me of a mix between Yankee candles.

Ayla Jensen: I think I'll miss my Creative Writing class the most.

Isabelle Jur: Creativity.

Emily Kahn-Perry: My friends are what I'm going to miss most about SOA.

Ellison Karesh: Telling Mrs. Pass that she's beautiful, talking to Mr. Orvin about how I'm going to be a billionaire, giving Mr. Brehm a "high-four," doing the Harlem Shake with Dr. Price, and teaching Mrs. Fitz how the equipment who I can ask for artistic advice.

Brandon Kerr: All my friends and the

Ana Kidder: I will miss the small environment of the school and the administrative faculty.

Benji Kidder: I will miss my friends, teachers, locations, the old building, and the general atmosphere of School of the Arts the most because it was my home away from home.

Ellen Kitchens: The SOA song

Madelyn Knight: I will miss my friends. I've been with many of these people for seven years and it will be very hard to say goodbye. I will also miss the individuality of everyone and how no one was afraid to show who they truly are.

Jackson Knowlton: I will miss Ruth **Passarello** the most because she's got the nicest haircut I've ever seen.

Will Koste: I will miss Vocal most of all. There is a time for work and a time for play.

Katarina Lanier: The RMMT.

Marco Lanier: diverse atmosphere.

Ashtyn Laserna: My peers making me laugh every single day.

Victoria Lewis: The people I've bonded with over the years.

Emma Lieberman: I'll miss my friends and the certain uniqueness that SOA

Pierce Mahue: Sitting with my bestie **Callie Mathias** in English.

Jessica Martin: I'm going to miss being able to go to all the amazing shows and performances that are put on at the

Callie Mathias: The thing I will miss the most about SOA is the Smart Mouth

Justin Mercado: I'll miss the good balance between arts and academics.

Caitlyn Miller: I will miss my amazing teachers including Heath Orvin, George Younts, Megan Link, Catangay, Sue Bennet, and Gretchen **Looney**. I will also miss seeing all of my amazing friends. I love you guys!

Sarah Moser: The people and the overall

Katherine Murchison: I will miss the intimacy that SOA allows. When your school is small, you become much closer to your classmates and teachers than I expect I will experience in college.

Halle Murphy: I'll miss the friends I've gained over the years, especially since we're all going to different schools in the fall.

They've inspired me in their own ways and helped me become the person I am

Justice Murray: I will miss the accepting atmosphere that is hard to find at any ordinary high school. Everyone always has a beautiful smile on their face even through the toughest and most stressful times. SOA is the definition of unique, and each teacher aimed to

help you express your uniqueness. Something else I will truly miss is being able to get lost in my own world during ceramics while creating breath-taking pottery. SOĂ has helped me define myself artistically and discover hidden talents I would have never found if I went to my

home high school.

Amber Myers: I will miss sitting outside in the breezeway during lunch.

Nori Page: The thing I will miss the most about SOA is the art all around. Be it music, paintings, or the loud voice of a Theatre major, it is always impressive and welcoming.

Bena Parker: I will miss the small classes and the amount of time we get to spend

Alex Peeples: The Creative Writing Department.

Elizabeth Pena: The environment, faculty, teachers, and all my friends, but especially

Max Hutton.

Oliver Peneger: Ms. Hutchinson and her making me get good grades.

Olivia Pharis: I will miss the environment and that even though we're all individuals we all share the same love for an art form.

Morgan Powers: I'm going to miss the creativity and the family-like atmosphere.

Jess Rames: I will miss the many new friends I have this year only to be separated by them in a couple months. Unfortunately, this class has gotten closer this year than any other.

Ben Rindge: I will miss the accepting atmosphere and how creative everyone is. I complain about SOA all the time, but this is definitely the best school in the state and provides

you with the best opportunities. I'm also gonna miss being the oldest. It took a lot of time to get to the top of my school and it's gonna stink to be at the bottom again. I also am gonna miss seeing all of my best friends every day and dancing and performing with them.

Clayton Rosenbaum: I will miss the close student-teacher relationship

Abby Rumph: I think I will miss the moments where you look up and see people dancing, or singing in the hallway, or painting outside, and realizing that this is what makes SOA so different. That and the moment where you are awestruck into silence sitting in an audience, watching your peers perform.

Bonnie Scarborough: Performing. Bethany Schroeder: Robin Rogers. *Tyler Sim*: The chicken tenders at lunch.

They're just so good! Alston Singletary: My classmates and

my teachers. I've met some of the best people here that I hope to keep in contact with for as long as I can.

This school allows students to be comfortable about themselves and to appreciate others creative visions and the teachers at SOA are very supportive with their students and always do the best they can to help their students succeed.

Ann Branham Smith: Dancing.

Taylor Smith: I will miss the creative atmosphere that is given here at SOA.

What will you miss most about SOA?

Starting SOA in the sixth grade, I've been able to create some friendships that will last for the rest of my life. Attending SOA for seven years has really shaped me and prepared me for the next chapter in my life, and I am

forever grateful for the life lessons this The Code Yellow lockdowns. school has taught me. That is what I will

James Solomon: Mr. Moore and the Laila Teseniar: I will mostly miss the campus is definitely access to collaborate with other majors.

Mando Smoak: I will miss the family Ashlyn Spitz: I will miss all of the the teachers and other students at SOA. Madeleine Vath: Journalism, duh.

Applause

Stevens: Michael would be about 15% family and they've seen Vocal Department.

friends most.

Victor Swatzyna:

Margaret Szwast: The teachers and the constant presence of endless and priceless opportunities.

relationships that I have developed with

bond that SOA has to offer the most. friendships I have created at SOA and It has been so nice to be surrounded by Ansley Warford: Seeing my Dance class the memories that I such positive people that value the same every day. greatly.

The one thing I'll *Caroline Tweedy*: I'm going to miss *Logan A. Williams*: I will miss all miss most about SOA my Theatre class most. They're basically the familiar faces and the family-like

of the people in the me cry too many times to let them go.

Emily Stillwaggon: Anthony Vaird: I think I'll miss my Probably the Pegasus mud pit (I mean garden).

> Tyler Vandygrift: The the arts around the what I will miss most.

things that I do and I will miss that Alex Wertz: The old school and the Fine

Arts building and Lake SOA.

Logan B. Williams: Being surrounded by artists.

Joseph Yu: I will miss having my closest friends in my major class.

Do you have any advice for underclassmen?

Eduardo Abreu: Do as I did. Pay attention in class and you won't need to study at home at all, or at least not as

Sade Adewale: Senioritis is REAL! Even if you think it won't happen to you it will. It WILL kick in when you get that first acceptance letter. Try to push way deep down because it gets worse the closer you get to graduation.

Destini Anderson: Have fun.

Chris Andrews: Don't do drugs.

Matt Baker: Don't overload yourself with academic classes. It's not cool to be failing a bunch of AP's because you thought it'd look good taking them.

Brittany Baxley: Do your homework.

Grace Benigni: Go to as many of the performances in all of the majors as you can. It is easy to forget how amazingly talented students here are.

Ali Brown: The best piece of advice I can give to underclassmen is DO NOT slack off during your senior year. Do your best to get everything done early and/or on time and do

not procrastinate. If you do, you will become incredibly stressed by the time second semester starts.

Parrish Brown: You are the potter and your life is the clay. You have control of your finishing product.

Mariama Brown: Do well at the beginning of the year that way when you slack off at the end it won't hurt your GPA so much.

Allison Burke: Work hard and don't slack off.

Andrew Byrd: Show respect towards the faculty and staff; they deserve it.

Caroline Cash: Don't annoy the upperclassmen, don't think that people can't tell that you edited all of your photos on Photoshop, and never break

Sam Cass: For Theatre majors, don't

stress out too much about solo pieces

the microwaves.

have two breakdowns within three days. Nick Cavanaugh: Be yourself and prepare to be challenged. JayC Claxton: Keep your head up. You're in high school and sometimes things are going to

get tough but, in the end, keep moving forward and know that every day you get through you'll be one step closer to graduation and to the start of your own life.

Ben Cohn: Stay classy.

Michael Convertino: Try your best. Miles Counts: Stay perfectly, wholly

devoted to the secret, pretty much unnamable song that plays inside of you. No matter how perverse, or muddled, or dissonant it may sound. Ethan Courville: My advice to the underclassmen would be to kick butt the first couple years of high school, and then make sure to have fun and enjoy the last two years. Don't stress it's not worth it.

Lucy Davenny: Delete your Picnik

Marc Deloach: Take freshman year as serious as possible so that as a senior you don't have to be worried about your GPA.

Jordan DiGregorio: Annotate like your life depends on it.

Hannah Dille: Work hard but don't



take yourself too seriously.

Sydney Dixon: Don't cut class, don't disrespect your teachers, and make good grades—a few mistakes I've made throughout high school. (Getting into college will be much easier.)

David Dobosenski: Get your work done... it starts to add up really quick. Olivia Doniphan: Senioritis is real.

Cooper Donoho: I can't speak for anyone who isn't a creative writer, but for creative writers, actually meet the senior thesis deadlines that you're given and at least try to make something you can be proud of, otherwise the entire year will feel meaningless (I'm not exaggerating).

Karl Edwards: Nah. Rashad Edwards: Do homework.

Emily Fairchild: Do what you want. Seriously. If you want to wear a Harry Potter cloak or other "questionable fashion choices," do it. If you want to

hang hammocks up by the cafeteria, do it. If you want to skip prom or eat three

Do you have any advice for underclassmen?

do what makes you happy.

Carlo Garcia: My advice: Choose your

classes carefully!

Conor Gatton: Don't be scared to live every day to the best it can be. It's a cliché, but it's true. So many of us are wrapped up in insecurity and doubt that we often forget that Elizabeth Rose

Grech: Advice-

don't give up and be positive. In high school every bad thing that comes your way no matter how small seems like the end of the world, but everything happens for a reason and there is always something

new and wonderful coming one's way. Caton Hamrick: My advice is to always give yourself enough time to do assignment to avoid stress. I never ever did that once and I really should have.

Katri Heitman: Complete apathy is

Carly Hildebrand: Don't take too many hard classes your senior year and stay Gucci.

Delaney Hogan: Don't settle for anything less than perfection in any aspect of your life. Love your major and work hard at being great at it, because otherwise, why are you here?

Brandy Holcomb: Keep doing your

Jesse Holmes: Look at new things and explore the world through the eyes of a

Desiree Horlbeck: Don't procrastinate! Senioritis is going to want to kick in early but resist it for as long as you can. Your grades senior year do matter. You definitely don't want to get the withdrawal of acceptance letter in the

Rouse Houpe: Don't procrastinate when applying for colleges.

Rachel Hunsinger: For underclassmen I want to make sure they recognize the importance of an education at an arts school. This place is special, and no matter how many times you may have been frustrated with it, you are so lucky to be here. An arts school gives you the opportunity to learn creatively, which in turn provides you with skills that can be applied everywhere you go. So don't take your experiences here for granted, and savor

tubs of ice cream or be a goofball, do it; your last year at a place that has given you so much.

Applause

Carter Inabinett: You really never have

to do summer reading assignments.

Ayla Jensen: Do your homework. Just do it. You'll wish you'd have

Emily Kahn Perry: Make the most of the time you have in high school and don't dwell on what goes

Ellison Karesh: Don't be stupid. Do your work. Have fun.

Amanda Kasman: Be kind to your teachers. They are friendly and caring people who want to help you, and they may have an easier time explaining a hard concept one on one. Also utilize NHS Tutoring and get service hours with Ecology Club!

Brandon Kerr: Preserve, when it comes to be senior year. Don't let your grades go, it'll kill you. If you say "oh, I'm not going to do any work," your grade will suffer and be at risk for not graduating. Ana Kidder: Study.

Benji Kidder: Underclassmen, listen up: I don't care if you don't want to, if you're too lazy, if it's a challenge, or even if there is no reason; do your homework and study. If you don't, you WILL regret it later on. Just start while you're ahead. Ellen Kitchens: Stay smart.

Madelyn Knight: My advice to underclassmen is to be open-minded. Don't ever fool yourself into thinking that your worth is greater than someone else's. Treat your peers with respect.

Jackson Knowlton: Stop trying to skip class, that's for seniors to do.

Will Koste: Appreciate erryday.

Katarina Lanier: "Caring is losing!" As in being concerned about things you shouldn't be concerned about makes you a concerned ninny. Marco Lanier: Don't stress.

Ashtyn Laserna: Actually try your junior year then it's just whatever as long as you

Victoria Lewis: Don't procrastinate and drink a lot of coffee.

Emma Lieberman: Don't take all your AP classes at once. And if you take them, stay on top of your work. Don't slack off, especially when you're a senior. Senioritis hits hard and it can have tremendous consequences.

Pierce Maheu: Don't try to compare your path too much to the path of

Callie Mathias: My advice for underclassman: stay Gucci.

Jessica Martin: The advice I have for the underclassman is to keep up with your school work and don't procrastinate... it's way better to work on a project over time than pulling an "all nighter" to get it done. Also, don't make school the only thing you care about, make it a point that you take time out for yourself.

Justin Mercado: Get to know your teachers and their expectations for you. It's different for every class.

Caitlyn Miller: Be yourself, go with the flow, think selfishly, and never ever give up. Or, as the Beeb would say, "Never say never!" Sarah Moser: Don't

slack off! Now and your senior year. Don't let senioritis take over!

Katherine Murchison: Challenge yourself and take school seriously. Never be afraid to ask questions, and always take advantage of an opportunity to learn.

Halle Murphy: To the underclassmen: 1. Take the SAT. A lot. 2. Freshman year counts! 3. Try to take your major seriously. 4. Try not to take every aspect of school seriously. 5. Don't be a jerk. 6. Image isn't everything.

Justice Murray: My advice to the underclassmen is to put your all into everything you do at this school and

seriously get involved in and out of school. If another major is offering a class for non-major students, take that opportunity and own it! Do not overlook community service opportunities because that could help your dream college's admission staff determine whether you are right for their

school because your scores do not measure up to what they require. Also, talk to and possibly even get close to at least one or two people who are in the administrative staff here. They are more this school brings so many open doors... run through that door before it closes. *Amber Myers:* Underclassmen, don't stop in the middle of the hallway because you will get yelled at and trampled on.

helpful than you would think. Going to

Nori Page: The advice I would give an underclassman is to try your hardest even when you feel like giving up. You will thank yourself later.

Bena Parker: Underclassmen should not take 5 APs senior year like I did.

Alex Peeples: Don't consume arsenic. Elizabeth Pena: Enjoy your last years at SOA and work hard your junior year.

Oliver Peneger: Don't sleep in class. It may seem like a good idea at the time

but then you won't have a clue on the test.

Olivia Pharis: Always be thinking ahead. Appreciate your art.

Morgan Powers: Always do your homework never slack off.

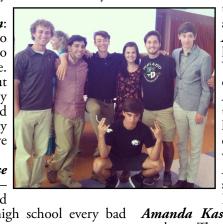
Jess Rames: Enjoy

your last year of high school. This is the year where you will solidify your appreciation for your teachers and friends that you might not be able to see in the future.

Ben Rindge: Keep it together. Don't get lazy and fall into a cycle of turning in homework late and not studying for tests. Also, don't take AP classes senior year unless you are very passionate about them. I am taking AP Art History and AP World History this year and I'm okay with having all of this work because I really care about history and want to pursue it. Senior year is a time to relax, and you should only deal with things you care about. Also, don't put up with nonsense from other people.

Clayton Rosenbaum: Yes, do your work and don't slack off.

Abby Rumph: Take every opportunity to be kind to everyone, even if it is hard and even if they annoy you to no end. Everyone is dealing with a battle that we may not necessarily see from the outside. Take that moment to be encouraging, loving, or just to joke around with them and improve their day. You never know how big an impact those actions could make. Also, senioritis is a real thing. Take a day or two to skip and go to the beach, but make sure you get at least most of your homework done each day. Bonnie Scarborough: Make the most of



Do you have any advice for underclassmen?

your time here at SOA.

Bethany Schroeder: Just have fun and don't be dumb, kids.

Tyler Sim: High school is the most important thing you will ever do.

Singletary: Do homework!!!!! That is all.

Ashley Smalls: The advice that I would give to all the underclassman is to make your high school experience "YOUR" own. High school is a time to figure out the kind of person you are, the time for self reflection, and the kind of people you want to associate yourself with, so make sure that you do what makes you

Branham Ann Smith: Enjoy high school while you can. **Taylor Smith:** I would to remember why you are at this school. Everyone here has talent and is an individual and to take care of the talent given to you and not let it dissipate over

Mando Smoak: My advice underclassman is enjoy your time at SOA because before you know it, you'll be in our shoes, walking across the

graduation stage and venturing on to the next part of your life. High school goes quick so work hard, stay out of trouble, and love your family for supporting you. James Solomon: Enjoy your time at

Applause

SOA. Enjoy being young. Enjoy the fact that your parents pay for everything you need. Life is too short to waste, so be smart and optimistic.

Ashlyn Spitz: My advice for underclassmen would be to study hard and enjoy the time you have left in high school.

Michael Stevens: Do not slack off. You might think that assignment is

not important, but in some way it'll come back to bite you. Emily Stillwaggon: Don't stress over homework, but it's important. Don't put projects and work off until the last

Victor Swatzyna: Mandatory is a loosely enforced term.

Margaret Szwast: With God ALL things are possible! If I can learn to do it, you can learn too. Just tell yourself it's easy. "Be kind to one another,

tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God has forgiven you." Ephesians 4:32

Laila Teseniar: My advice to

underclassmen is to not get caught up in all of the things that don't matter. Your years at SOA fly by and you do not want to look back and have any regrets on things you wish you would have done



differently.

Caroline Tweedy: My advice to underclassmen is, when it comes to college applications, go for it. Even if I was almost positive I'd get in, I sent every college my resume with artistic work over the years, a cover letter and, even, the dreadful Chemistry Paper. I understand money is a concern for many, as for myself given Drexel costs \$65,000, and I will stretch every dollar to make it work, but if you have the option and resources to just apply - do it. Also, as much as attending a school

close to home could be as much cost efficient as necessary or comfortable, I advise you to get away. I advise you to seize the opportunity to travel and get out of your comfort zone and meet new

Anthony Vaird: If you slack, make sure you slack with style. *Tyler Vandygrift:* My advice for underclassmen would be to take the time to immerse themselves in the various artistic goings-on at the school, something I now

wish I had done more of. Madeleine Vath: Work hard, but don't forget to have fun. It is easy to get caught up in all the work you may have to do, but taking a day to breathe is ulti-

mately more important for your sanity. Ansley Warford: Try your best and

Alex Wertz: Do your homework and show up to class or you will be sad at the end of the year.

Logan A. Williams: Always do your homework.

Logan B. Williams: Take your art major seriously. Read books. Joseph Yu: Don't slack off.

What are your plans after graduation?

Eduardo Abreu: Get a Biochemistry degree at the College of Charleston.

Sade Adewale: Go Tigers! Go Green!

CJ Anderson: This summer I'll be working at Tanger, and then off to Columbia College for Dance Education and either Business or Communications.

Destini Anderson: Turn up with **Ann**

Chris Andrews: College of Charleston *Matt Baker:* Horseback riding and 900 years of college.

Brittany Baxley: To attend USC and eventually become a Physical Therapist. Grace Bengni: Attending Clemson University for Communications and then hopefully doing the NBC page program in New York City.

Ali Brown: After I graduate I plan to enjoy my summer, spending time with the people I love, and then start my college career as a Theatre major at the College of Charleston!

Mariama Brown: My plans after I graduate are to attend Coker College

and major in Psychology with a minor in Criminology.

Parrish Brown: I am going to be a nursing major at USCB.

Allison Burke: Go to college for Dance. Andrew Byrd: I'll be attending Appalachian State University where I'll be majoring in Sacred Music. I will more than likely minor in Geographical Information Systems and Cartography. Caroline Cash: To become the greatest Pokemon master of all time.

Sam Cass: Sleep and retire in Cleveland, Ohio.

Nick Cavanaugh: Clemson University, Jazz Band, and a degree in Mechanical Engineering.

JayC Claxton: After graduation, I plan to attend and graduate

from Winthrop University with a bachelor's degree in Political Science and in both of my minors, Criminology

Criminology and Legal Rights. Then I plan to go to law school and eventually become a JAG lawyer in the United States Air Force.

Ben Cohn: Recording Industry major at Middle Tennessee State in Murfreesboro, TN.

Michael Convertino: I'm going to

Miles Counts: I am attending Harvard University in the fall, where I plan to study English Literature. I also plan to

stalk Mark Wahlberg, Ben Affleck, and Matt Damon, so, we'll see how that goes.

Ethan Courville: I will be attending The Citadel and majoring in Business. Then I plan on becoming a Marine Corps Officer. **Lucy Davenny:** Move to

Philadelphia and attend

Temple University. Marc DeLoach: Attend CofC, join the sailing team, and major in either Biology or Exercise Science.

Jordan DiGregorio: Move to England and become a professional couch surfer. Hannah Dille: I will be an Accounting major at Anderson University.

Sydney Dixon: Next year I will be attending an arts conservatory in New York City.

David Doboszenski: I have a lot of plans, but none are concrete. Right now I'm going to Francis Marion for Sociology to later become a highway patrolman and hopefully a federal agent later on for better benefits and larger

Olivia Doniphan: I will be attending the University of North Carolina School of the Arts majoring in Design and Production with a concentration in Lighting Design.

Cooper Donoho: I'm going where the weather suits my clothes, banking off of the Northeast winds, sailing on a summer breeze, and skipping over the ocean like a stone.

Karl Edwards: Summer: I'm pretty sure

What are your plans after graduation?

that's everyone's plan after graduation.

Rashaad Edwards: To join the Air Force.

Emily Fairchild: Well I'm going to Middlebury in the fall, but before that I'm hoping to spend most of the summer hanging out with my friends on the beach doing nothing and reading a lot.

Alexis Fletcher: North Carolina Agriculture Tecnhical.

Carlo Garcia: I plan on studying music performance at Indiana University.

Conor Gatton: Attending USC to major in International Business and perhaps minors in Marketing and Journalism. But before that I will travel to the outback Charleston, riding a jaguar into sunsets, and head bobbing Yung Lean.

Elizabeth Rose Grech: I will be attending C l e m s o n University in the fall studying Biology on a prepharmacy track.

Caton Hamrick: I will be attending V i r g i n i a Commonwealth University in the fall for Costume Design, and I will be also having a ton of fun.

Katie Heinan: Travel the world. *Katri Heitman:* I'm going to live on an

island, drink rum, and fix boats.

Carly Hildebrand: Attending the University of South Carolina.

Delaney Hogan: I will be attending College of Charleston and then plan to move to Los Angeles to pursue a commercial dance career.

Brandy Holcomb: To go to Trident Tech and major in Nursing.

Jesse Holmes: I'm going to look back at my school career and reminisce.

Desiree Horlbeck: I'll be at the University of South Carolina as an Experimental Psychology major. I'm most likely going to pursue a career in psychological research, concentrating on mental and personality disorders.

Rose Houpe: Going to Clemson next year and then transferring to City College of New York or University of San Francisco.

Rachel Hunsinger: After graduation I will be attending Emerson College in Boston, Massachusetts, where I will be studying to earn a BA degree in Theater

Studies: Acting.

Carter Inabinett: I'm going to Disney World.

Ayla Jensen: My plans are to move out of South Carolina with my dog.

Isabelle Jur: To become a physical therapist.

Emily Kahn-Perry: I'm going to be a camp counselor this summer for eight weeks and then when I get home I'm moving to Bloomington, Indiana, to attend Indiana University!

Ellison Karesh: Go to University of South Carolina and major in Broadcast Journalism.

Brandon Kerr: I plan to go to Winthrop and pursue my career in sports, in basketball, as manager, coach, or even player.

Ana Kidder: I will most likely attend FMU as a Business Management major. I am still trying to decide.

Benji Kidder: After I graduate, I plan to go to Berklee College of Music, graduate from there, and hopefully fulfill a few of my dreams.

Madelyn Knight: I will be attending West Virginia University next year as a Voice major. As for the rest of the future, it is unknown.

Jackson Knowlton: My plans

after I graduate are to leave a little early because we all know how the traffic can be trying to leave the performing arts building. When I get home I am going to enjoy a steamy, hot bowl of Chef Boyarder and watch I Love Lucy reruns.

Will Koste: College of Charleston Class of 2018.

Katarina Lanier: REACH

Marco Lanier: Attend the New School in NYC.

Ashtyn Laserna: I plan on attending Clemson University for Biological Sciences then hopefully attending

MUSC to study Dermatology.

Victoria Lewis: I'm going to Charleston Southern University for early childhood education.

Emma Lieberman: I will be attending College of Charleston in the fall and hope to pursue a career in Musical Theatre and Clothing Design.

Pierce Maheu: I plan to go to college

and major in Music.

Callie Mathias: I am going to attend College of Charleston and major in Biology.

Jessica Martin: My plans for after graduation include going to Clemson

to earn my BS as a Packaging Sciences major and hopefully, after that, move to New York City or Baltimore.

Justin Mercado: I plan on heading into Clemson as a Political Science major, and past I hope to find work in a political office of some kind.

Caitlyn Miller: I plan to go to Paul Mitchell for a year while working

part time at American Eagle. After I get my certificate, I plan to go to CofC for Business and also major in Theatre and Design, but I also plan for my plans to change.

Sarah Moser: I plan to attend College of Charleston and major in Exercise Science.

Katherine Murchison: I will be attending the Honors College at the College of Charleston in the fall on a full ride. I plan on double majoring in International Studies and International Business. This summer I am going on a road trip to New York with my friends.

Halle Murphy: After graduation, I hope to spend as much time with the people I love over the summer before I enroll at Clemson University in the fall. I'm majoring in Biochemistry (wish me luck!) and hope to sing in a choir

at some point there. Until then, I plan on volunteering at a local hospital and having as many adventures as possible.

Justice Murray: I plan to attend Clemson University to study Biology with a double major in Biological Teachings. Sophomore

year I will try out for the cheerleading squad. After I graduate from Clemson, I will attend the University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine for grad school and study to become a large animal and wildlife veterinarian. My dream is to travel internationally as a veterinarian. Sometime in my 20s I will settle down, get married, and have

beautiful children who will learn how to make pottery, haha!

Amber Myers: After graduation I will be interning this summer at a preschool, and then in the fall, will be attending College of Charleston, and majoring in Early

Childhood Education. *Nori Page:* My plan for after college is to find a way to make a living. I don't want to plan too much though because plans are always subject to change and lead to dissatisfaction a lot of times.

Bena Parker: I plan to join the Peace Corps after college.

Alex Peeples: Going to Waffle House.

Elizabeth Pena: I'm going to the Paul Mitchell School, and I'm hoping to open my own salon sometime in the future. I'm also thinking about fashion school, and hopefully one day I'll have my own clothing line.

Oliver Peneger: Going to dinner I think. Might just get a snack on the way.

Olivia Pharis: I will be attending Converse College pursuing a bachelor in Music.

Morgan Powers: I plan to attend Newberry College playing soccer and majoring in Sports Medicine.

Jess Rames: I plan to go to Bonnaroo as well as Amsterdam. I hope to live my last summer of high school to the fullest before the responsibilities of college set in

Ben Rindge: I am going to College of Charleston to major in Art History, I'd really be fine doing anything in history. I could teach, or work in a museum. I also am considering minoring in Dance at CofC.

Clayton Rosenbaum: I plan to attend the University of South Carolina.

Abby Rumph: I plan on attending Montreat College in the fall, which is near Asheville NC. I'm majoring in Outdoor Education and hope to work either for an outdoor education camp or center, or for the National Parks.

Bonnie Scarborough: After graduation I will be moving to Texas and attending Lone Star College studying to be an Ultrasound Technician.

Bethany Schroeder: Hoping to touch Kanye West at Bonnaroo so people in college think I'm cool.

Tyler Sim: Bonaroo bound.



What are your plans after graduation?

Alston Singletary: Coker College. All day baby!!!

Ashley Smalls: After graduation I plan to attend Winthrop University with a major in Early Childhood and Elementary Education and a minor in Dance.

Ann Branham Smith: 🛭 I am going to Anderson University.

Taylor Smith: My plans after graduation are to attend Winthrop University and hopefully begin successful career, not quite sure as what yet... **Mando Smoak**: After

graduation, I will be

attending Clemson University and majoring in Biochemistry. I look to get my degree and attend medical school in order to pursue a career in dentistry or the medical field.

James Solomon: To attend College of Charleston where I will major in Biochemistry and minor in Business, then following senior year I will attend MUSC where I will pursue Pharmacy or Neurology.

Ashlyn Spitz: After graduation, I plan on attending Clemson University. I am going to major in Animal Medicine and hope to pursue veterinary school after

Applause

Michael Stevens: College of Charleston.

I know that for a fact. The rest is up in the air at this

Emily Stillwaggon: I plan on going to Embry-Riddle and hopefully getting a job in my degree.

Victor Swatzyna: (Pulls Magic Conch string) "Nothing."

Margaret Szwast: After I graduate from high school

on June 5, 2014, I will be flying to St. Thomas Island near Key West to take part in a Boy Scout Sea Base Adventure with my BSA Venturing Crew, sailing for one week. In the fall, I will attend Charleston Southern University to major in Music Therapy.

Laila Teseniar: My plans after graduation are to attend Columbia College freshman year and then transfer to USC. I will be majoring in Early

Childhood Education and dance on the

Caroline Tweedy: As soon as school lets out, I'm attending Bonnaroo with friends, and then saving every penny for college. I'm going to be attending Drexel University in Philadelphia, PA, as an Arts and Entertainment Management major which acts as a dual degree with Business. At Drexel, I will be attending the Wesphal College of Media Arts and Design and will, almost definitely, be interning at the Edinburg, Scotland, Fringe Festival during the summer as my first Co-Op sophomore year.

Anthony Vaird: To start working more on music technology and attend Furman University in the fall as a Piano major.

Tyler Vandygrift: My plans for after graduation are just to move ahead and focus on the next phase of my education as an Engineering major at Clemson. Beyond that, I do plan on sticking with playing some trombone on the side despite not having plans for any serious artistic pursuits.

Madeleine Vath: After graduation, I will be flying to Australia to live on a sailboat with my aunt and her family

for a month. It will be my first time out of the country. I am so excited! Ansley Warford: To attend Converse College and be an Education major.

Matt Watson: University of South Carolina.

Alex Wertz: Going to college and getting a degree in Electrical Engineering.

Logan A. Williams: Attend Winthrop University in the fall. Logan B. Williams: I will be

attending the Honors College at College of Charleston.

Joseph Yu: Go to college, develop better work ethic, be happy.



What was your most memorable moment at SOA?

Eduardo Abreu: Every day was an equally memorable day at SOA.

Sade Adewale: All of the Hairspray

experience. *CJ Anderson*: I don't know the that question as a whole, but I know that this year I definitely had a cool moment. I was watching the sixth grade Dance class as part of my thesis. The students were doing triplets across the floor in groups while Ms.

Cline played the drums. The last student went to cross the floor, but there was an odd number, so she was alone without a group. Ms. Cline ran to her and did the combination across the floor with her while still playing the drums. She and the student smiled and laughed all the way across the floor. Whenever I have doubts about pursuing education, I remember that moment, and I know

I'm doing the right thing.

Chris Andrews: Jazz Band going to the Savannah Music Festival

Matt Baker: My freshman year where there was Character Day. A bunch of

my newly-made friends also dressed up, and it was the first moment I felt like I belonged somewhere.

Brittany Baxley: Totes and water bags.

Grace Benigni: There were a lot of memorable moments, but one of my favorites was when I threw an open bag of can tabs in Mr. Clark's

Anna Bostick: When Rigby, **Destini**, and I got the entire

class to fall on the ground and have a seizure in the middle of Mr. Tippett's Spanish class in eighth grade.

Ali Brown: I have had a lot of great moments at SOA, but the most memorable moments probably come from the times at lunch when my friends and I are just talking and laughing and having a great

Parrish Brown: Being taught by Mrs. Sallie Hutchinson.

Mariama Brown: Prom and eighth

Allison Burke: All of my performances were the most memorable in my experiences at SOA.

Andrew Byrd: Playing with the pit orchestra in Thoroughly Modern Millie. Caroline Cash: Lake SOA at the old campus, that one time freshman year when Cimballa stabbed herself in the hand when we were making pottery.

Nick Cavanaugh: My most memorable moment at SOA was the first time I played music in front of an audience.

JayC Claxton: The most memorable moment at School of the Arts was probably the moment

right after I'd presented my Senior Thesis to a sea of listening people. that moment, realization hit that I had finally crossed the final biggest barrier standing in between me and graduation

Ben Cohn: Getting in trouble for making a murder scene in the

bathroom.

Miles Counts: Perhaps all the times I got to dance and sing and truly be myself. Ethan Courville: I can't choose one moment that sticks out above the rest, but I will remember all of the moments on the field that I shared with my brothers playing rugby.

Lucy Davenny: Graduation.

Marc DeLoach: Getting fourth out of 40 in the Great Oaks Regatta in New Orleans in 2013.

Sydney Dixon: Probably when I fell into "Lake SOA" at the old school... (numerous occasions)

David Doboszenski: Life 101 with

Scapelatto. Doniphan: Olivia first day of **Short**'s class, sophomore when Ayla yelled "Oh

priceless. **Cooper Donoho**: It's all one continuous blur of memory to me.



What was your most memorable moment at SOA?

Karl Edwards: 3:05 pm.

Rashad Edwards: The river at the old school.

Emily Fairchild: I really love the trips SOA takes. Like on the seventh grade trip to the mountains, we had a great time singing a whole new world in four-part harmony, or the eighth grade trip where a bunch of people got lost, or the Creative Writing trips where we make up ridiculous stories about

each other and stargaze and write aloud all evening.

Carlo Garcia: I will always cherish the warm afternoons when I could go out and eat my lunch in the breezeway peacefully.

Conor Gatton: Renting jump castles for exams, having a Battle of the Bands, and the one time **Mrs. Looney** roller-skated down the breezeway in a chicken suit while **Dr. Cook** danced to "Partition" with 'yonce.

Elizabeth Rose Grech: My most memorable moment would probably be the first time I performed at SOA in the sixth grade to the song "Send Me on My Way" by Rusted Root.

Caton Hamrick: My most memorable moment at SOA was my first high school band placement test freshman year. I had just gotten my braces on a week before, I thought boot-cut jeans cut off at the knee were cool, I thought I was the smartest person in the world, and I was so nervous.

Katie Heinen: There are too many.

Carly Hildebrand: When **Sequoia DuBose** sprained her eye and couldn't dance for the rest of class.

Delaney Hogan: Senior prom: shout out to DJ Kyle and the fire marshall.

Brandy Holcomb: My most memorable moment at SOA was at the old school when it would rain and I was in sixth grade and had to walk through a pool of water to get to my major.

Desiree Horlbeck: The very interesting bands trips almost every year were certainly memorable. So many great and irreplaceable memories were created

during these trips!

Rose Houpe: My Senior Thesis recital.
Rachel Hunsinger: I think my most memorable moment at SOA was when I directed Sarah Platts and Ben Mc-Cov in the Playfest scene A Word from

the Swings. Working with these two wonderful actors and a realistic story allowed me to explore what it meant to

have complete control over a story.

Ayla Jensen: My most memorable moment was my first day of SOA: Conor Gatton came up to me and asked for a hug. I was terrified.

Isabelle Jur: My solo piece. *Ellison Karesh*: When I got **Dr. Price** to do the Harlem Shake and my Senior Thesis!

Amanda Kasman: The

last day on the old campus and every convocation sum up what I love about SOA and how it is and has always been unique.

Brandon Kerr: My first day of sixth grade I was this little shy sixth grader and I knew one person at this school, my brother, and when we were at recess I was on the wooden bench outside and **Brandy Holcomb** came up and said hi and we became friends, and after that everything came along easier, making friends, and just school in general.

Benji Kidder: In the old school, I think the most amazing and memorable moments were when it rained. When it rained, the whole school outside flooded, and then you got to see how people really act when they are trying to get to their bus, during a torrential rain, sloshing through deep mud puddles with everyone around you just as impatient to get to somewhere dry. That was fun and exhilarating to be a part of. And I will always remember the screams and laughter of those who, unfortunately, took a plunge.

Madelyn Knight: My most memorable

moment at SOA would have to be participating in the musical, The Music Man. It was my first musical and it introduced me to my love for theatre. I made so many friends and it was so much fun. Being in such an amazing production is a

memory that will stay with me forever. I'm going to miss this school so much.

Jackson Knowlton: My most memorable moment at SOA was the

time that the substitute teacher, **Mr. Miller**, told me about the time one of his old special-ed students stole a car in the middle of class.

Will Koste: Meeting my homies, Jess and Lucy.

Katarina Lanier: Falling asleep during the AP US History exam because I thought there were only 55 questions

but turns out there were 80 and still passing the exam. Also the exclusive sorority DSG—YA KNOW WHA I MEAN.

Marco Lanier: Graduation.

Emma Lieberman: I couldn't really say. My first Jump, Jive, and Wail was pretty memorable. However, playing "Rhapsody in Blue"

for my thesis was as well. I think a lot of important experiences happened while attending SOA and to pick one would just be impossible.

Pierce Maheu: The first time I played a guitar solo in a Jazz Band concert, I felt oddly nervous because I had never really played jazz guitar until this year. But instead of letting my nerves get the best of me, I used them to motivate me and this is a skill that has helped me all year. Jessica Martin: My most memorable day has to be my first day on campus, at freshman orientation. I was nervous, out of my mind, about starting a new school and as I waited in line to get my picture taken this girl runs up to me and exclaims, "Hi, I'm Abby! Do you want to be friends? I can stick my fist in my mouth, do you want to see?" Ever

since that day we have been friends, and without her, my entire high school experience would be different.

Justin Mercado: Probably when the band traveled to Chattanooga and performed at the Grand NAI.

Caitlyn Miller: My sixth grade audition was one of my most memorable moments. But my most embarrassing moment (which shall not be repeated) was pretty

be repeated) was pretty memorable too. And my eighth grade play was pretty memorable. And when I first met **Pierce Maheu** was pretty memorable too...let's just say SOA is **Sarah Moser**: Dancing to Beyonce's "Partition" after our final Thesis with the best Theatre class ever.

Katherine Murchison: Although it hasn't happened yet, my favorite moment at SOA will be reading my speech to the graduating class on June 5th. I hope I don't cry too much.

Halle Murphy: In my sixth grade

math class, **Eduardo Abreu** scratched his head over a problem, claiming he had forgotten the English alphabet. How this pertained to math, I'm not sure. **Grayson Pressley** and I responded by singing the ABC's to him, to help our forgetful classmate. Once we had finished the tune, **Ms. Boyd** tapped one of us on the shoulder and gave us both lunch detentions. It was the first and last lunch detention I ever received.

Justice Murray: My most memorable moments at SOA were Hairspray and how overwhelmed with joy I was when Lfinished my final project in ceramics.

Amber Myers: Most memorable moment was in eighth grade when we did star watching under this huge tarp in the middle school gym.

Nori Page: My most memorable moment at SOA was walking off stage after my eighth grade solo. I was so relieved. I had been nervous about it for months and it was such an accomplishment.

Bena Parker: Every day was bliss.

Alex Peeples: When Cooper Donoho told me about his cheetah.

Elizabeth Pena: The old school! I loved those rainy days.

Oliver Peneger: Eating eight cupcakes, four pizzas, six cookies, and a bowl of mac and cheese.

Emily Kahn-Perry: PROM 2014 WHEN MY FRIENDS COULDN'T GET IN!!!!

Olivia Pharis: Performing in the old Black Box for the first time.

Morgan Powers: My most memorable moment at SOA was junior year, Pre-Cal with **Wojo** and our 1A class.

Jess Rames: I will never forget my final high school rugby match when we won state. I couldn't be prouder of my team, and I can't wait to come home to see the freshmen players develop.

Clayton Rosenbaum: When I got pants-ed on pajama day.

ty Abby Rumph: I think my experience at

o. 7 Applause Senior Surveys June 2014 What was your most memorable moment at SOA?

SOA is filled with a collage of memorable moments. Picking one to encompass the feeling of SOA and my personal journey here would be impossible.

Bonnie Scarborough: My most memorable moment at SOA would have to be at the old campus it rained so much that someone brought a canoe and canoed across campus.

Bethany Schroeder: One time in tenth grade my car got hit by a bus in the school parking lot.

Tyler Sim: (un)Holy City Spittin Rap Squad Number X's music video debut. **Alston Singletary:** Well, I don't really have "a most memorable moment." I think I have too many to mention, most would be from anything pertaining to the Academic Team.

Ashley Smalls: It is really hard for me to narrow down the most memorable moment throughout my whole experience at SOA since the sixth grade to now my graduating year, but the first memory that came to my mind was the time I was in seventh grade, in Ms. Cline's Dance class. I along with five of my closest friends at the time formed a group that defined our friendship. It all happened so fast and naturally and I don't regret any of it.

Taylor Smith: My most memorable moment at SOA was my first day here and walking in to Mr. Orvin's class and saying to myself "what have I gotten myself in to.'

Mando Smoak: My most memorable moment at SOA was walking through the doors of the high school building for the last "first day" and having the realization that all of my hard work at SOA in middle school and high school was coming to a close and after this year, I would begin a new part of my life, walking through another door.

Ashlyn Spitz: My most memorable moment at SOA would have to be the day in tenth grade when my entire Dance class had to write a paper about how bad of a class we were because we laughed when our teacher said, "totes and water bags," instead of, "totes and water bottles.

Michael Stevens: Probably my trip to Chicago for ACDA National Choir in ninth grade. The trip was absolutely incredible.

James Solomon: My most memorable moment at SOA had to be when the SOA symphony played at the Sottile downtown for dancers and I sat front stand with my best friend and stand

partner **Carlo Garcia**.

Victor Swatzyna: When Manny Byas punched Ms. Rickson in the face via a

Margaret Szwast: My Senior Thesis. Laila Teseniar: The most memorable

moment I have had at SOA was performing my final Thesis. At that moment I was on stage showing evervone what I had worked so hard for my years here. All of the challenges I had faced at SOA no longer mattered to me and everything came together in that moment.

Caroline Tweedy:

Watching Senior Thesis. Seeing what people have created and become over the years is one of the most moving experiences. I cried at almost every one I saw, envious of their talent yet overwhelmingly proud of their performance.

Tyler Vandygrift: It may not exactly be a moment, but playing at Jump, Jive, and Wail for the past two years has definitely been the highlight of my time at SOA.

Ted Anasopoulo

Madeleine Vath: Getting to express myself through the character of Belle in Vocal's production of Beauty and the Beast was probably the most fun opportunity I have had at SOA. I found I had a true passion for the stage and the

art of musical theatre that I don't believe I could have found at any other high school.

Warford: Ansley When we got into the new school and saw our new Dance rooms!

Matt Watson: When I did some school work for my classes. Alex Wertz: Playing

Dvorak in the orchestra.

Logan A. Williams: My most memorable moment at SOA was at the old school when someone brought a canoe and we went canoeing in lake SOA.

Logan B. Williams: Totes and waterbags.

Joseph Yu: My most memorable moment at SOA are the trips our major

SENIOR SPIRIT W

Ted Anasopoulo

Hip Hop Bling Day

Ted Anasopoulo

Zombie Day

Ted Anasopoulo

Senior Citizen Day

Senior Prank

Senior Essays

Applause asked the Senior Class of 2014 to reflect on their time at SOA. Although many recall similar, if not the same, experiences, each student had a different take on their time at SOA. They had to choose among five essay prompts:

Reflect on the value of an SOA education.
 If you were entering SOA as a sixth grader, what would you do differently over the next year?
 What teacher or class has had the strongest impact on you and why?
 What do you want to be doing in 2024, and how do you intend to make it happen?
 Reflect on any aspect of your years at SOA.

Sade Adewale

If I were entering SOA as a sixth grader, something that I would do differently is having a better grasp of what I aspired to do. When I entered in sixth grade I wanted, or thought I wanted, to be an architect but after about tenth grade I realized that I didn't enjoy or love it at all. I realized that my true passion was for the environment and protecting it for future generations. If I could do it over, I would've focused on the things I needed to do more to get headed in that direction. I would have liked to participate in Jefferson's Service Club sooner and pushed myself more in my academic classes. Before wanting to pursue Environmental Engineering, I felt my art was more important than my academic

classes. Because of this, I didn't push myself to my full potential in my academics. When I discovered my passion, I wanted to do as much as possible to go to the college of my dreams to pursue the job of my dreams. It took a lot of work and I wish I could've done more, but I did get into the college of my dreams and next year I will be working toward pursuing the job of my dreams.

CJ Anderson



This year the class that has had the strongest impact on me is my teacher monitor period. Generally a teacher monitor period is for students who can't fill an empty block with an academic class. But my experience has been so much more than that. I've been able to work with the wonderful **Ms. Cline**, the head of the Dance department, and I've been able to watch the sixth grade Dance class all year. It has been extremely educational—probably more than any of my academic classes.

It has been amazing to watch the students grow once entering this environment, and I learned so much about Dance Education in general. Some students came in with no formal training and are now performing on the same

level as their peers—and it's amazing to watch that happen. Every student has gained something, even after only being here a year. That is so cool to see, especially from an education standpoint.

This class has definitely helped solidify my decision to pursue Dance Education in college, and watching Ms. Cline everyday has definitely made me want to be a Dance teacher. Seeing her interact with children on a daily basis is so uplifting. She is kind and patient, and I hope that one day I can embody the characteristics she does.

Chris Andrews



Ten years from now, I will be an entirely different person. But my roots will always be in Charleston and Charleston County School of the Arts. After graduation, I'm going to be attending College of Charleston. I intend to study sports management and I plan on getting an internship with a lower level sports team. By getting an internship over the next four years, I will be able to fully engulf myself in the sports atmosphere. It's hard to truly get an idea for the business and behind-the-scenes aspect of sports because the public is merely exposed to the game itself. As much as I love watching sports, it's the ins and outs that go unseen that really interest me.

It's hard to say where exactly I see myself in 2024 because there are countless teams that are in need of managers or scouts or coaches, but I'd love to be involved with NBA, NFL, or MLS teams by 2024. I'm going to make it happen by getting a solid education, whether it is at CofC or some other school. After my education is complete, I plan on getting an internship with (hopefully) a professional sports team. This is the best way to integrate myself into the booming business of sports. I'd love to get hired right out of college, but that's extremely difficult, so I intend to work my way up once I've gotten my start. Sports management is an ever-growing field and, with the right education and experience, I could easily be the manager of the next LeBron James.

Matt Baker

Never have I been to a school where there is so much emphasis on both art and academics. Nor have I ever been in a school with so much spirit and passion. It isn't just from the students, but the teachers as well. Coming to SOA, I didn't really have a plan in life, I was just going to wing it in college and hope everything worked out (which, of course, it wouldn't have). The teachers I've had here have inspired me now to pursue a PhD in genetics, to want to teach at universities and hopefully inspire future students the way that teachers such as **Mr. Clark, Mr. Taylor, Mr. Short, Dr. Price**, and many more have inspired me over the years that I have been here.

It isn't just the academic teachers that are unique here (surprisingly). Being at an art school gives kids an opportunity that other schools do not, especially in this area. Yes, other schools have elective arts or clubs that students can partake in but I've never heard of a school that does convocation or that gives you an hour and a half of arts education every single day. No other school has Dance Day of this much *beautiful* art around school, not just hung on walls, but hand-painted by students. Before coming here, I didn't know high schools anywhere did fashion shows. It's crazy the different art forms that students are exposed to and how electric the excitement is. Anyone who has ever been to convocation or a performance by any of the majors here knows how alive the stage is when our students step onto it. I don't believe you can find that kind of infectious passion anywhere else

Brittany Baxley



By the year 2024, I intend to be a physical therapist. I plan to make this happen by attending the University of South Carolina - Columbia and majoring in Exercise Science under the Health and Fitness track. After seven more years of school, I plan to receive my doctorate to be able to open my own business. Over the 2014 summer I am going to job shadow with as many physical therapists in the area as I can, including a physical therapist at the Veterans Affairs hospital. I am also job shadowing physical therapy assistants because they are the most interactive with the patients in large businesses. When I become a physical therapist, I would love to have my own business and attend to patients that

Applause

are either children or veterans of war. I have always wanted to do something in the medical field, but as I have gotten older I have realized that I do not like needles, or open wounds. My main plan is to help patients recover after their major operations have been performed. Helping patients repair their bodies and learn how to use them properly after an injury is very satisfying since I know I will be the one to help them along the path of recovery. I have always had a love for helping others, and assisting them in recovering from injuries or disabilities is how I plan to spend my life.

Brooke Bazemore



High school, not nearly as restrained as elementary school and nowhere near the blind terror that was middle school. What can I say about high school that hasn't already managed to wander its way into the essays of my fellow semi-sentimental, semi-sarcastic, sweaty classmates (some of which I cannot recall the names of now let alone at any sort of sappy, ten year reunion)? I'm sure they have told you of all the memories they will carry with them, claiming to not be the person they are today without the help of Mr. or Mrs. such and such forcing knowledge down their throats and inspiring them to continue on with their otherwise unmotivated life. Or maybe you read all about how the girl

from my Algebra II class plans on having the best life ever ten years from now or how she would have tried to be herself more if she could go back to the sixth grade again. Perhaps you have not read any of those at all. Perhaps all this newspaper is filled with is silly superlatives. Like most likely to be a Disney Princess, even though she is not even the appropriate dress size or height. (Who is that Bazemore girl anyway? I think I may have seen her in the hall before.) High school is not nearly as challenging or responsible as adulthood. High school is not nearly as lonely, not nearly as sleepless, not nearly as confusing as the rest of my life (we like to say). In reality this is only the start (or end) so please, everyone, cram all the advice you can think of down our throats before we flick that tassel from one side to the other and suddenly transform into members of society, because despite the four years of high school education, I have no idea how to be a person in the correct way. Because there is always a right and a wrong way, right? High school... yeah.

Grace Benigni



School of the Arts has educated me in ways far beyond its academic mission. SOA has not only given me an amazing education and prepared me for my college endeavors but has also made me a better person all around. SOA has taught me tolerance and appreciation for the arts. In addition, it has introduced me to open-minded and amazing people that I will maintain relationships with for the rest of my life. I can't imagine having gone to any other school and I believe that if I had, I would have missed out on the amazing people and opportunities at School of the Arts. I wouldn't trade my experiences here for anything.

McKenzie Betfort



Many students, from those coming from the middle school into the high school here at SOA and those moving up in the high school, are heard asking if they should stay for the next year. The education one would get elsewhere would be good, no doubt, but not as good as one that could be had here. This school is hard, academically and artistically; however, that's what makes an education at SOA worth so much. One is made to work hard to reach the standard, and then pressed even further. If I had switched schools when I had my doubts, I'd have gone to a school where I was one in a couple thousand. Here, there is personal attention paid to the students that you don't get elsewhere. Here, there are

teachers who have genuine friendships with their "kids" and spend their personal time to see their students succeed. An SOA student is allowed certain freedoms that allow them to express, through their art, far more than any other student is allowed. The value of an SOA education is far more than just grades on paper, and seven hours on the campus every day (complete with Pegasus Garden), it's not being spoon-fed what you need to know to succeed, whether it is in your art form or your chosen outside career. There are the exact classes you need with the exact amount of attention available to help almost every student. There is a huge number of children every year auditioning, competing really, to enter this school, and that is because the education is so valuable. It's worth something more than just a diploma. It's an honor and sets those of us who graduate apart from the crowd.

Ali Brown



Over the last seven years at SOA, I have taken many wonderful classes and had some great teachers, but one class and teacher that I feel has had the biggest impact on me is my Mapping the Mind class taught by **Sean Scapellato**. This psychology-based class has taught me a lot about how the mind works and how people think in regards to certain topics and issues. But the most valuable lesson I have learned from that class, I learned from Mr. Scapellato. As cheesy as it may sound, he taught me to not be afraid to be myself. There was never any specific lesson on this topic, obviously, but I learned this through Mr. Scapellato's crazy stories

about his life experiences and what they taught him. Every time he would share a story with my class I was able to take his learning experience and incorporate it into my own life somehow. Whether it was to make the best out of every experience, look for the bright side of every situation, or even how to dress for a job interview. He taught me that being me is not something I should be afraid of, but something I should embrace. It's hard to explain everything that he has taught me throughout this whole year but I can say that I am leaving his class feeling a lot better about who I am. Thank you, Mr. Scapellato.

Mariama Brown



The teacher that had the strongest impact on me was **Mr. Reese**. His class was difficult for me at first, but even when I was not doing well he believed in me. For every question I asked he knew the answer and he cared how all of his students were doing, not just in his class or school, but in life. He believed that everyone could do well if they put effort into it and he would not give up on you until you showed him what you could do. He believed in me when I didn't believe in myself and for that I thank him.

Andrew Byrd



I've been extremely fortunate to have very fine teachers over the past four years. Each one of them was knowledgeable in their respective fields, and almost all of them had the ability to teach that information. But the one teacher who has had more of an impact on me than anybody else has to have been my piano teacher, **Mr. Clarke**.

Mr. Clarke is an extremely talented pianist and singer who takes time out of his career to teach the piano students the core essentials of jazz. He taught me the proper way to improvise, which is something I do almost every day, in both classical

and jazz music. I owe a lot to his extensive knowledge of chords and scales and the different ways that they can be used.

During my tenure in the pit orchestra for *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, I was further inspired by Mr. Clarke, who was conducting. Despite weather, cancelled rehearsals, and a small complement of musicians, he made sure we played our best. I was impressed by his ability to adapt to the changing circumstances, and the fact that he was able to lead strings and woodwinds, which were not his primary focus.

The thing that I learned the most from Mr. Clarke, however, was character. He and I did not always agree on things, but I learned from him how to present and defend an argument. I knew I could always come to him for advice or assistance, and he was willing to put everything else on hold to help out a student who needed him. I owe a lot to Mr. Clarke, and I'm sure that if I hadn't had him as a teacher, I wouldn't be the same person.

Caroline Cash



Even though I am completely ready to leave this school forever and go off to college and never be a high schooler ever again, I will miss my major. Visual Arts has been so much fun. For the past seven years, it's been my favorite class. From suffering through blind and modified contour in middle school to getting to paint the Senior Wall, I've learned so much and gotten to watch everyone's styles evolve. One of the things that I've learned is that the Visual Arts room is the best place to take a nap. Whenever someone talks about high school, I'll think of all the food parties that we've had over the years for literally any excuse we could think of, Cimballa's

sense of humor, that one time during an earthquake drill when Abby fit an entire bagel into her mouth, so much figure drawing, that other time Abby was hiding under the tables eating peppers for no real reason, the horrible time managing skills that never improved, the salutary neglect style of teaching that you receive by the time you're in AP Art, and how whenever someone comes into the room asking where your teacher is, that's the only time you cannot find them. Finally finishing my thesis was pretty great too. I'm glad to be done with high school, but I'm really thankful to have all the opportunities I've had in art class, especially all the different media I've been able to experiment with and the fantastic studio space that I've been able to work in.

Sam Cass



Over my four years at SOA I believe the biggest impact that came upon me was the school musicals. Coming in as a freshman, I was unknown, something I did not want to be. I wanted to be remembered when I left, and not be an afterthought. I took my first step toward remembrance by landing a strong supporting role in *The Music Man*. Tackling the role of Marcellus Washburn, I was presented a new challenge by having a solo song, which was interesting seeing that I don't have a strong voice, but I like to think that I play it off well. My second major leap to remembrance came with the

2013 musical, *Hairspray*. This was one of the biggest moments in my life, getting to play one of my two dream roles, Edna Turnblad. With the show having tremendous success, all I had left to hope for was to one day turn up with **Ann Branham**.

Nick Cavanaugh

My years at SOA have been outstanding. They may have been hard, complicated, and life-changing, but more importantly, my years at SOA have been deeply gratifying. They made me fit in tighter than I would ever push myself to alone. Being pushed to my limits every year, I was forced to grow and change my perspectives on life, priorities, and friendship. I was never the best student. The first few years, I struggled as I always had back since elementary school. This was nothing new. I am glad to say that after I was diagnosed with Asperger's Syndrome in eighth grade, the teachers were able to help nudge me in the right direction. Although I will never cease to struggle, I have learned a lot about life and companionship in my years here as well as how to overcome all obstacles, no matter how large. Thank you, SOA

Prentice Clark



An arts education has been proven to serve as an incredible learning tool. Arts education allows students to express their creativity through a particular art form while simultaneously learning about important academics such as long division or the Civil War. Paul Ostergaurd, VP of Citicorp, once stated that "a broad education in the arts helps give children a better understanding of their world...We need students who are culturally literate as well as math and science literate." Thus, it is vital that students are introduced to the arts so they may grow and develop as aware, intelligent, well-rounded individuals. An SOA education is incredibly valuable as it captures the essentials: art and academics.

When I was very young I was reluctant to talk to anyone. I was incredibly shy and I came across as a very rude and ignorant five year-old because of it. My timidity and insecurity got to the point where I would fall and scrape my knee at school and be terrified to tell the teacher. I would try to avoid school altogether by feigning stomach aches and various other ailments. I eventually got the opportunity to audition for SOA and Theatre completely changed me. I came out of my shell and became confident in my skills artistically, academically, and socially. An SOA education allowed for me to discover things about myself that I would have never even thought about. I believe that many students take their stay at SOA for granted and should realize how fortunate they are to attend a school full of thinkers, believers, and artists.

Josh Clarke



As graduation closes in on all of us seniors, we reflect on the past events that transpired during our school years. In a way, we all forget during the middle of our school years that we are all family and that we must see this school as a privilege. We care for each other, we look out for each other and we all must make our school a wonderful establishment. Being in this school has made me think about my life and how I should spend it. I'm going to get a job as a freelance/graphic artist; I don't care what people say what I should do. If I go down failing, I want to be happy with what I've done in my life.

When I entered SOA as a sixth grader, I was just happy to have made it into such a great school. This school is wonderful really; it's the best school I've been in. If I had the chance to go back and start sixth grade over, I'd keep it just the same. Though after my first few years here I'd been failing some of my classes quite a bit, I somehow pulled through almost barely at the end of the year. Luckily I've made it here today, graduating high school. I don't think there is anything I can change, but if I could, I'd change the way I did my work.

The teacher that had the most impact on me as a student and as a person is **Mr. Orvin**, my freshman and sophomore history teacher. Mr. Orvin taught me that history is fun and that it has so much meaning to our own stories in life. I feel as though as I graduate I'll remember all of the great memorable times we had in his class. I'm going to miss him.

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In 10 years, I want to be working as a graphic/freelance artist. It's not going to be easy, but I'll be doing something I love at least. Learning from the three visual arts teachers at our school has taught me many things on artistic needs and skills. Ms. Nicholls, Ms. Cimballa, and Mr. Moore are wonderful art teachers. I will miss them as well when I graduate.

Please wish me luck on my journey to college, as I'm sure you wish your own child(ren) off to college as well.

JayC Claxton



In the year 2024 I expect to be doing big things. By then I will have completed my bachelor's degree at Winthrop University in Political Science (and hopefully in both of my intended minors of criminology and legal rights). Also, I should be well on my way in law school, if not already having completed it and received my master's degree. I personally see myself already enrolled in the Air Force as an officer by this time and, if possible, already well on my way to renting either a lavish apartment or a nice house for myself. At this point, I'm not exactly sure where I'm going to be living, but that is to be expected. With being in the military, I guess I

would go wherever the wind takes me. I intend to make all of this happen by simply applying myself in everything that I do and working my way to the top one good grade at a time.

Noticeably, I would also be about twenty seven years old and hopefully would have found a husband and, together, we would be looking into beginning a family fully functional with five children and maybe a dog or two. On the other hand, those are more so fantasies rather than set-in-stone ambitions. My mom always told me if I got a quality education and stayed steadily studying in my books, I would never have to struggle in life. To this day I am determined to live by that knowledge.

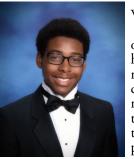
Ben Cohn



It's hard to truly figure out what the value of the education we received is, and virtually impossible to quantify it. Sure, you can look at test scores, school ranking, and college acceptance rates, but those are only the tip of the iceberg. A school should be judged by how well it prepares children for real life and how well it fosters creativity. I did not attend any other high schools, so I have no idea what a "normal" high school experience is. I always felt very able to express my individuality with few social consequences, which is in contrast to my middle school, which was very different. Our academics are supposed to be much more rigorous than

most other schools, so I suppose that may help me in college. I'm sure that the high ranking of the school helped me get into college; the fact that a 2.7 GPA put me in the bottom ten people in the class certainly did not. The South Carolina grading scale is a burden upon all people applying to out of state colleges, because many schools do not look at numbers, but letter grades according to the state's grading scale. The musical education I received was on par with college level courses in freshman year. A friend of mine going to the Atlanta Institute of Music was learning the same things in music theory that I was at the time. There is no doubt that if I take a music theory class in college I will not have to do any work at all. Overall, I'd say the arts education is extremely valuable compared to other high schools, while the academic level of value could be achieved by most of the better schools in the county.

Miles Counts



When Mr. Donnellon left, I lost a friend.

American history, in all of its beauty and cruelty, with all of its radiant optimism and frustrating disappointments, is hard to swallow at age 16. It is far too immense. Far too mercurial. However, his class, his excellent teaching, his devotion to truth and truth-seeking has given his students not only a better understanding of the country in which they inhabit, but a better understanding of ourselves and the powerful, cultural forces that influence every thought pattern and action.

He taught us to be more aware of our surroundings, to filter through the doubletalk and dog whistles that plague our nation's political and social discourse.

He taught us that classical social constructs, such as "race" and "gender" and "sexuality" must be reexamined and re-contextualized, demolished if need be, to afford our fellow human beings with the maximum equality and compassion.

He taught us that the Confederate flag is ridiculous in all contexts.

He gave life to countless, disenfranchised millions. Women, Blacks, American Indians, the impoverished, those neglected and beaten, often forgotten. Revived those victims of circumstance, ravaged by time.

He taught us that our collective past as a nation, our institutionalized slavery, our income inequality, our ingrained jingoism and intolerance, still holds a furious grip on our present and future lives. That we must understand our past if we ever hope to traverse the turbulent waters of our present.

He taught us that the Wire is quite possibly the greatest thing humanity has ever created. And that Arrested Development ain't half bad either.

He never condescended, and he treated us like adults.

He listened to us. Everyday, in his second floor classroom, he let us tell him our stories, our problems, our fears, our anxieties, our worries, and our hopes, and he never judged.

He made us feel as if our opinions mattered.

He made us feel as if we mattered, as students and as people.

I hope to be half the man he is today.

Ethan Courville



In ten years I hope to be a Captain in the United States Marine Corps. Although this is a very achievable goal, it will be not easily obtained. The first step that I am taking to reach this goal is my attendance at The Citadel. Over the next four years I hope to develop strong leadership skills that will help me to transition into the Marine Corps as a strong leader that demands the respect of those men and women that I lead. In order to receive a spot at Officer Candidacy School or the NROTC scholarship, I have to maintain above a 3.5 GPA throughout my college career. After my completion of college I will begin my career in the Marine

Corps. In order to become a Captain I must keep a clean and admirable record, as well as establishing a large amount of respect from those who serve with me.

I have had my life planned out in my head for years now. In middle school, I wanted to be wealthy by any means possible. It didn't matter if I was happy or not, I craved and still do crave success. But over my years here at SOA my perception of success has been altered. I attribute that to age and maturity, as well as the influence of my teachers and peers. Although it does sound cliché, success to me is not going to be necessarily measured monetarily but with the joy that my life brings to myself, and the impact that I have on the world and the people around me.

Rae Cross



An SOA education is much different than one you would get at a typical public school. We don't spend Fridays under the lights cheering for our school football team. Most of us have gone to school with each other since the sixth grade. We spend over an hour a day studying our designated art major. Every teacher knows our name. And going to our peers' dance performances, arts shows, music performances, theatre shows, and readings are a typical way to spend a weekend. These are only a few of the unique aspects of my school, and I truly wouldn't have had it any other way. First and foremost, the thing I am most thankful for that SOA gave me is my Creative Writing class. The Creative Writing

teachers have been instrumental in my growth as a person, and my classmates have formed a family I'm grateful to be a part of. The sense of community at SOA is astounding, and the personal attention I've received from my teachers is unlike any I believe I would have received had I chosen to attend another school. The constant outpouring of creativity creates an environment where true self-expression is not only accepted, but encouraged. In the end, I have never regretted my decision to come to SOA in the sixth grade and am more than thankful for everything the school has done for me. An SOA education is certainly a different one, but that's what made my seven years here worth it.

Jordan DiGregorio

My one year at SOA – yes, one, singular year, no more, no less; one shalt be the number thou shalt count, and the number of the counting shall be one; two shalt thou not count, neither count thou zero, excepting that thou then proceed to one; three is right out – has been a most refreshing experience.

I was born and raised in a suburb just fifteen minutes outside of downtown Detroit, Michigan. The schools are failing there and the arts programs are floundering and gasping for air. So moving my senior year of high school and coming to SOA was...actually a pleasant surprise. I moped at the beginning of the year, as any teenager who had been displaced would, but once I found my niche – and an excellent group of friends – things started to look up.

I was given opportunities here that I would have *never* experienced had I stayed in Detroit. I interviewed famous poets, I won a national award, and I started taking my writing a bit more...seriously. Entering the Creative Writing program as a senior was a bit odd for everyone, but doing so has helped me figure out which passions I want to pursue as I further my education.

Sometimes I wonder if the kids that attend this school realize how lucky they are. And the friends I've met here. God. They were so welcoming – *everyone* was overwhelmingly welcoming. It's crazy how much my life has changed in one year.

I came.
I saw.
I conquered.

Hannah Dille



One teacher has made a huge impact on my life. That teacher is **Ms. Fitzgerald**. Ms. Fitz was my major teacher for half of my high school years and my advisor for Music Tech for the other half. She has supported me through so much, and I have no idea what I would have done without her. She is such a great example of joy; she is always smiling and finding the good in things. Everyone can learn from that. She is truly passionate about teaching, and that is very clear. Thank you, Ms. Fitz, for all you do!

Sydney Dixon



Aside from many horrible wardrobe and hair decisions I have made over the years, there are few things I would have done differently. It's insane to think how quickly everything flew by and how much I have grown over the years. If I could do it all over again, knowing what I know now, I might've tried harder on my grades than on my social life. Middle school was a breeze compared to high school. Once in ninth grade, I would have tried to be in honors classes and continued with honors until senior year. If I had earned better grades, I might have been able to go to any college of my choosing. One thing I would take back above everything is the number of times I didn't come to school. That got

me in a lot of trouble. Another thing I would do differently is become friends with the people that are in my grade. I befriended all upper classman and after they graduated, the majority of my senior year has been spent sitting alone. School of the Arts has helped me to be the person I am today. Teachers and administrators had the ability to see me in my worst of times and my best of times. Even though I had an occasional attitude, they all had faith that I would turn out okay. So, to the teachers, administrators (past and present), and peers, I want to say we all make mistakes and have the option to learn and grow from them. Going out into the world, I feel confident that SOA has given me the best learning environment and has molded me to be a responsible young adult—that doesn't mean I can't still have fun! So, to all those that are going to be seniors one day, take everything with a grain of salt and breathe. Things will turn out for the best no matter how tough the going gets.

David Doboszenski



I came to SOA in sixth grade for Creative Writing. I met my extended family, which at this point is a small corporation of diversely skilled individuals, and started to understand the reality of growing up into this society. In the next seven years I will be gaining favors and graduating from Francis Marion University so I can make money and start a corporation. Any more information would require the forfeit of your life. No, but in all honesty I will probably be a highway patrolman until I can get a federal job where I will end up gaining many favors. I will study society because I will be studying sociology and such and that's what I will do.

I might still write stuff from time to time. The next seven years I will actually work hard. I will be paying for my education so I will learn stuff. I will try and focus more, but with friends like Emily and Danny I doubt that focus is a real thing. I doubt Cusatis will read these essays until the graduating class of 2024. Where will I be? Who knows! I will probably work and make money and not truly be able to tell you what I do.

Cooper Donoho



To divide us from the ghostly emptiness of our great-aunt's house in North Carolina, my brother and I used to watch each other through a pair of binoculars. I would stare into the wider end to reduce his size, and he would run across the back porch toward me until I lowered the binoculars in a tempest of quick, exalted pulses. Standing over my lanky nine-year-old frame in a rocking chair, his sudden closeness overwhelmed me. We played the game in cycles, wherever we could find a pair of binoculars to jolt our fist-sized hearts. Now, there is no emptiness we stop from seeping into our hollow teenage stomachs. We have

lost our unity, like I have lost my fragile, quick pulses in the sweeping disconnect that surrounds me.

I've been writing with serious intent for several years, and discovered my isolation while living in the heated social and artistic [continued on Page 51]

[continued from Page 50] prowess of fellow young writers. The craving for an idea, some idea that could trigger a human response from a reader, has helped me acclimate to the disparities in my own human connections. My brother has never been creatively inclined. My mother and father adhere to the unity they can see in our family of six when I, despite the occasional optimistic front, cannot help but see its mutilation. For all their iron confidence, even they, at times, acknowledge our dissipating lives. Absorbed with the precise ordering of words and sentences, I pace across the tough carpet in my bedroom wearing thin cotton t-shirts and flannel pants every night. I've grown wary of visitors to this islanded domain, but look for consolation in other artists, the kind of equally secluded familiars I see every day at SOA. With them, I share the freedom of speaking in terms of beauty. The cadence of their poorly postured steps, their breath, with its residue of coffee and cigarettes, and their clumsy smiles have fortified my solitude; it is writing, my drive to create, that separates me from the lanky nine-year-old watching his brother's ceramic size in those binoculars.

The irony of this artistic drive that swelters in my new environment is the deepening cycle it creates. Pursuit of the written word has left me in a desolate place, and the place leaves me with a pursuit of the written word. It forms a revolving sequence so similar to the binocular game, but without its jolt, only calming sensations like the feeling of unbroken motion. But in trying to become a writer, I tend to discern the fragments that compose a human unity that forms between the narrative and the reader. Connecting the two with an emotion requires an understanding of what creates it. I need vacancy to let my brother, in his shriveled, telescoped magnitude, soak into my words.

Emily Fairchild

One December afternoon, I sit on the floor of one of the orchestra rooms. The carpet is clean, the walls lined with sound-muffling panels. Knees press into my back and sides—the classroom is packed with as many students sitting cross-legged as will fit, and fit again, and again. The amoeba of my classmates is asked to scooch over, budge up, slide forward as more of us file in. "I think we succeeded at bending the space-time continuum," someone says.

Every few months, my school gives itself a performance. Convocation, we call it. "Just a demonstration of where you are so far. Unpolished. "This shouldn't be perfect," claims the senior advisor as justification for jamming us all in here, a triplewide classroom rather than our state-of-the-art theater, which has the luxury of an actual stage and enough seating but apparently encourages "perfectionist behavior."

At some point, the crowd settles in and sighs. The second theatre performance can't live up to the first, which featured a velociraptor. The guitar player forgot to plug in his amp, and we strain to hear him.

It's been seven years since I applied to Charleston County School of the Arts. In those seven years, I've spent ninety minutes a day in creative writing classes, and another forty-five in basic English. This leaves little to no room for electives, for PE, for recess, for other art or music classes. That's seven years of encouragement to read everywhere and everything, seven years of immersion in a performing arts community made up of seven other majors, seven years—1,890 hours—of focused writing instruction, seven years where the biggest pressure on me was to be creative, to be unique, and to dream. When you're allowed to think and believe and dream, to exist outside the popularity paradigm, it's easy to get lost in your own music. It's easy to forget that you need an amp.

I love losing myself like that. Transportation time from SOA's "central location" to most places in the county runs about an hour and a half round trip. I have that much time to forget the world around me and sink into the pages of fantasy

novels, the newspaper, the New Yorker.

No one is much surprised when the second composition is Sousa; in fact, we expected it. My friends are violinists, fiction writers, photographers, actors, so we all have at least an inkling of Sousa, Picasso, Hemingway, and one or two Broadway musicals. There are concerts and poetry slams every week.

Convocation can feel familiar—until the choir director sits at the piano, and Parrish, a senior, becomes an emphatic conductor, unprompted, unplanned. Two soloists step forward, and a percussionist begins the introductory beat for the otherwise a cappella "Sing We All Noel." The vocalists on the risers begin to sway and boredom dissipates. In the crescendo, mid-flail, Parrish's hat flies off into the audience. We're all clapping, swaying as much as we can in the limited space.

SOA has given me this—the ability to absolutely lose myself in this music swelling out from the risers to carry me with it, pressed shoulder-to-shoulder with other artists. We are able to clap on-beat and un-ironically, to celebrate our art and originality and ability to dream. On my lap is a journal. When we leave the classroom, we leave saturated with that communal sound and feeling. We have found where we belong, and you better believe the silly graduation speeches that say we take our abilities and our confidence with us out into the future.

Alexis Fletcher



In 2024, I want to be successful in my career as an orthodontist and have my own practice and office. I want to have graduated from North Carolina Agriculture and Technology with a four year degree. I also want to have attended MUSC for dental school so I can specialize in orthodontistry. I want to be married by the age of 26 and have my first child at 28. I want to have luxury cars and nice vacation homes at which to stay. I want to make at least \$300,000 dollars a year, and donate to cancer research and scholars who want to be in my same profession but can't

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Patterson Fralix



SOA.

When I entered SOA in the sixth grade, I was really shy. I only had a few close friends that came with me from my elementary school. I was never really good at making friends. Luckily, SOA is the type of place where friends come easily. Being in a major allows you to form strong bond with people quickly. Suddenly I found myself with 22 new friends. Our dance class has become a little family throughout my seven years. That's not to say that we got along every step of the way; like any family, we couldn't stand each other at points. However, through it all we have been able to support each other. We have come a long way from the shy group of girls

who wouldn't change in front of each other. As we got closer, we have been able to share every part of our personalities. We are the weirdest group of people and when we are together it just gets worse. Sitting in the hallway outside the theater during one of our thesis performances is where the best memories of my senior year have happened. I will never forget the way **Anna**'s face looks when she plays the moo game and how good **Ben** is at not laughing at her. All of these people are so unique and they have helped influence me in some way. Together they have taught me how be strong in the face of adversity, laugh at anything and embrace who I am. I am going to miss my dance class more than anything as I leave SOA.

Carlo Garcia

The most crucial part of my SOA education is my involvement in the arts. The opportunity to work with other musicians in my major and in other classes, like the Hairspray pit orchestra, symphony orchestra, and AP Music Theory, has allowed me to mature not only as a player but as a person. My experience with other musicians in ensembles is undoubtedly the most valuable aspect of my high school career. The chance to collaborate with other people to produce something beautiful is priceless. I will use the collaborative skills I gained as an orchestra musician for the rest of my life.

Many of my fondest memories at School of the Arts are shared with my close friends at performing events. Although the rehearsals and performances for the production of *Hairspray* were daunting and strenuous, I had a thoroughly enjoyable experience with my close friends, James and Benji, in the cello section. Nothing can compare to the experiences I had as a cello player in the SOA Symphony Orchestra. Under the direction of **Dr. Christopher Selby**, I not only gained valuable experience as a leader of a section, but also learned how to take criticism professionally. Overall, I attribute my growth as a person in high school to my experiences in orchestra. Playing in ensembles is the most valuable and memorable part of my education at

Conor Gatton



Usually, I would write this assignment in a jokey tone, breezing through with a few chuckles here and there. But I feel obligated to acknowledge the profound impact these past seven years have had on this soon-to-be graduate. It's sappy and perhaps overdramatic, but the past seven years at SOA have been the most cherished years of my life, right beside a lifetime of athletics and the journey of becoming an Eagle Scout (yes, I know the idea of me being a Boy Scout for six years seems like a punch line but it's true, I have the certificate at home.) There've been mentors all along the journey to which I will always feel indebted for the rest of my life. Among the faculty there've been the

three Creative Writing demi-gods for teachers who took me in as a son and taught me more than the power of words. Mr. Donnellon, Mr. Reese, Mr. Brehm, Ms. Drennan, Ms. Rogers, Ms. Crawford, Ms. Fairchild, Mr. Perkins, Dr. Cusatis, and Dr. Price, you have all taught me so much more than your assigned subjects and I feel humbled to have been in your classes.

To the rest of SOA's faculty, know that you have also made an impact in my life, but I felt ten shout-outs were already pushing the patience of the newspaper's editor. To all my friends along this expedition - I've laughed, been emasculated through tears, and yes, even bled (thanks **Noah Butler**). But more important than that, each friendship I've made has given me a reason to keep pushing forward, provided the motivation needed so I could climb out of the abyss life tossed me into more than once. For that, I thank you all. If I had to change a thing over the past seven years I wouldn't, because that means the man writing this essay wouldn't be me entirely. That's why if I had a time machine, I'd only use it to settle my doubts about religion and of course, see real-life dinosaurs. SOA has kindled my aspirations to make the American Dream my reality—to be happy and healthy and successful. But hopes die away if not acted upon. (I'm sure some philosopher or motivational speaker said something among those lines. Maybe Langston Hughes's "A Dream Deferred"?) I've learned to chase after a goal, to never let up and to never grow up, because when we put away childish things we find ourselves in a cubicle, selling stock for a paper company in Finland, wondering what in God's name we're doing

In closing, I've learned a life well lived is filled with passions, passions that are relentlessly pursued alongside those who share the same burning curiosities and ambitions in the hopes that one day, even if it's just before your final breath, you can accomplish the impossible you dreamed you could do, way back on the first day you walked into school for the first time in your life.

Elizabeth Rose Grech



For most, education is anchored in GPA, course load (the number of your AP classes), and your class ranking. While SOA students care about all of the above, they also receive an education that consists of much more than grades. We learn the importance of individualization, confidence and knowledge. Throughout my seven years, I have learned more from my teachers and peers at SOA than I could have ever learned from just reading a textbook. I learned not only crucial educational information but also the precious intangible information that some don't learn until college or later. Starting in middle school, I learned the value of my art major and the opportunity it gave me to perform

and learn from the upperclassmen. **Ms. Slowinski** showed me what it looked like to want something and to be strong. **Ms. Cline** gave me my creative toolbox that carried me through junior and senior year, and she and **Ms. Pitman** acted as my support throughout my high school career. Freshman year, **Mr. Orvin** told me stories, which I listened to once again this year as his teacher monitor. Sophomore year, I learned the value of knowledge as opposed to the grade while **Mr. Reese** pushed me to my limits in my first AP class. It wasn't until after that class that I realized how much I had learned, and that sometimes learning for the sake of the knowledge will get you much farther. Junior year taught me how to balance work and play under a heavy

course load still while still trying to stay "well-rounded." Senior year showed me just how fast time flies and that our lives pass by quicker than we expect. I had the opportunity to step beyond my comfort zone taking classes such as Ceramics, Law and Justice, and Mapping the Mind, classes that I never expected to take but that have taught me extraordinary information that has assisted me in many of my core classes. SOA has heavily influenced my perception of education, the value of being well-rounded, and has fully prepared me for the rest of my journey.

Caton Hamrick



If I were entering SOA as a sixth grader there are a few things I would have done differently. First off, I would learn to think before I spoke way earlier than I did. Unfortunately, I didn't learn that for quite a while and I still got comments on my lack of a filter or consideration back in middle school, and that's not the best thing to have been known for. Second, I would limit the ridiculous amount of Bermuda shorts I wore. Third, don't blow off practicing. As I continued at SOA I found more and more enjoyment in the music I was playing in Band, though I only took the initiative to really practice a couple fewmonth bursts in the seven years I've been at SOA and

looking back I wish I really buckled down and did it. Fourth, I would do my work. I love CJ Anderson. Even though it didn't seem all that important at the time, it would be nice not panicking before every interim and report card came out and thinking of excuses to say to your parents before you even had it in your hands. Fifth, make as many friends as you possibly can as early as you can. There are some people I didn't become friends with until my senior year and I wish I had more time with them before I left. Lastly, even though it sounds cliché, just be yourself. It's important. >^..^<

Katie Heinen



Helping people or animals has always been my dream. Ever since I've known my surroundings, I've known that I want to help someone or something. In ten years, I don't know what I want to be - a doctor, a nurse, a veterinarian - but whatever I decide, I know I want to travel the country, even the world, to help people or animals that need it. I don't want to be a hero or someone who is well known, I just want to help the people that need more than me. In ten years, I want to be doing what I love the most: being a mother, a wife, a nurse, a doctor, or a veterinarian. I hope to be the person I want to be.

Katri Heitman



If I were to go back and re-do all of my time at SOA, I would definitely take more naps. I never realized how great naps in the nurses' office are until this year, even though the beds are kind of hard, and it's always stupid cold in there. Also, I feel like I would probably listen to **Ms. Link** the same amount, and yell at her the same amount. Nothing would change there. I probably would have bought more Skittles from the vending machine while they were in there. I would have never gone to the fair. And lastly, I would have made sure to turn up with **Ann Branham** more. #lol #seniors #bestnightofourlyfes #nap #nap #nap

Delaney Hogan



I was a latecomer to SOA, starting in tenth grade after spending my freshmen year at Bishop England. I was warmly welcomed by the students here and made more friends on my first day at SOA than I had made all year at BE (not kidding at all). The diversity and like-minded appreciation for all forms of the arts is something I would've never experienced at another high school. It is truly amazing to have such unique and passionate individuals for classmates. Being surrounded by so many outgoing performers has forced me to come out of my shell, and Î am so happy I am no longer the quiet, shy girl I was as a freshman. SOA has taught me much more than just

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academics; it has taught me confidence, culture, and acceptance.

I will really miss the insane amount of creativity at this place. I will miss the special moments I shared onstage while performing with my fellow dance majors more than I can explain. SOA has helped expand my lifelong love for dance, and I can't wait to pursue it for the rest of my life. The students, teachers, and eccentricities of SOA were what made this experience so worthwhile, and for those of you that have never been to another school, you really don't know how good we have it here. Stay Gucci, y'all. Follow me on twitter or something.

Anna Holloway



Coming to SOA seven years ago, I was the only kid coming from my school. I was never a person who had a hard time making friends. However, entering a new environment where half of the kids came from the same elementary school or whose parents knew each other made me a little uneasy. Fortunately, SOA was one of those schools that accepted any type of person, with any talent, from any background. To my luck, within the first weeks of school, I had made my Dance class my family and felt right at home. It was amazing coming to class and getting to interact with 22 different individuals who had such a wide range of personalities and experience.

It was funny, actually, being a dance major you not only had to get comfortable dancing in front of each other, but changing in front of, at that time, strangers. I will never forget the first day we had to get changed, all 22 of us girls had to divide up in half and change in the dressing rooms. At that time, on the old campus, we had the pool tables stored on the perimeter of each changing room. I remember how each one of us entered in silence, and tried to find our own corner or crevice in between the table corners where we attempted to have our "privacy." It wasn't before long that we realized that wouldn't work out and we were going to have to learn to deal with each other. Looking back at that first experience now brings a smile to my face. Looking at all of us NOW, you would NEVER know we were shy with each other. The relationship my fellow dance majors and I have now is almost too complex to describe. It's ridiculous how many boundaries you can break with other people that you are in no way related to, but yet feel so comfortable with. We honestly have formed a family, from the original sixth graders to our class losing and gaining dancers up until now. We may not always get along, but are a support group when needed. Twenty-three different personalities mixed that joke togeth er, laugh together, cry together, dance together, and love together. Through all the good and bad, my overall experience at SOA has been something that can't be replaced. It was a transition that I was unsure about in the beginning and even doubted until my sophomore year. But, as I look back, SOA and the people here have REALLY shaped me to how I am now, and I couldn't be more grateful for that.

Jesse Holmes



If I was entering SOA as a sixth grader, there are many things that I would do differently. One major thing is that I would have liked to start foreign languages earlier in my life so I could have spent the time I wasted at a younger age on more constructive things. Learning languages and linguistics are also things I love to do, so if I had realized this earlier then I could have spent more time doing something I love. Something else I would do differently is that I would try harder in forming deeper relationships with my peers. In the end, I think that the relationships you have formed over the years are really important in an individual life. The final thing I would do differently is to just make better grades and try harder in school.

Desiree Horlbeck



Ten years from now, depending on which career path I take, I will either be pursuing my PhD in Psychology in order to do research in psychological disorders or I will be advocating for change and improvement in community programs targeting issues of poverty and/or public and mental health policies. Although I've officially committed to the University of South Carolina as an Experimental Psychology major, I'm teetering on the edge of a decision to switch to a social work degree with a minor in International Studies. In order to do either, internships are the key. Any connections I make during these internships could jumpstart my career. I already have a head start in advocacy

as I've been involved in a non-profit for years. I'm very passionate about both subjects (I could ramble about either one forever if given the chance) and this passion will serve me well. I have developed pretty good interpersonal skills over the years, which will be important for both occupations. I can utilize my laidback and unassuming personality as no one would expect me to be as stubborn as I actually am, throwing them off balance and giving me the advantage (politics can get a little dirty and you have to take any lead you can get). I can also be pretty friendly, which will come in handy as both jobs make use of teamwork. As for my personal life, I could be married or in a relationship or even single. It doesn't matter as long as I'm happy and successful.

Rose Houpe



After my many wonderful years spent at School of the Arts, I will be attending Clemson University. I am going to major in Environmental Engineering and minor in Architecture. After my freshman or sophomore year I will be transferring to either City College of New York or the University of San Francisco to study Environmental Engineering and Architecture. After graduating I hope to get a job or internship at the Central Park Conservancy, Skidmore, Owings & Merrill Architecture Firm, or any other well known international architectural firm. I will also continue my education in New York City and pursue a master's degree in Architecture.

Before 2024 I hope to take a year off from my studies and work and travel Europe, Asia, and South America. After obtaining years of education and experience, I hope to start my own architecture firm, that one day will be an international firm, specializing in eco-friendly practices. In my firm I will have two different divisions: one specializing in industrial design and another specializing in home design. I also hope to be philanthropist for causes that I feel passionate about, and because of my early backgrounds in the arts, dating back to the first grade, I will definitely support the arts in any way I can. I cherish all my moments at SOA as they help me move forward into my life.

Carter Inabinett



An SOA education is very valuable because of its incorporation of the arts. The fine art teachers and academic teachers at SOA also make it as valuable as it is. The math department here at SOA is by far the best I've seen in any high school. My friends also made my SOA education what it is today. If I was entering SOA as a sixth grader, I would definitely take the early years of my education more seriously. I would change my major to visual arts because they don't do a lot of activities outside of school or go in debt.

Ayla Jensen



My Creative Writing class has definitely had the strongest impact on me. They've helped me do a lot of things I'm proud of and were still supportive of me when I was at my least proud moments. I have always been able to count on them to be helpful. Whether it be **Conor** playing with his headphones, **Miles**' witty random jokes, **Cooper** and **Lucas** antagonizing each other into fits of laughter, **Rae** and her rap music and good advice, **Harris** and her similar opinions, I know I can always count on them to make me smile and pick me up. **Mr. Hammes** has also been a great influence and teacher for all the years. Not that this man that eats cold

crazy bread and Cheetos for breakfast is in any way a beautiful specimen of mankind (he leaves that to his partner in crime, **Scapelatto**) but he really is a helpful and intelligent human that has been a source of good advice. I am so happy I got to know these people. It's been a blessing.

Isabelle Jur



Theatre had the strongest impact on me out of all the classes I have been in. When I first came to SOA, I was very shy. Theatre taught me not to care what others think of you because no matter what there will always be people judging you. I now love talking and am very outgoing. Theatre taught me to think outside of the box because most of the best works are original. I've learned to be more independent because during solo pieces we had to write, direct, and act in a piece all on our own. Overall, Theatre has taught me a lot over the past seven years.

Emily Kahn-Perry



Out of my three years at SOA, **Dr. Price** was my favorite teacher. Science was never my best subject, but after a year of chemistry, that changed. Test-taking has never been my strongest skill, and chemistry was one of the first classes in which I was able to test well while understanding the information. Dr. Price was always there to answer my questions and teach the information in a way that was enjoyable and fun. At the end of the year I did a research project on the chemistry of food science and metabolism, which relates to what I am majoring in college next year, Nutritional Science. Dr. Price was able to help me discover

the chemistry that goes into a lot of aspects of science. This year, she was the teacher I chose to write recommendations for college. I have never had a teacher who has made a subject so enjoyable for me and I am so thankful for the opportunity to take her class.

Ellison Karesh

Some may look at an arts school and think that the school is all about arts and no academics. At SOA I have gotten an amazing education through arts as well



as academics. The teachers, for the most part, have allowed students to do projects in which they can incorporate their major and that, to me, is super awesome. I didn't come to SOA until the ninth grade so I know what it is like at normal public schools, and this is not it. The teachers that have had the biggest impact on me would be Mr. Michael Donnellon, Mr. Karl Clark, Mr. Alan Brehm, and the dynamic duo of Mr. Ken Foberg and Mr. Basil Kerr. In the year 2024, I hope to be working for ESPN as a reporter if not already a SportsCenter anchor. I will do so by working my way up from radio and local television. Remember that you only get

one chance at high school, so make the most of it while you've still got the time.

Amanda Kasman



So many of my teachers from my first year at SOA, in the sixth grade to my senior year, deserve abundant praise, but I fear that a newer member to the SOA family will go unrecognized for her incredibly hard work in the last year. Faced with a seemingly impossible task, to assume control over a heart-broken class a quarter of the way through the year, she approached AP World with an aspiration to go above and beyond, refocusing our attention and unleashing our greatest potential.

After **Mr. Reese** transferred to a different school, I regretted my decision to take a sophomore class as a senior and dreaded the failure I was sure would follow, but **Ms.**

Zerbst has not only filled that gap left by a well-renowned teacher, she gave a new persona to the history department, reinvigorating student interest in learning. In my mind, no classes have gone by faster than Ms. Zerbst's, while still covering immense quantities of material. All the while, she has been both an angel at the podium and in one-on-one encounters. This balance of generosity and kindness within a framework of unbiased, competitive classroom environment has led to one of the most direct outpourings of gratitude from my peers that I have ever seen in all of my years here, and never has it been so deserved.

I will admit I often spent several hours completing assignments, but the demanding nature of the homework was counteracted by assurance that our hard work would always be fairly rewarded. This was made possible by precise organization and resolve on Ms. Zerbst's part, which remained dependable even after a turn of events piled three more AP classes onto her schedule! Every assignment was consistently collected at the beginning of class, and returned having been meticulously graded the next. A result of this pervasive fairness was the wholehearted respect of her students, myself included, who I hope, as a whole, have returned the favor. Though remarkably close to perfect, Ms. Zerbst, did at times experience troubles with the numerous pieces of technology in the classroom. Always, such circumstances were met with generosity and humble acknowledgment of the mistake, and I hope that we were patient and adaptable accordingly.

Ms. Zerbst, all of the students from AP World are so grateful for your having been our teacher, and I am sure the same goes for the rest of your World History and US History students. We appreciate all the hours you spent grading and looking for helpful videos on the internet. We could not have done it without you, by which I mean we could not have learned so much while still having so much fun.

Best of luck next year, but first have a very relaxing summer.

Brandon Kerr



In 2024, I want to be in the sports world with a stable job that I could keep for a very long time. I would like it to be a well-paying job so student loans will not be a problem. My dream is to play basketball, but that will be a challenge. But I love the sport so much; I'm willing to do anything for a chance to play. I intend to make this happen by going to Winthrop and majoring in Sports Management. With this major, internships are huge. I will probably go to the Charlotte Bobcats Organization and start helping with small things, like

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being video coordinator or working the scoreboard. This experience will go on my resume. When applying for a job, they will see that I've done a lot over my four years in college and I will more likely be hired. As far as playing, I will have to walk on and work harder than everyone else, both on the court and in the gym. That's the only way I'll have a chance, and I hope all works out for the best. It's a challenge, but I know I can do it.

Ryan Kerr



Watching and analyzing basketball, and pretty much every other sport, has been something I've done since I can remember. In ten years, hopefully I'll be on the sideline of a basketball court coaching at the collegiate level. Why collegiate and not professional? To me, college basketball is more exciting. They actually play the regular season, unlike the NBA where it is only exciting in the playoffs. And plus, I want to help grow these young adults into good, well-behaved, respectable people. College basketball just has the emotion that's hard to get away

from. Yes, it would be an honor to be one of the best coaches to ever coach the game, but my main goal is to help whoever I coach to be the best person they can be, and the awards would just be icing on the cake. Hopefully, in ten years, this dream will become a reality.

Benji Kidder



I want to find myself in the future doing something that I love. And I love a lot of things. I love to write music. Music to me is the reason I get up in the morning; I wonder what kind of sounds and songs I'll hear today... I play the cello, so I'm always surrounded by a melody playing in my head or thinking of some new chord progressions. I might hear a car engine mixed with my sister's radio playing and, without thinking, I hear a beautiful chord that sounds a lot like something from one of Mahler's Symphonies. With this kind of mindset, I really

want to pursue something music related when I look for work. I can't do the whole "cubicle" kind of job, but I wouldn't mind taking those sounds that come from a workplace like that and turn them into a song.

I love to create stories. I find storytelling is one of the best ways to entertain people and I love to entertain people. I could easily see myself being a storyteller, but using a medium we all know and love: TV. I have this dream where I will one day be making a television show of my own creation, using the help and guidance of others to make it come true. I am already working on a small animation in my 3-D Digital Art and Animation class, and I have even started a webcomic with a good friend of mine. Hopefully, with this knowledge, I can have the knowledge that children, teenagers like myself, and even adults will be watching and enjoying something that I have worked on. Cartoons were a big part of my childhood, but with a deeper understanding of literature, I was beginning to see all the imagery and deeper meanings of what the "cartoon" was really saying. Like a good book, I can watch it multiple times and still see something I hadn't seen before. And I love that.

These two things are at the top of my infinite list of things that I would love to see myself doing in ten years and they go together so nicely that maybe I can even figure out how to combine them into something new. But for now, I'm glad that these doors are open to me because I have learned a lot from SOA.

Ellen Kitchens

As lame as high school seems, with all the drama and homework and tests and papers, SOA made it so it wasn't. Or wasn't quite. I'm not saying I want to stay here forever or I enjoyed the tedious amounts of schoolwork. And senioritis is a real struggle. But, the friendships I have formed at School of the Arts are the best, not only of my high school experience, but for a lifetime. So thank you **Bena** for always loving me, even though you know my every fault. SOA didn't get good until you came so thanks for being talented and all that. Thank you B-Dog for all of the time and all of the love. This place wouldn't be the same without you and your sharing spirit. Your loyalty shines in everything you do. Thank you K-Dog for all of the fun and for not caring what people think about you. Thanks Delta Sigma Gamma for all the support and ice cream and for being my best friends. Thanks to all my Creative Writers – you guys are royalty. I have complete faith in you guys going far and beyond in life. Love you all. Thanks to Rut and Scap and Mama Miles and Anne and Donny and Mrs. **B** and all the rest of you guys who taught me all the stuff I know.

Madelyn Knight



The class that has impacted me the most is, in all honesty, Vocal. Robin Rogers has been my Vocal mentor and teacher since the sixth grade. I've learned so many techniques and skills from him that will stay with me forever. Thanks to this school, I've discovered my love for classical music, opera, and musical theatre. Also, my past Vocal teacher, **Ms. Slenk**, and my current one, **Ms.** Hammond, have helped me greatly. I started out as a squeaky little sixth grader, and now I will be majoring in classical voice performance next year.

Katarina Lanier



Looking back at myself in ninth grade, I physically cringe at my inability to think about anything but boys basically, and maybe the last bad movie I saw like "The House Bunny." But SOA and not SOA have allowed me to keep a wide winding path to experience and learn or whatever you want to call it - mature? I have had some intense teachers (and not so intense) who have all taught me at least one thing—some more serious and important than others. Dance thesis was the perfect opportunity to go deep into your own mind creatively as well as your peers' minds. I am honestly

just glad I was never legitimately even written up, even though I probably deserved it at some points. (Mr. Ratigan promised me he would, but I have yet to receive the memo). I also have never been to a lunch detention or after school detention so, LAY IT ON ME! Thanks to the baddest, meanest girls around for keeping it real and true to <3 (E+B DAWG, Goochey—thanks for Bludes, Rachie, Marco, Anne Cimballa, M.I.A., TDS YA FEEL + the other cliques, Dr. Cusatis—I expect an A, Bena, Pancake—my favorite animal, Mrs. Linda Cline+ Pitman, Magritte, Macfarmgirl, Miguel and the rest of the sad, sad world). I will see you all at the Alumni weekend.

Marco Lanier



I have been at SOA since sixth grade and through these seven years I have had a wealth of experiences. I remember some adventurous high school students kayaking in that small flooded ditch in the old school, and I remember Eric Payne throwing a pie at Mr. Rinehart's face, and I'll maybe remember the Pegasus Garden if it's maybe done. Band has been a pretty major influence, particularly jazz band, in which we have played a huge variety of tunes in a huge variety of places. Academics are a different story. There's some kind of strange divide between arts and academics,

each playing a little of tug-o-war. Yet somehow they end up pulling in the same direction. The majority attitude of the school seems to be integrated into the arts, but it's hard to value arts over academics in such a practical world. That's what makes them more beautiful and unique.

Ashtyn Laserna



High school is supposed to be the best four years of your life. I don't know about that, but SOA will definitely be the most memorable. The whole experience is so far from a normal high school education that it's almost its own new category. SOA is an open place where almost everything is accepted. You don't have to worry about what everyone is going to think. SOA is a place where you take time out of the school day to create and put forth artwork for the community to see. The teachers understand you're an artist, and they still strive for the best and push their students farther than they could have ever expected. I may have missed out on the sports

aspect, but SOA gives a whole other experience to replace it. I value the fact that SOA can make a person open up in ways they didn't even know they could. Before I came to SOA seven years ago, I was shy; always concerned what others thought of me and I hardly talked. SOA made me more outgoing and allowed me to put myself out there with no concern for what others' opinions were. SOA is a school where you don't just go to school with these people for four years—you grow up with them for seven. So right now is the time you want to get away from these people, but also just want to cry at the thought of leaving. SOA was a crazy experience with some of the best and worst memories, and I will miss every second of it.

Emma Lieberman



A lot can happen in seven years. Looking back on the sixth grade version of me, it astounds me how much I didn't know and how through each of the years since how unorganized my priorities were. High school was fun, don't get me wrong, but there are certainly things I would've done differently. If I could go back now and give myself advice, it would be this:

Focus on school more. You think you're having more fun putting things off, but it's not fun when you're rushing at the last minute. You miss out on so much that way. Despite what you think now, college is important and it's also a reality. You don't have to get perfect grades all of the time, but practice good habits early on. It's a lot harder to learn them when

you're older. Also, don't take four AP classes in one year. Just don't.

Do more. Learning doesn't stop when you leave school. It can be fun: learning how to paint or dance or sew. Start early, because getting the bright idea to begin learning it all your senior year doesn't always work out as well as you think it would. Participate in community service as well, not just for the SOA diploma, but because it really does make you feel better. Do good things for other people even when you aren't feeling your best. It gets hard when it goes unnoticed, but you'll always be able to like the person you see in the mirror if you do.

Looks aren't important. At least, not in the way you think they are. The girl you become in the next seven years does enjoy dressing well and curling her hair and wearing red lipstick, but it's not everything. You don't have to wear what everyone else is wearing, because you'll never be happy in it. When you finally do realize that you would fit in better in the 1940s, you'll also realize that it's not bad that you're pale or that you aren't the skinniest girl in the world. Those things become uniquely you, and that's nothing to be ashamed of.

Lighten up. There is no reason to be angry or scared or self-conscious. Everyone is trying to find their way, and you're no different. It sounds so terribly cliché, but be yourself. That means singing at the top of your lungs with your friends, or dancing at prom (no matter how atrocious it looks), or speaking up when you're longing to be heard. Enjoy yourself, because you're not a kid forever. Don't try to grow up so fast either; it happens. Time will fly and soon you're two weeks from graduating wondering where it all went. You'll be ready to move on to bigger and better things, but only when you're ready. And you're not ready now. So just relax and enjoy yourself.

"Good things fall apart so that better things can fall together." In your middle and high school years there will be a lot of disappointments, as well as a lot of fun times you won't soon forget. Things will go wrong, only to teach you lessons about yourself and to lead to experiences better than you could ever imagine. Just

remember that all the friends you obtain, boys you fall in love with, interests you find, mistakes you make, and success you earn all helps you to become the person you are as you walk across that stage and receive your diploma. As I said, a lot can happen in seven years.

Jessica Martin



Where do I start? My four years at SOA has been a rollercoaster with more highs than lows. My experience at SOA would not be the same if it was not for **Karl Clar**k. He was my Ancient World History teacher, and it was the first history class I ever enjoyed. Little did I know that teacher sponsored one of my soon-to-be favorite clubs, Quiz Bowl. Quiz Bowl has been a great experience. I got to meet some of my best friends in the club while learning random facts. Thursday night, game night, became the highlight of my week. In my high school career, the amount of Panera Bread that was consumed by the QB team alone would shock any

passerby. Clark always would know how to cheer me up, even if at the time I felt like it was the "worst day of my life." Whether it was the sarcasm or the great advice, he was always there. SOA is full of amazing and game-changing teachers that I would not be the same without and I feel as if I am betraying that bond by not choosing them, but Clark has been there since day one at SOA for me.

Caitlyn Miller



I have never been a fan of change, so when I entered SOA seven years ago, I was a nervous wreck. I knew middle school was going to be different, but I didn't know how different. I was clueless, nervous, and scared. If only I had had known that all I had to do was be myself and go with the, things would have been much easier. Sometimes I wish I could start over knowing that, but at the same time, I was raised not to regret anything.

I distinctly remember my first days at SOA. I remember the pink dress I wore, the cafeteria, the faces I saw, my overwhelming anxiety, and the fast pace of my heartbeat. I

had never been around so many unfamiliar faces, and so many high school kids who towered over me. I knew middle school was going to be different from elementary school, but I didn't know how different. I had so many questions, and the one that took control of my mind was "Would I have to be different?"

It was hard for me to adapt to new scenery. I wanted people to like me more than anything and always tried so hard to have them accept me. Surprisingly, I was a hypocrite, because I was not able to accept that things would change and not everyone would like me.

I wish I could go back in time knowing that just because I was at a different school, I didn't have to be a different person. I wish I had known that being myself was more important than being accepted. If only I hadn't tried so hard and just gone with the flow of things, my years of high school would have been easier. I am thankful for **Sally Hutchinson**, **Heath Orvin**, **Michael Donnellon**, **Sue Bennet**, **Gretchen Looney**, and most importantly, my mom and dad for teaching me to just be myself and making my last few years at SOA worthwhile. I love all of you, and despite a few bumps in the road, I don't regret a second.

Sarah Moser



Being a part of SOA is an experience unlike many. Looking back now, I regret not taking advantage of the opportunities and school that I was blessed to be a part of. We have so many incredible experiences and privileges that are not offered at other schools. There are many things that I wish I could say I participated in, but I don't regret any of my time at SOA. Having been here since sixth grade, SOA has transformed me into the person that I am today. Although I have had many sleepless nights, I feel very prepared for what is to come, in college and in life. It is intimidating to realize that in a few

Applause

months I will be thrown out on my own without seeing the same faces that I have been seeing everyday for the past seven years, especially my Theatre class. Oh... Where do I begin? Our group is the biggest variety of personalities, but I can't picture myself without them. Our final solo pieces brought out every emotion you could possibly feel, yet we all did everything we could to help each other out. I will miss civilization, kabuki, and our constant reminder that all of the students that have left SOA were not in class during attendance. But we cannot forget all of the fabulous teachers that have pushed us to this point. Our senior class is full of so many wonderful people and I will be sad to leave everyone. But guess what.... WE DID IT! Class of 2014!

Halle Murphy



The original campus has left a lasting impact on all members of the Class of 2014 who were there to be a part of it. I loved the disorder of the campus, even though the fear of getting lost gave me nightmares as a rising sixth grader. Freedom of expression was limitless there. Each wall of every building I entered displayed a mural, some for the graduating classes, others for artistic purposes. The final memory of the old SOA sticks with me. It was the last day on campus before winter break.

The old campus was equipped with a terrible drainage system, consisting of ditches located all over campus. The ditches were designed to catch rainwater, but instead created the beloved "Lake SOA," an enormous span of murky knee-to-waist-deep water. On the last day, it poured for the entire school day. I thought back to the first day of rain in sixth grade. Unsure of how to handle the situation as twelve-year-olds, everyone panicked and sprinted from the Fine Arts building right through the puddles, rushing to the cluster of trailers. We all showed up to our fourth block classes soaked, patting ourselves down with paper towels in an attempt to dry off.

Two years later, my friend and I welcomed the overflowing ditches with open arms. The school day had ended and it was time to walk to the bus loop behind the Fine Arts building for the last time. Rather than avoiding the tiny bodies of water, we trudged through them with the highest amount of Pegasus pride. We plunged our legs into each collection of icy water, laughing with every step. With each stride I remembered the level of creativity present in the walls. I miss it every so often.

Justice Murray



The whole world already knows that, without a doubt, Mrs. Zerbst has had the strongest impact on me. Every teacher should be like her...seriously! I can comfortably go to her about ANYTHING and I know she'll listen. The Zerbster is like a mom away from home. If it were not for her (and Mrs. Looney suggesting the course to me), then I would have never discovered my hidden talent of creating eye-catching pottery. She has supported my burning passion for ceramics and aided me in honing my coiling skills. When I first stepped foot in her classroom, she simply smiled and stated, "Your hands are probably more capable than you are giving them credit for."

Throughout the semester I discovered how accurate her statement was. It just took

me a while to figure out what my hands were truly able to do. Mrs. Zerbst has the

Another teacher that has had a strong impact on me while at SOA is **Mr. Moore**. He's hard to find around the school, but he is always there for his students. Mr. Moore has supported me all year long when it came to my other classes, especially ceramics. He is a very chill teacher and brings a fun, challenging atmosphere. Mrs. Zerbst and Mr. Moore will forever be in my heart as the most inspirational teachers of all time, and if I end up teaching before I go to veterinary school, I want to be

Amber Myers



Over the past seven years of attending School of the Arts, I have learned and have grown in knowledge, social matters, and friends. From Oyster Roasts, to the Jump, Jive, and Wails, competitions and proms, to making and losing friends, and seeing teachers come and go, SOA has given me a taste of life. Also, bringing a lunch to school is a very smart idea, and acing a test is a great feeling. You might not always love your graduating class, so stick to your major family; they will always be there for you. And remember: use your gut. If you think anybody at school is wrong, they probably are, and you need to

prove to them you are right. I'm going to miss being your secretary, Ms. Fitz!

Bianca Palillo



One thing that I would like to reflect on about my four years here in SOA has to be my confidence issues. Back when I was a freshman, I had all the confidence in the world. Of course, back then, just being accepted into the school affected me to have the mind-set of being the greatest singer ever. But as time went on, that confidence started to deteriorate. I started to become aware of all the people who have done better than me; people who get more solos and parts than me. Of course, this devastated me and resulted in a series of questions: "Why?" and "Am I not good enough?" Then, at the end of my

junior year, an enlightening time, my attitude started to become positive. As a result of being an understudy for Mrs. Potts (Beauty and the Beast) and an understudy for Muzzy (Thoroughly Modern Millie), I started to believe in the phrase "there are no small parts, just small actors." Don't get me wrong, I was upset at the fact that I did not get those parts, causing me to almost quit Millie. What really triggered my conscience is that I should not pay so much attention to the things that I did not get, but the things that I did get. Because I centered everything on the negatives, I did not see the positives in my life. I completely forgot about the fact that in my sophomore year, I got into the top choir (SATB) in All-State. The thought dissipated after recognizing that I was the #3 Alto in South Carolina in my junior year and the #1 Alto in my senior year. So, to sum it all up, yes, I did learn something very important in my time here at SOA. Though my part may be small, I will not be a small actor and I will make that small part stand out. And though some people may disagree, in my mind, I am the best singer that has ever existed.

Bena Parker



School of the Arts, in my experience, is an outstanding environment for individuals looking to find their identify and define who they truly are. The classes are small and the teachers really do care about you. The one-on-one relationship and the attention teachers are willing to provide to help you succeed are unique and one of the benefits of smaller, tightlyknit schools such as SOA. The free spirit of this high school is like a warm, embracing hug, providing diverse friend groups and relations with those who share your similar talents and passions. If you're looking to stand out in high school and have

your passions developed into lifelong skills with intensive [continued on Page 58]

[continued from Page 57] and challenging one-on-one instruction geared toward your specific area of interest, then you should come to School of the Arts. The strong influences I gained through my academic classes like US History, AP Biology, and English have helped give my life more direction and prepared me for the future. There are so many unique opportunities this school provides that others do not. Art and creativity are core values of both this school and America and are essential to individualism in this increasingly competitive and modern society. Because students at SOA are purposefully challenged to expand their minds, incorporate their arts into everyday life, and approach situations from different perspectives, I feel that the students who come out of this school are better prepared for their futures. The relationships I established over the years will always be remembered in a positive, warm, fuzzy glow and I have nothing bad to say.

Alex Peeples



When I started writing this, the only thing I wanted to do was sum up all of my experiences at SOA whether they were strange, hilarious, heartbreaking, heartwarming, et cetera, et cetera. I could go on and on about the things I've accomplished and how great I am for them, and the incredible people I've come to call my friends, but as I started thinking about all of that I came to the realization that while I cherish the time that I have spent at SOA immensely, I wouldn't be able to cherish any of it if not for **Rene Miles**. I came to SOA as an unnecessarily angry sixth grader. The only reason being that I had had my

heart set on being a theatre major since the moment I found out what School of the Arts was, and after what felt like a hundred rehearsals of a monologue about a kid who had been sent to the principals' office I was accepted into the school... for my secondary major choice. I brought an onslaught of misbehavior onto the Creative Writing department for three years. At one point in sixth grade I was separated from my peers and formed the communities of Funky Town and Funky Town 2 with Conor Gatton, and I'm embarrassed to say that I made more than one D in my major in middle school as a result of my behavior, and that wasn't the only class I fell behind in. I didn't have very many friends back then either, another result of my negative outlook on things. At the beginning of my freshman year, I don't know if Mrs. Miles had just had enough of it or if she actually saw something in me, but she took it upon herself to set me straight. And did she ever. Since then I never made below a B+ in creative writing, I've taken (and passed) three AP exams, I have people who I can honestly call my best friends, and I can say without any doubt that there is no major I would have rather spent the last seven years in than Creative Writing. Mrs. Miles is much more than just the founder of the department, or a mentor, or someone who puts in grades. She's a mother to every student who's ever been on one of her attendance sheets. It is because of her that on college applications I could describe myself as confident; it is because of her that I see new days as being equivalent to blessings; and it is because of her that I will leave SOA knowing that the last seven years of my life were miraculous. And it is my deepest wish that when she leaves the school this year with us, she can say the same thing.

Elizbeth Pena



As a young girl, when I thought of high school, I pictured it being like *High School Musical*. I thought everyone would be divided into different cliques: cheerleaders, jocks, and the nobodys. I saw myself going out every weekend to our school's football games, but that was not the case for me as a student at SOA. This school does not have sports, we do not have cheerleaders, and no one is a nobody. People at SOA are kind and friendly, and everyone knows who everyone is. Even though we are not like every other high school, being at an arts school

made me the young adult I am today. I've been here since the sixth grade, and this school has seen me grow and transform over the years. SOA taught me how to have a creative mind, and it made me be a part of the world of the performing arts. Dance is a part of me, and it is something I will continue to do after I graduate. In my opinion, having an SOA education is more valuable than having an education anywhere else.

Olivia Pharis



In 2024...wow... I hope to be starting my career as a teacher at an excellent college of music. My time here at SOA since the sixth grade has shown me the importance of molding students to understand an art form, whether that art be music or abstract painting. My Piano teachers, **Mrs. Benson** and **Mr. Clarke**, have shown me to respect art and taught me that teaching isn't just a hobby; it's an experience of witnessing growth. Piano has been my life since the age of four. To turn away from it seems impossible to me. The experiences I've had here at SOA have shown me that music is necessary and art is

true freedom. In 2024, I will be at the beginning of my dreams to teach music.

Corey Popowski



I became an SOA student in the sixth grade, coming from a class of eleven people at the private Jewish day school, Addlestone Hebrew Academy. School of the Arts was holy in my mind, a place that lacked the social and educational restraints of a small parochial school that was not comforting to a youngin' who questioned the strict words of the Torah. Coming to SOA was a new world for me, my view of the world changed by being surrounded by people of varying socio-economic, religious, and racial backgrounds, but alike in our ambition for the arts or in many cases, a high level of learning in the otherwise ill-stated

South Carolina education system. I don't want any sixth grader to overlook the benefits of being surrounded by a diverse group of people in an artistic and accepting social environment. I had a negative and narrow-minded attitude toward school when I was eleven or twelve years old, but get over that now because you will be in here a while longer. Nobody really likes school, but for a school, SOA is one that thrives due to its tight-knit, familial mentality.

A crucial aspect of SOA's well-rounded education is teachers who are passionate about their areas of study and sharing their knowledge with their students. Teachers like **Dr. Cusatis** have reminded me that I am an adult (sort of) by the responsibility he expects of his students to grasp the multi-faceted subject of literature while always reinvigorating the student's respect for literature through meaningful analysis of great works and the human experience. Teachers who can hold your attention in the classroom, but can have a conversation with you like a real person, like an adult, such as the enthusiastic **Dr. Teseniar**, wise-man **Mr. Brehm**, and that cool whip **Michael Donnellon**, make me roll out of bed in the morning and not completely dread going to this institution.

In 2024 I expect to be working on creating films; in what aspect of film-making I could not tell you, but ideally I will be writing and directing movies that play at highly regarded film festivals and authentically portray my vision. If that doesn't work out, I'll probably keep working at Mellow Mushroom until I can afford to open up my own breakfast place somewhere because that would make me equally as happy as winning a Palme d'or at Cannes. Looking back, SOA is an unconventional and homey environment, and I wouldn't trade my experience here for any other. Embrace the unusualness of School of the Arts, don't be too cynical, know that your parents actually do look out for your best interests, make good decisions, make fun decisions, don't let the haters hold you back from being you, and try to learn something if you can at SOA, because there is plenty to learn about yourself in and out of the classroom, and if you can't see that then get your head out of the urinal.

Clayton Rosenbaum



In 2024, I want to be doing the most amazing thing this world has ever seen. I plan to go to college and get a doctorate in pharmacy. In the future I would love to open a custom car shop that services old cars. I would also love to have a beautiful family with children that are very successful. I think that family is very important, so by 2024 I would love to have kids that are amazing and raise them the way my parents raised me. I want my family to be successful and as loving as my family was. I want my kids to do what they want to do and I will support them in every way possible. So, by the year 2024 I want to have a beautiful wife and beautiful kids. To me, those are the things

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that truly make life a treat.

Abby Rumph



All my teachers have had some kind of impact on me one way or another. Mr. Reese taught me that I could actually push myself academically, though at the time, I hated his class for it. Mr. Brehm managed to balance a persona of most BA teacher ever with a genuine caring regard toward his students. Ms. Nichols was always encouraging us and truly showed how a teacher could invest so much more than an education in students, and Moore's making fun of his art students made school fun. Even in middle school, Mr. Southwick and **Mr. Perkins** used their free time to play sports with us. **Ms.** Owensby encouraged me to continue learning math even

when it was painfully hard.

The thing that sticks out about SOA teachers is that they go beyond the lectures and notes. Each one of them really cares about their students as individuals. Even if they seem hard on you, they will go out of their way to make sure you are okay if you have a bad day. This sense of caring can really be seen in Mr. Short, who is a great example of a man who loves what he teaches and loves who he teaches. He remembers details about your life and doesn't forget to ask about them later. If you were sick one day, he makes sure to ask how you're feeling the next time he sees you. His enthusiasm for Biology and his effective teaching methods influenced my decision to go into a science education field. Although I wasn't in AP Bio, I did get to witness him give out goodie bags and encouraging notes to each student before their big exam. These gifts were personal and thought out, and show that being a teacher is so much more than standing up for an hour to merely talk. So Mr. Short, thank you for caring, thank you for making science interesting, and thank you for making each student who walks out of your class better than when they walked in. I really appreciate it.

Bethany Schroeder



I have attended School of the Arts as a vocal major since the sixth grade, and my time here has rewarded me not only with a rich academic and artistic experience, but more importantly with a group of some of the best human beings in the world which I was lucky enough to share these experiences with. In my major, I have spent countless hours with the girls I now consider my sisters: Sophie, Grace, Carly, Georgia, Emily, and Maddy. Without them, I don't know what I would have done in the many after school rehearsals, random concerts and musicals, and various trips (in state, out of state, and out of country). Outside of vocal, in the midst of the stresses of high

school, I accredit all sanity and happy times to the darling DSG. K-dog and E-dog, you are the best and baddest friends a girl could ask for, and I am so glad that going to this school has led me into your ice-cream filled arms. I'm so glad the two of you are going to Paris together and I know you will do great things, but boy do I wish you wouldn't be so far away. Living hours away from the support structures which have held me together these last few years - the inseparable bonds I have found from my time at SOA - is going to be one of the greatest challenges of a new life in a new

city. The value of the friendships I have made at SOA is something I have always taken for granted, and the message of this cheesy essay is to always cherish the time you have left with loved ones. Promise me we'll keep in touch next year, gals. Love

June 2014

Tyler Sim



An outstanding aspect of my years at SOA is the amount of talent and greatness that I have been surrounded by every single day. After 7 years, you sort of take all of the fantastic people around you for granted, but, looking back on it, it is actually amazing. It's generally not something you think about (especially in high school when you have your own stuff going on) but once you kind of wrap your head around the idea that every single person you see walking down the hallway is an incredibly gifted individual, your mind is blown. Upon realizing this, things have really been put into perspective for

me. The Class of 2014 especially, this school is full of amazing people. Select any 100 seniors from James Island Charter, or Wando, or West Ashley, or wherever, and (aside from a few) the majority of them will honestly just be whatever. But if you take 100 seniors from this magnificent school, every single one of them is an artist of some sort. Every single kid has a craft that they are passionate about and that they work hard to perfect every day. Some may only work on it for 90 minutes a day; some may work on it for 3 hours a day. The fact of the matter is everyone is astounding. This year's graduating class has people who have won national dance competitions, practice their instrument for 24 hours straight over the summer, been accepted into Harvard University, and so on. In ten years, I wouldn't be surprised if I recognized a few names from magazines or newspapers or billboards. I guess it's cheesy or corny or whatever, but I really am truly honored to be associated with this school and the absolutely extraordinary students here.

Alston Singletary



Good question, Applause people! This is an easy essay for the Alstoneesha. The teacher that has had the strongest impact on me by far is the one and the only (well, not really because there are actually two people with this name at this school)... but anyway, it's Mr. Clark, without a doubt. He was my first history teacher at SOA. I believe the class was ancient cultures, but apparently that can be debated. Anyway, he is a really good teacher. Most of what I know in the history department has come from that man. I enjoyed his class so much that I joined the Academic Team [Quiz Bowl] not long after I began my career at SOA. He was and still is the team's coach. Through Quiz Bowl, I made friends

that I still associate with today, regardless of if they still attend SOA or not.

For anyone who knows Mr. Clark, the first thing he/she would say about him if inquired is that he loves to crack a joke, no offense to him, but they usually are jokes that he thinks are funny, but to most, are entertaining for the same fact. I learned in a short amount of time that it's just a part of his charm. He certainly knows how to brighten up a room.

The Clark Man is one of the most generous people I know. He has never let me go without, and I will always be grateful to him for being so open-hearted. He has always allowed me to be in his room whenever I just needed to chill and he has always been there to give me advice when things were stupid in my life.

In conclusion, and without a moment to spare, I will put on this uniform, and assume my duties as... HALL MONITOR! No, but seriously, Mr. Clark means much more to me than a teacher could ever hope to. We love Clark!

Ashley Smalls



I've attended SOA for seven years, getting accepted in the sixth grade and now finally successfully graduating in the class of 2014. SOA has taught me a lot about myself. It has given me the courage to try new things, the understanding of hard work, the appreciation for the fine arts, the wisdom of knowledge, and the feeling of accomplishment. This school holds many memories that I will cherish forever. One memory I have in particular is when I was in my major of dance and one person came up with the genius idea of everyone saying chop when their name was being called for roll, then when the teacher called the very last name on the roll that person would said

Applause

timber, and the whole class would fall to the ground. It's moments like these that I know I probably wouldn't have gotten to experience at any other school. Another memory that comes to mind is when I performed along with my other dance peers at the eighth grade Art Smart. It was a dance that was well-choreographed by the late Mrs. Slowinski, who also made our costumes. I'll never forget how I felt while performing that dance, on a dimly lighted stage, with each of us holding different colored glow sticks. This dance was so intricate, and it brought different unique elements to Art Smart.

SOA has continued to be a special place for me, a high school where kids can truly feel comfortable expressing themselves and voicing their opinions. The teachers at SOA have also had a great impact and influence on my life. Three in particular that come to mind when I think about who has made my whole educational experience more than just your average teacher to student relationship was my seventh grade Math teacher, **Ms. Owensby**, my eleventh grade Chemistry teacher, **Dr. Price**, and my current AP English teacher, **Dr. Cusatis**. All three of these amazing teachers really understood my dedication and hard work ethic during the years I studied under them. They always showed that they care for me individually as a person instead of just a student, and I thank them so much. Throughout my years at SOA I've gained so many friendships and I've lost some too, but there are some friendships that remained the same! I'm so fortunate that I got accepted in the sixth grade to this amazing school and can say that I'm graduating with no regrets.

Taylor Smith



The class that has most impacted me is Band. Band has been a part of my life since I was in sixth grade. Mr. Kerr has helped me to push myself to become a better musician. I joined the Jazz Band and have gained a lot of self-confidence from having to improvise and perform in front of a lot of people. I have been able to be a part of a group because of Band and I have learned a lot in these four years of high school. Going on Band trips with friends and participating in other Band functions has been a very memorable part of my life. I hope to see Mr. Kerr and other Band students throughout my life.

Mando Smoak



As I walk down the halls of SOA for the last few times before I begin the next chapter in my life, I am reminded of the fond memories and experiences that I have acquired from my time spent here. The greatest part of SOA was the acceptance I felt instantly when I walked into the cafeteria on the first day of sixth grade. In the chaos of the first day for the Class of 2014, I can remember frantic moms and dads reciting to have a great first day and kids running around with new backpacks and new shoes, and thinking, "I am going to love this place." As I conclude my last and seventh year at SOA, I have learned

to love this place and I am forever grateful for the life lessons I have been taught in these walls. Graduating is a huge step into the world and I am uncertain of what my future holds, but one thing is without question: I will always cherish the many opportunities this school has given me and the many friendships I have made that mirror a very close family. Thank you Charleston County School of the Arts.

James Solomon



The SOA education that I have received during the last four years that I have attended this institution has been very beneficial to me. This school unlocks the potential in all the students who are determined to do things in life. As a student at this school, I have been given advancement in life. This advancement will allow me to thrive and succeed in everything that I will do in the future. In ten years, I hope to be finished with me Bachelor's in biochemistry and four years of medical school. I would also hope to be on my second year of residency in either pharmacy or neurology. With the work ethic and

passion that I have obtained from SOA, I hope to keep these abilities and achieve everything I need to, so that my future becomes a reality. Through having both optimism and precision, one can accomplish any and everything they set their minds to, and this is what I will use to achieve my goals. SOA gave me the opportunity to have a head start in life and I will use that privilege to make a difference in this world.

Ashlyn Spitz



When I reflect upon my life at SOA, I realize how significant my peers were in shaping my high school journey. I have learned so many valuable lessons from my teachers and high school in general, but the most important thing I have learned is from my dance peers. They taught me how to come together as a family and be there for each other through the good times and the bad. For me, my dance class has always been a place of comfort. Aside from dreading going to class every day, there was always a little bit of comfort knowing who I was about to see and wondering what kinds of crazy memories were going to be made that day. Although we all

want to kill each other on a regular basis and the drama is nonstop, I cannot imagine what high school would have been like had I not seen those same faces every day. I will never forget the time **Ashley Smalls** cried because she did a handstand for the first time, the time **Ashtyn Laserna** cried because her secret Santa gift to **Patterson Fralix** was just so good, or the time we all decided to go into dance class with our dance clothes over our street clothes. It is these memories, plus many more, and the many life lessons I have been taught from my peers that I will carry with me as I go on to college. I love you, Dance Class of 2014! Remember to always "keep calm and carry on."

Michael Stevens



As the end of my eighth grade year approached, I realized that I needed to find a good place to go to high school. I couldn't go to Wando, as most people expected, and none of the neighborhood schools in the area were going to be a good experience for me. Then my parents suggested SOA. At first, I wasn't sure about SOA (I considered auditioning before but was turned away by the old building and its trailers), but after some heavy coaxing, I finally agreed and auditioned for the school. I can easily say that decision was probably the best one to make. I was instantly thrown into a school that was worlds beyond

what I'd ever been in and excelled in all the areas I need. The academic rigor and the heavy emphasis on the arts were perfect for me. Now, while there are still some small problems I have with this school to this day, I realize that the small problems I have here wouldn't even compare to the numerous troubles I would be having at ANY other school. The strain of focusing on the arts and academics at the same time might seem like a bit much at times, but I realize that every bit of what I was given only worked out better for me. An SOA education is a top-notch thing to have, and I feel honored to have gotten one. Looking back, my one regret is that I haven't been attending this school since the sixth grade, as I see friendships that have been forged over the course of seven years, and I don't feel as I have some of the same connections and bonds with these people. Nevertheless, the four years I have been here have been wonderful overall, and I wouldn't trade them for anything.

Emily Stillwaggon



The past three years at SOA have really changed me. I never thought I'd be graduating early, but my teachers believed that I could and I'd like to thank **Dr. Cook, Ms. Looney, Mrs. Benson, Mr. Clarke**, and every other teacher who helped me through sophomore year. High school really helped me understand who my friends are and what I want to do with my life. Senior year has been the year that made me a completely different person. I've really started to realize how much I'm going to miss everyone and miss SOA. I've been able to decide on a college (in a completely different state), and it's going to

Applause

be hard to leave everyone on June 5th. I realized this year that I'm graduating for real. High school is over, and I'm about to start the rest of my life. Mrs. Benson reminded me on my thesis night that I'm done with piano, and I won't have any of these teachers again. It's scary because everyone here has become my family, especially **Ms. Pajic**, who has become my second mom. Everyone here has been very supportive, and I wouldn't be where I am today without my friends and most of my teachers. There's very little I regret about SOA, and there are very few things I would change.

Margaret Szwast

God's Love



During spring time, God's creation explodes with life and joy. As I look around, I realize I have never stopped to notice that, like the Holy Trinity, spirituality, leadership, and service harmonize together as three in one...until now. First of all, in order to be an effective leader, a person needs to grow spiritually, and then service to others will follow naturally. For if a person tries to be more like God, he will *want* to help other people. Therefore, a leader who does these two things will have God in the center of his life and will become a "great" leader indeed. Spirituality comes natural to me, and SOA has provided me

with many opportunities to serve others and develop leadership abilities.

NHS accepted me in tenth grade, and ever since, I have helped students with subjects such as social studies, writing, and pre-calculus in NHS Tutoring after school. At Liberty Hill, I get to teach children how to read by reading books to them and listening to them read books to me. Recently, I volunteered to help with the Charleston Marathon. I worked at the second rest stop, making sandwiches for the bike riders. They always had a thank you on their lips as they refueled for another long ride. Every service that I have done gives me the opportunity to share God's love with God's people and has the same effect: joy.

"God invites us to give as much as we can out of today, making each day a

gift of a blessing to others." - Father Joseph

During the last seven years of my life, I have enjoyed learning to perform on the clarinet. Performing the clarinet extends beyond words, a language every human and creature understands: music. Hoffner's research and experience confirms that music has a therapeutic power, a power "to fire up the brain's recall abilities." In one example, music restored a man's ability to speak. When he listened to the music, his brain remembered how to speak and he sang along with the song. In a personal encounter, I one day had a terrible headache, and, after about seven minutes of performing my clarinet, my headache had vanished, and I jumped up and down, singing praises to my dearest Lord Jesus! I yearn to share this unique power with others through my clarinet, singing, guitar, and piano, and plan to major in Music Therapy in college.

Everything I have done with the clarinet requires time management: managing enough time to practice the clarinet and keep up my high GPA. By performing superiorly, I hope to be a model for others, accepting the light within me and letting it shine for Jesus. I have rewardingly performed in the pit orchestra for *The Music Man* and *Hairspray*, Wind Ensemble 1, Symphony Orchestra, Honor

Band of America, the Master Recital, and my Senior Thesis.

Spirituality, service, and leadership go hand in hand. When someone does things for God and with God, they do their best.

Laila Teseniar

June 2014



The value of an SOA education is one that cannot be matched by any other school. The fusion of arts and academics is something that I will take with me and incorporate into the rest of my life, wherever that may lead me. Without a doubt, choosing to attend SOA was one of the best decisions that I have ever made and I have become a better person because of this school. I have accomplished things that I would have never thought possible and overcome many obstacles that I would not have been able to get through had I not been a student here. There have been so many opportunities for me at SOA that I would not have been exposed to otherwise,

such as having the chance to choreograph and have my work displayed into the outside community. The faculty and staff have pushed me to my limits and made me a stronger individual in both my major and in all other academic courses. It has helped me tremendously that the teachers are always there to help and guide you every step of the way, which might not be the case at another school. SOA displays a strong sense of community that helps foster our art, academics, and pretty much everything else. I will miss the dedication that the faculty has to their students as well as the passion that students have for helping one another. SOA is the number two school in the state for a reason and I will forever be grateful for the education I have received here.

Caroline Tweedy



Though I've been proud to call School of the Arts my home for the past seven years, I don't believe this pride is based solely on the merit or education I've received beyond my art concentration. As evidence, I probably shouldn't be nearly as overwhelmed or nervous for college as I am now. On the other hand, I do feel as though I am prepared for the field in which I will be entering - the arts. Over the past year I've gained something so valuable that I ignored for many years before when I moaned about the vocal majors always singing in the hallways, or strings being an awful instrument, and piano too

boring. I've accumulated the ability to respect all art forms. It hit me recently. All of this time, I have been exposed to geniuses and prodigies: sitting next to them in class, eating lunch with them, crying with them, and ignoring them. Shortly after this, I entered a period of sentiment and anger towards my ignorance. For example, I had seen my friends' theses many times and always got tired and bored watching but when they finally performed it on stage, in front of an audience, I couldn't control my sobbing as I watched their seven years of talent and artistic rigor transform into a breathtaking play, dance, novel, or composition before my eyes. Thesis is extremely stressful given the amount of pressure on every individual to perform up-to-par with every audience member's judgment and I truly believe everyone in the Class of 2014 has. I can't begin to fathom the appreciation for the arts that School of the Arts has given me but I know that I am forever in debt (literally, but also metaphorically) to this appreciation and sense of community as it has inspired me to pursue a career in live and performing arts.

Anthony Vaird



I must credit a large majority of my inspiration to **Ms. Fitz**'s Music Tech class. I took the course because it seemed interesting and I had a free elective slot. However, as I started creating new sounds and better-sounding music, I realized I had a passion. I enjoyed creating music. And not only that, but also blending music. Now, I am not saying her class made me a prodigy or the next Skrillex, but it helped to shape my future. Every day I am making better things, so who knows where I will end up? This class will never be forgotten as it entirely shifted my preference of performing to the music itself. And,

personally, I would now love to make a career in producing as I have a head full of ideas and am applying them to my music more accurately every day. It's hard to explain, but I get a certain thrill when I hear a sound or [continued on Page 62]

[continued from Page 61] blend of multiple sounds and I know I was the one who created them. It drives me forward until I look at the time and I realize it's 11:37pm and my mom has been trying to talk to me through my headphones since 9pm. Although that may seem like a waste of time, I see it as an opportunity to potentially sit in a room and get paid for playing around with noises and having fun. That is too good of an opportunity to miss out on, especially if that's what I want to do. With that being said, thanks to Ms. Fitz for opening my views to a new passion!

Tyler Vandygrift



In order to see the truly unique value of an SOA education, one need look no further than the name: School of the Arts. While the academic side of our education is important in its own respects, it is the arts that separate us from every other school in the area, and it is for this aspect of our education that I, an academically-gifted student, chose not to go to Academic Magnet in favor of the one-of-a-kind artistic atmosphere our school has to offer. But what is it that these arts, widely acknowledged as less generally practical than academics, have to offer in terms of education? The simple answer, in terms of

practical knowledge, is nothing. Our artistic knowledge will, for those of us not pursuing artistic careers, likely not help us to land a job or live our lives more efficiently. What our exposure to the arts does do, however, is introduce us to true beauty, an essential part of our humanity that is exclusive to the arts. This true beauty is heard in the exciting finale of a symphony or the effortless improvisation of jazz, seen in the graceful movements of dancers and the delicate strokes of artists, and felt in the thrilling climax of a play or deeply resounding resolution of a great novel. It is not found in filling out practice problems and completing homework, the cornerstones of an academically-based education, and it does not ensure a larger paycheck or a higher standard of living. What it does give is hope, an understanding that beyond the hustle and bustle of the daily workday, beyond the daily traffic jams, and beyond the concrete jungles known as cities, that there is something *more*, something meaningful and indispensable, and something that no matter where our lives take us, we will be able to fall back on. That is the arts.

Madeleine Vath



I've always thought of high school as a question mark: not as a mysterious new territory (though it once was) or as having an unknown end (though it indeed does), but as each grade being part of the question mark. Freshman year is the tittle (dot) at the bottom, somewhat detached from the older grades but still a part of it all the same. Sophomore year is the start of the body of the question mark and it looks up at the seniors in awe of their examples they are leaving behind them and imagining themselves in that position someday. Junior year is the part between the top and bottom, with its students feeling more mature but knowing

there is more to come. And then senior year is supposed to be the top, looking down on the rest, with students thankful that they made it through, certain about their next few steps into adulthood.

Yes, I know now that this entire image of high school is naivety at its peak. Some of us seniors may feel as though we have it all figured out, and for a select few this may be the case, but really we haven't a clue what we're doing any more than the freshman do. After all, most of us are going to be freshman again in the fall, aren't we?

I share all this with you to say that, yes it is all coming to a close for me and my fellow seniors, but really this institution of learning is never-ending, cyclical even, so really we're just beginning. This paper may be ending for me, but it will continue in other volumes for others who are eager to learn its quirks. Even if I never touch InDesign again, journalism will live on for me too in other ways; once a journalist, always a journalist, really. All I can really hope is that I have left behind a legacy of good, hard work and all I can really hope for is to never lower my standards.

Seniors, as we go on, remember to never back down. Never lower your standards. Students of all grades should keep this in mind, but seniors especially as we head out into "The Real World."

Alex Wertz



My favorite memory of SOA was when I was a freshman and I met my buddy **Josh Foster**. He showed me the ropes of high school and how to get by. He taught me to not be obnoxious in the Band room and to make sure I'm having fun on the weekends, taking everything in moderation, and keeping a level head when things get tough. He also showed me that grades aren't the most important thing to worry about, although they are what keep you in the race for a decent job. I had a great group of friends throughout the years who kept me thinking straight and helped me out with schoolwork. My

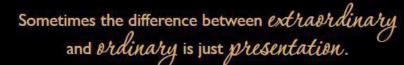
most important lesson is that fun is what it's all about.

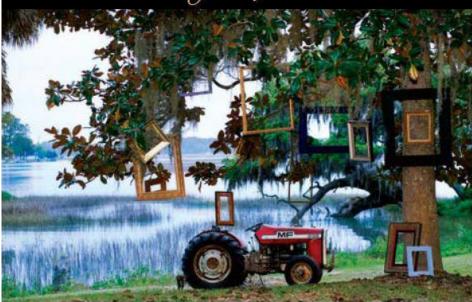
Logan B. Williams



Coming from a private Catholic high school to School of the Arts in tenth grade has made me really appreciate my arts school education. When I began SOA, I loved dance. It was all I knew and really all I cared about. I thought of SOA as a place where I would be able to add two more hours of dancing to the four hours I was already doing almost every day each week. Now that I am graduating, I still have a passion for dance, but I have a new appreciation for all art forms that I would never have gained from attending any other school. Being surrounded by singers, writers, musicians, visual artists, actors, and other dancers every

day is a privilege. I'm honored to have gone to a high school where the students are so passionate and the teachers are so committed. I got to be inspired by my classmates every day and being in a determined environment positively influenced my working habits.





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Sports Update

by Ted Anastopoulo

Tennis

Three SOA standouts, Freshman Band major Ben Foster, Junior Band major John Sadler, and Junior Theatre major Ted Anastopoulo, have helped the West Ashley Wildcats Boys Tennis Team to an outstanding 13-3 record for the 2014 spring season. This impressive record came after the not-so-impressive 2013 spring record of 2-8.

"This season was l special," explained John, who plays #1 doubles with Ben.

plays #1 doubles with Ben. "Experience definitely helps during match time, and I think that was the difference for our team this year."

The West Ashley Wildcats Boys Tennis Team.

Along with key wins over Academic Magnet, Stratford, Cane Bay, Goose Creek, Ashley Ridge, Fort Dorchester, and Hanahan, the Wildcats also clinched a home playoff berth in the state playoffs before losing to Bluffton. Ben, John, and Ted all won their playoff matches, but it wasn't enough to help their team in the 5-2 loss.

"Our team is unique because we just have a bunch of football players who are incredibly athletic and have never touched a tennis racquet in their lives and are just looking to avoid spring football training," explained Ted, who plays #1 singles. "It's awesome to see a person move so quickly from sport to sport and still be dominant in both."

Sophomore Band major **Woods Browder** also helped the Wando Warriors capture their Region Championship. Woods played predominantly at the #2 singles position and #1 doubles position. Woods is part of a Wando legacy that has not lost a regional conference match since 2001, and helped the Warriors hand West Ashley two losses this season. Wando also clinched a home playoff berth in the state playoffs, where they defeated Ashley Ridge.

Soccer

Junior Theatre major **Devin Donaldson** has made a massive impact on the Wando Warriors Girls Soccer team for the 2014 season, as Devin has already helped her team reach the state title game with a pivotal 4-1 win over Dutch Fork in the state semifinals. Wando has only allowed 4 goals this season en route to an 18-2 regular season record and has an offense that runs on jet fuel with 108 total goals from the Lady Warriors.

Junior Theatre major **Hernan Pena** and Freshman Vocal majors **Irvin Rodriquez** and **David Seim** also joined the Wildcat Soccer team where they helped post an 8-7 regular season record.

"We had several close losses to teams like Wando who was ranked #1 in the country last season," noted Hernan. "If we had capitalized on our chances, we might have had better results."

Softball

While competing in the Olympics might seem like a far-fetched goal for some, for eighth grade Band major **Ashley Jones**, it is a reality. As the youngest member of the West Ashley Girls Varsity Softball Team, Ashley posted a .410 batting average, something that has caught the eye of the Junior National Olympic Softball Team.

"The University of Oklahoma and the University of Maryland personally invited me to take part in one of their summer training camps for the top players in the country," explained Ashley. "I am very excited because both schools are powerhouses in collegiate softball."

NBA star Lillard has family ties to SOA

by Ted Anastopoulo

Damian Lillard has proven himself one of *those* basketball players: the player that kids imitate when they play basketball in their driveway or the player whose autograph can bring tears to someone's eyes. The unanimous 2013 NBA Rookie of the Year and one of the most promising players in the NBA, Damian Lillard has solidified himself a position on the 2016 US Olympic Basketball Team and is the first player in NBA history to participate in five events during the 2014 NBA All-Star festivities, where he won the Taco Bell Skills Challenge for the second year in a row.



Damian Lillard drives past defenders

Damian Lillard is also the nephew of one of SOA's own hearing-impaired instructors, **Ms. Peggy Lewis**. Ms. Lewis describes Damian as quite, modest, shy, and humble.

"He is very family-oriented," said Ms. Lewis, "and the spotlight is not important to him." Ms. Lewis also boasts he is always eager to please his relatives, friends, and fans. Many of those fans include SOA students and teachers whom Ms. Lewis has introduced to her nephew.

Hailing from Oakland, California, Lillard is known for his childhood just as much as his basketball career. Growing up in a poor socioeconomic background, he was able to see firsthand what true poverty is. As a result, Lillard has no fear of great players like Kevin Durant or Chris Bosch, or great teams like the Indianapolis Pacers or the San Antonio Spurs.

Taking his talents to Weber State University in Ogden, Utah, he was named the Big Sky Conference Freshman of the Year and earned All-American Status his senior year. He averaged 19 points per game in 98 career starts. In the 2012 NBA

Draft, he was selected sixth pick overall by the Portland Trailblazers, where he continues to unleash his inner beast. This season alone, Lillard has guided his team to the NBA Playoffs and landed a \$100 million endorsement deal with Adidas for the next ten years. Lillard has also helped the Trailblazers become ranked first in overall rebounds per game, fourth in points per game, and ninth in assists per game.

Ms. Lewis gave *Applause* the inside scoop on Damian's pre-game routine. "He is very spiritual. An hour or two before a game, he goes into his room, closes the door, and prays." Ms. Lewis also boasts that Lillard is always eager to please his fans.

Being the aunt of an NBA All-Star also has its perks. Among the many NBA games she receives free tickets to, Ms. Lewis also received free passes to the 2014 NBA Draft with 50 other members of her family, designs her own shoes directly through Adidas, and meets NBA legends.

"I see him about three times a year, when he visits Charlotte, Orlando, and Atlanta," said Ms. Peggy. "My sister in the Washington D.C. area gets to see him in New York, Washington, and Philadelphia. We pretty much have the East Coasts covered. Damian is so happy to see his family at his games."

In the first round of the 2014 NBA Playoffs against the Houston Rockets, Lillard hit the game-winning three-point shot with nine tenths of a second left to lift Portland to a first round victory. Lillard's postseason run was halted, however, by the San Antonio Spurs.

Regardless, Damian Lillard is one of the NBA's future stars, and constantly garners more attention everyday, not only for his basketball skills, but also for his honest and humble character.

SOA is proud to feel like part of his family.



With Dr. Cusatis's sons, Luciano and Giovanni.



"Marco Lanier inspires me through his improvisation in Jazz Band." Woods Browder, Sophomore Band major



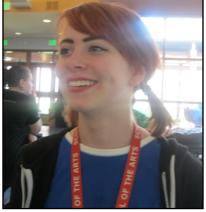
"Caton Hamrick because she gives me tons of advice, is making her dreams realities, and is the best sister ever." Caroline Hamrick, 8th grade Band major



"I've known Delaney Hogan since 5th grade and we've been like sisters ever since. She's one of my biggest inspirations!" Mackenzie Glasgow, Junior Dance major



"Emily Fairchild, because she reads a lot and has enthusiasm about the things she loves." Elsa Cline, Sophomore Visual Arts major



"Bonnie Scarborough, because I look up to her ability to commit." Paris Scott, Junior Visual Arts

"Which senior has inspired you and why?"

By Graham Crolley & Noah Jordan



"Tyler Sim because jazz." Cameron Leopold, Junior Strings major



"Victor Swatzyna because he is like a cherub" Douglas Smith, Junior Creative Writing



"Madeleine Vath inspires me because she follows her dreams." Latonya Jones, Custodian



"Anybody but Conor Gatton." Parris Byars, Sophomore Band major



"Miles Counts and Kat Murchison because they follow their dreams." Zoe Abedon, Junior Creative Writing major