

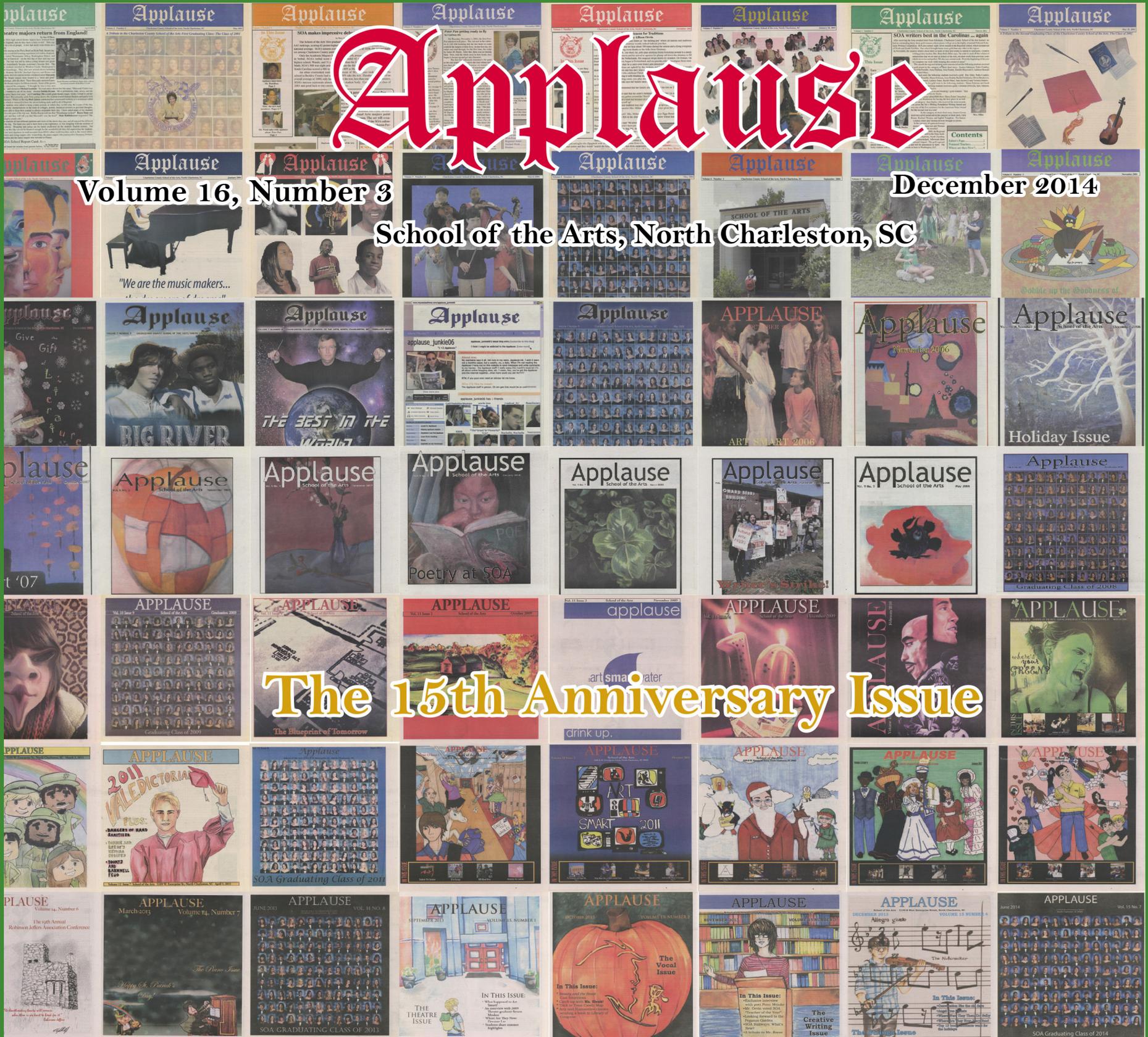
Applause

Volume 16, Number 3

December 2014

School of the Arts, North Charleston, SC

The 15th Anniversary Issue



Letter from the Editors

Dear SOA,

Welcome to the 15th Anniversary issue of *Applause*! As you read through coverage of SOA's many Christmas events, we hope you enjoy familiar faces of students, alumni, teachers, and staff from our recently digitalized 15-year archive. If you enjoy this look into SOA's past, please visit our entire archive online at soa-applause.com. In this special birthday issue, you will also find an illustrated timeline of the history of SOA. *Applause* caught up with former editors in this issue and for our Question of the Month we asked former staff members about their fondest *Applause* memories.

Thank you to all our past and present patrons and advertisers, many of whom have provided 15 years of support!

Here's to a happy 15th and Happy Holidays!

Love,

Taylor Dahl, Graham Crolley, and Suzanne Jackson



Applause

the official student publication of
Charleston County School of
the Arts

Founded in 1995 by Rose Maree Myers

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Applause Finishes Online Archive Just in Time for 15th Anniversary

by Jakob Lazzaro

After months of scanning, days of typing and coding, and minutes of uploading, *Applause* has finally achieved what was dreamed about for years- an indexed online archive of

every issue of *Applause* ever published. Thanks to the scanning skills of **Teresa Elj**, **Tommy Naumann**, **Maddy Rodeffer**, **Jakob Lazzaro**, and **Mattie Smith** you can now read past issues all the way back to our very first- a small paper called *Artifacts*.

The *Applause* archive is a treasure trove of SOA's history, everything from pictures of your friends as sixth graders to the origin story of your favorite teacher! You may browse through the complete *Applause* archive over at www.soa-applause.com/archives. Happy reading!

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Questions, comments, or concerns? Share your thoughts in a letter to the editor. Email suzanne@soa-applause.com and we will be sure to include what you have to say.

Winter Wonderland: A Gathering of the Arts

by Sarah McCord

SOA held its first "Winter Wonderland" show on December 5th. This holiday themed show consisted of most of the majors coming together for collaborations connecting the different art forms.

The night started with a portion of the vocal department singing "Gaudette," joined by the 9th grade Dance majors and percussion performed by Vocal majors in the background.

A piano quartet played "Parade of Wooden Soldiers" as the senior dancers performed, decked out with costumes to resemble gingerbread boys and girls. A holiday classical piece, "Ukrainian Bell Carol," was played by another piano quartet while being surrounded by the 7th and 11th grade Dance majors.

In an interlude of the piano performances, five high school

Band majors played "March of the Nutcracker," arranged by Tchaikovsky. On flute was **Caroline Keineth**, clarinet **Abby Kirkland**, oboe **Kyle Winstead**, bassoon **Coleman Jones**, and horn **Maggie Scapellato**.

Following was a unique exhibition choreographed and performed by the 8th and 10th grade dancers to the readings of poems written by Creative Writers **Sasha Audier-Johnson**, **Eli Braddock**, **Carson Peadon**, and **Patrick Wohlshied**.

The 9th grade dancers did an outstanding performance en pointe of the Waltz of the Snow Flakes taken from *The Nutcracker*, complete with glitter thrown to act as snow. A collab choreographed and performed by the 12th and 6th grade dancers showcased the range of skills as they not only danced, but truly acted as if they were at a festivity dancing to fun classics such as "Sleigh Ride" and "Deck the Halls" played by high school piano majors.

Students from the 9th grade Theatre department acted out a series of short Christmas scenes, exaggerating the joys and the stresses of the holiday season.

The evening came to a

SOA Fall sports update

by Nick Scapellato

Fall was a big season for our SOA athletes. Middle school student **Zac Case** reflected on his soccer season with SC United, saying, "we improved a lot over the course of the season." **Steven Schlosser**,



Carly Edwards poses with her Wando crosscountry teammates.

also a middle school student, had a great season with the Daniel Island Colts. The team went 7-2 despite Steven saying he and his team were "the underdogs of the league."

Junior vocal major **Carly Edwards** was

a key part of the Wando Girls Cross Country Team. Carly has even started a running club here at SOA. **Dalton Edens**, a senior and senior member of the Ravens Rugby squad said he's "enjoyed the camaraderie shared by the team" and is "looking forward to becoming closer to the rest of the boys."

Clearly, the artists we share the halls with are much more than they're cracked up to be.



Dalton Edens, a valuable member of the Ravens Rugby team.



Freshmen dancers perform an excerpt from *The Nutcracker-The Waltz of the Snowflakes*.

close with two last piano quartets. "The Bells of Christmas" played by **Alexandra Hepburn**, **Sabrina Sanchez**, **Nolan Tecklenburg**, and **Ben Zuber**, included the 11th grade dancers showing off their ability to dance with variety, as some incorporated tap dancing to the ballet. The 10th grade dancers joined pianists **Christopher Do**, **Shanti Franks**, **Emma Gourdie**, and **Jessica Keniston** for a fun piano finale of "We Wish You a Merry Christmas."

Finishing up the night with **Ms. Fitz** and her guitar class, the audience was encouraged to sing along to holiday favorites. Not only did the guitar students show off what they've learned about guitars this year, they also impressively led the audience in song.

SOA's *Winter Wonderland* was a success and an entertaining way to celebrate the season as the majors worked together.

Poetry Out Loud: concentrated competition

by Dmitri Grigorieff

Seven School of the Arts students participated this year in the school-wide Poetry Out Loud competition. All of them exhibited a unique voice and displayed immense talent. The small number of contestants compared to previous years provided a group of more determined performers.

There were several excellent recitations. Sophomore Creative

Writer **Emily Shorter** delivered an undeniably solid rendition of "Crossing the Bar" by Alfred Lord Tennyson. **Patrick Woelsheld**, a freshman Creative Writer, demonstrated a well-rehearsed and heartfelt interpretation of "The New World" by Amiri Baraka.

The two-time winner of the competition and defending state champion **Nicole Sadek**, junior Creative Writer, unleashed a calculated performance of "Ode for the American Dead in Asia" by Thomas McGrath, followed by the transfixing "Monet Refuses the Operation" by Lisel Muller.

Nicole commented on her victory, "It was wonderful competing with such talented reciters. I am very honored and excited to compete again at the regional level." **Hannah Kelly**, a junior Creative Writer, came in second place, and will replace Nicole if she is unable to compete in the upcoming regional competition.



Dmitri Grigorieff

Featured club: Horticulture

Mr. Short currently teaches AP and CP Biology at SOA. He has sponsored the Horticulture club for 3 years and updates staff member Cherry Hu what they have been up to.

Cherry Hu: So, what goes on in the Horticulture club?
Kevin Short: The Horticulture club meets monthly to help make the campus more beautiful, sustainable, and meaningful. We plant gardens around campus, usually by buying and planting seasonal flowers. We also have grown vegetables and herbs to make good use of the green spaces around campus.

CH: Have the plants become in useful in any way?

KS: I have definitely seen people enjoying the additional beauty that the flowers have brought. Also, I think I saw Lindgren picking some peppers and squash to use in his kitchen!

CH: How did the club get started?

KS: I have always been interested in landscaping and gardening, and I found some students that shared that interest. We have had fun making changes around the campus.

Cherry Hu



CH: What are your plans for the Horticulture club?

KS: I would love to see a compost program here on campus as well as a butterfly garden to install to showcase the natural symbiosis of life.

Left: Welcoming flowers at the entrance of SOA.

Blast from the past..

*Below: In April 2010, future Harvard graduate **Lauren DiNicola** won the South Carolina State Championship for Poetry Out Loud.*

Senior wins state championship for POL

By Haley Dixon

Senior creative writer **Lauren DiNicola** won the South Carolina state championship for Poetry Out Loud on March 20, 2010. Lauren received \$200 and an additional \$500 was given to SOA to buy poetry books.

Poetry Out Loud is a program created by the National Endowment for the Arts and the Poetry Foundation to promote students learning about poetry through memorization and performance. Lauren recited two poems at the state championship and will recite a third for the national



Photo: Haley Dixon

Lauren also won the regional contest last year

competition. Lauren's three poems are: "A March in the Ranks Hard" by Walt Whitman; "The Man-Moth" by Elizabeth Bishop; and "The Albatross" by Kate Bass.

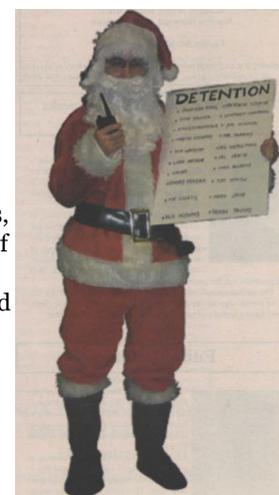
"I'm very surprised. The girl who won last year got runner-up this time. So, I'm very excited," Lauren said.

Lauren will take an all expenses paid trip to Washington D.C. to compete in the national competition on April 25-27, where she will have the chance to win \$20,000.

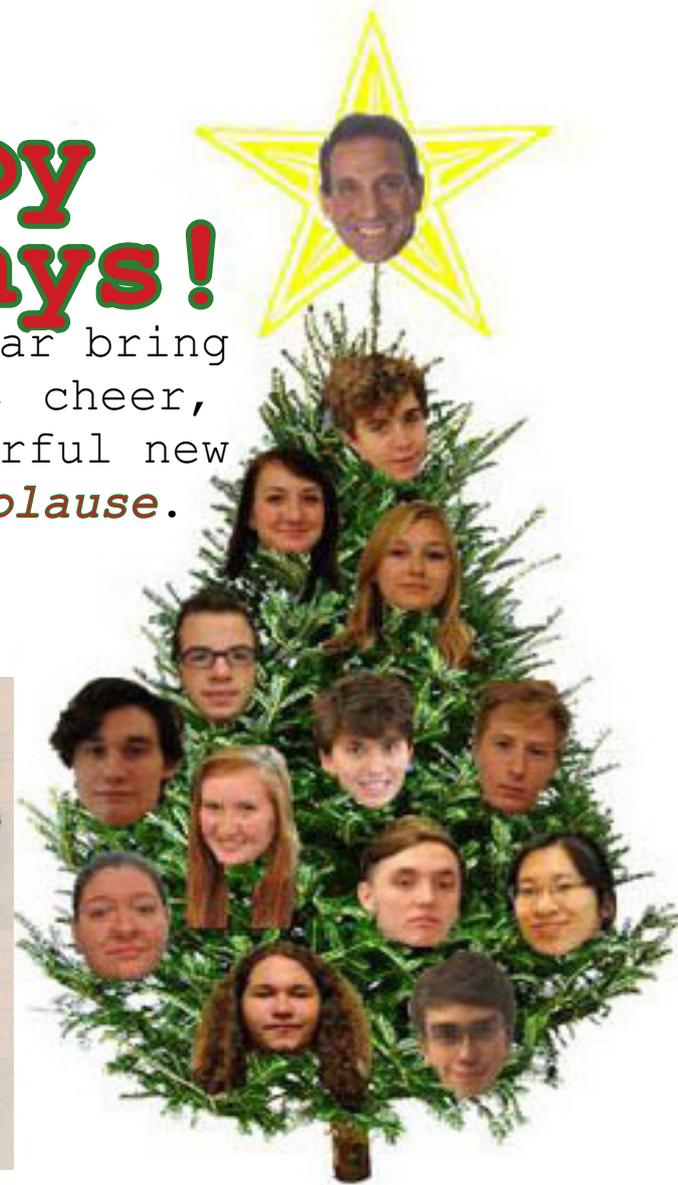
Happy Holidays!

May the New Year bring you happiness, cheer, and many wonderful new issues of *Applause*.

Love,
the Staff



Right: In December of 2002, if you were tardy to class, Santa himself gave you a detention and probably put you on the naughty list, too.



Where Were They Then: Ms. Ratigan

Nick Scapellato sat down with Ms. Ashlee Ratigan, South Carolina's Dance Educator of the Year, to ask her questions about her childhood. She was born and raised in Greenville, South Carolina. With school teachers for parents, her devotion to academics and dance carried her through life and, fortunately for us, brought her to SOA.

Nick Scapellato: When did you first take an interest in dance?

Ashlee Ratigan: My parents put me in dance when I was younger, and they had a Halloween dance. The older girls scared me because they were dressed as zombies, and I remember not wanting to go back to dance. My mom one day, when I was dancing around in the living room, asked why I didn't want to go back, and I told her the zombies were going to be there. I loved performing. I loved the discipline of it. My brother played sports—that was his thing. And I had dance—that was my thing. It was something that was mine, and I felt confident in it.

NS: If your high school self was in your current class, what would you think of her?

AR: I was a very Type A person: I always did my homework, I always studied for tests. I was a rule follower. The minute I got home, I did my homework. I don't want to say I was nerdy, but I was very conscientious of my academics. I think I would tell myself to loosen up a little bit, and have a little bit more fun. Don't take everything so seriously. Balance work with personal enjoyment.

NS: What is your fondest dance memory growing up?

AR: The first day I ever danced down Main Street at Disney World at the Magic Kingdom. It was my very first day performing. Just being in costume, and stepping out of the gate, seeing thousands of people looking at you and knowing for the next thirty minutes I had to entertain them; that was kind of the moment when I realized I made it.

NS: What was the most embarrassing moment when you were growing up?

AR: I remember in particular there was one athlete. He was in high school, and I was in middle school, and I had the biggest crush on him. Any time he would say hello to me I would just blush. And the most embarrassing moment is when I found out my

dad had told him that I had this crush on him, and he came over and sat beside me one day and told me this. I just wanted to crawl under the bleachers. I think most people can relate to that.

NS: What was your most embarrassing dance story?

AR: I was performing a tap piece and doing running flaps, and I tripped over my own feet and fell right in the middle of center stage with an entire audience was staring at me. And I had to get up and finish because I couldn't get up and leave from where I was.

Provided



A young Ashlee Ratigan.

In celebration of the fifteenth anniversary of Applause, we went digging through our archives and unearthed plenty of old features. Keep an eye out as you read- you might spot the middle school version of yourself that you never hoped to see again.

Below: Nick Scapellato, current junior Creative Writer, was featured in the November 2009 issue to elaborate on "A Day in the Life of a Sixth Grader."

Nick Scapellato, Creative Writing

Beep! Beep! Beep! Screams my alarm clock and I wake up and get ready for school. Once I'm at school I make my way to the cafeteria to read and wait for the teachers to let us go to class. Now my day has begun, and I unpack quickly to get ready for an A day. First I have social studies, my homeroom, which is Mrs. Blake, and then I walk across the field to Mrs. Newell's trailer which is where writing class takes place. Next is lunch which starts at 11:00 and goes to 11:30, recess is just whatever time you have left over. After that I go back to Mrs. Newell's trailer to get my binders and other supplies. Then I have major which for me is with Mrs. Miles. In here we get to type up stories and write in our journals and just have fun doing what I do best. After that I go to Mrs. Wojciechowski for Pre-Algebra (most people call her Mrs. Wojo) then we leave and go back to our homeroom at 3:15. On B days I have Science with Mrs. Moschella; next I head over to literature with Mrs. Mitchum, and then lunch, recess, creative writing, and pre-algebra once more. Finally my day is over, now I go home and relax only to wake up and do it all over again on my A day tomorrow.

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Mama Kim's: a "rice" experience

By Miki Sugimoto

This month the *Applause* staff selected popular local restaurant Mama Kim's to review. Jacob Elsey, Rachel Lechler, and I along with fellow SOA students Paul Cain and Ren Fish met at 145 Calhoun St. to sample the modern Asian food. Jacob and Rachel both ordered the chicken bowl which

they both were unable to finish; even though it is a little pricey (about eight dollars for a bowl with meat), the servings are generous. Ren and Jacob also enjoyed an order of rice, which is much less expensive, but still "really filling."

The majority of the crowd was college students, and even at six o' clock most of the seats were occupied. If you

decide to eat here, you shouldn't expect a restaurant atmosphere like Sushi Hiro or Spring Roll – the service is efficient and the food arrives quickly.

However, the experience is not impersonal. Mama Kim herself was visiting tables when Jacob asked her for a photo with the staff.



Good times with Mama

There's also a giant bulletin board in the entryway full of photos of her and her customers, which is something you shouldn't miss if and when you decide to visit.

Overall, we definitely recommend giving Mama Kim's a try if you've never been!

Mama Kim's: still a "rice" experience four years later

by Suzanne Jackson

At any given moment, there is someone aimlessly wandering up and down King Street, their blood sugar levels dropping rapidly. They are searching for a place to eat. You have surely been in this situation before. There is no way to avoid it. Frantic and driven by the increasingly louder growls coming from your stomach, you look around. Those new healthy places are far too expensive for just being a mediocre salad wrapped in a bread product. Mellow Mushroom is good, but it's such a long walk. Two blocks is two blocks too many when you're running on empty. Just when you can't go on, you stumble through the door of Mama Kim's, the bright red walls and smell of

delicious Korean food welcoming you.

Whether you're a college student ordering take out or a middle school kid who is just now venturing out on your own, the chicken bowl is a staple. I, myself, have been enjoying chicken bowls for a very long time, even undergoing the personal journey from being a "white sauce" skeptic to embracing it with open arms and empty stomach.

With all the new places that are popping up all over the peninsula, I am confident that Mama Kim's will continue to prosper. With the hospitable staff (including Mama Kim herself) and excellent food, you can be sure that next time you're downtown and hungry, stay calm. Everything will be okay, because somewhere in the kitchen of Mama Kim's, there's a chicken bowl with your name on it.

Definitely check them out at 349 King Street if you want both your stomach and spirit to be completely satiated.

Mama Kim's

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An Empire State of Mind for high school Piano majors

by Jakob Lazzaro

For many high school piano majors, Christmas came early as piano embarked on its third annual trip to New York. After flying up and settling in to the hotel in Newark, everyone headed into the city for dinner and a show at jazz club Swing 46. There, **Mr. Clarke** was able to sing and junior **Nolan Tecklenburg** was given an opportunity to sit in.

“Playing at Swing 46 left me speechless” said Nolan. “I was just expecting to sit down and eat, but getting to play in front of everyone was a pleasure. This is one of the many reasons why I love what I do.”

The highlights of the trip were the concerts- the Radio City Music Hall’s Christmas Spectacular, Jazz at Lincoln Center’s Basie and the Blues, and a Christmas show by the well-known YouTube sensation, The Piano Guys, at the New Jersey

Performing Arts Center.

The piano majors also visited the Metropolitan, Natural History, Guggenheim, and Modern Art museums, visited Central Park and the 9/11 Memorial, took a Circle Line cruise around Lower Manhattan, and climbed to the top of the Empire State Building at midnight for some electrifying views. After stopping off in Chinatown on Sunday for some shopping and food, the group returned to Charleston with many wishing to return soon.

Below: Junior Nolan Tecklenburg sits in at Swing 46.

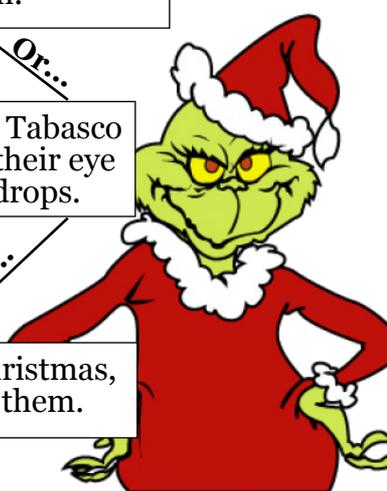
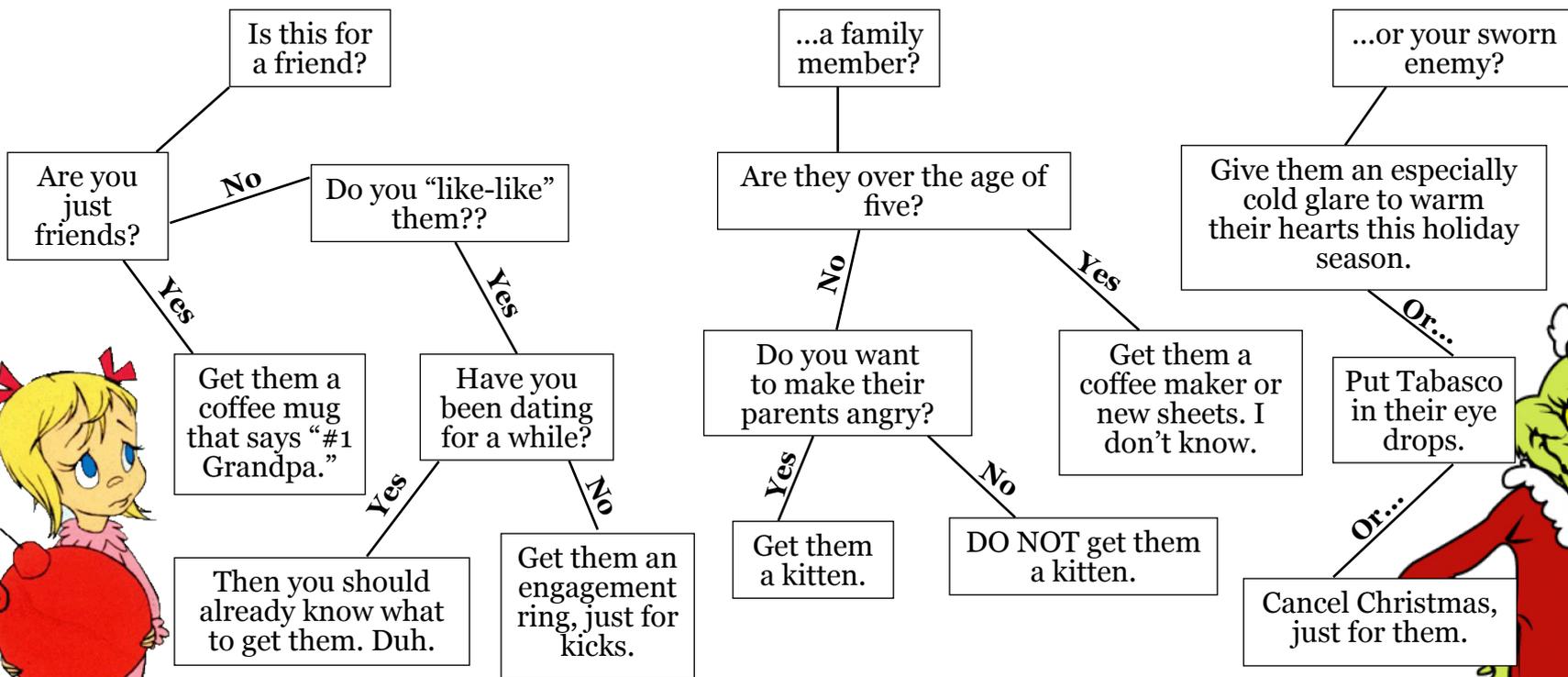


Jakob Lazzaro



Can't think of the perfect gift? Let *Applause* help.

We get it. “Giver’s Block” is a thing. To prevent some holiday tears and maintain a stress-free season, just follow our simple flow-chart.



SOA's Christmas Books

What books will SOA students be asking for this holiday season? After surveying junior and senior AP English students, we found that the most desired books are...

Gone Girl
Gillian Flynn

I am Malala
Malala Yousafzai

No Exit
Jean-Paul Sartre

Das Kapital
Karl Marx

Paper Towns
John Green

Nice Guy, Go Home
Robert G. Weaver

On the Road
Jack Kerouac

The Book Thief
Markus Zusak

Yes Please
Amy Poehler

Jane Eyre
Charlotte Bronte

The Song of Achilles
Madeline Miller

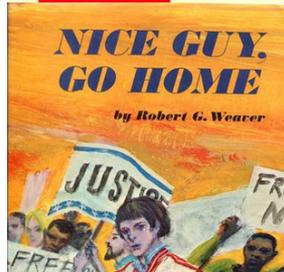
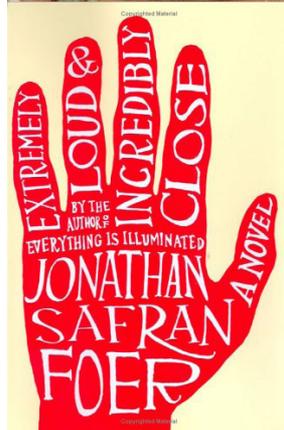
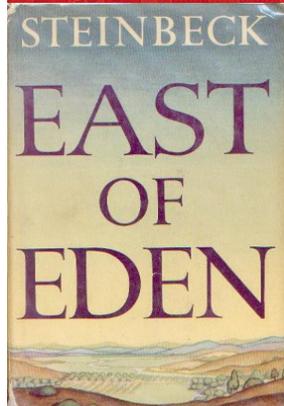
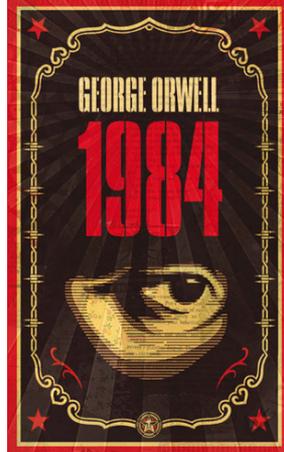
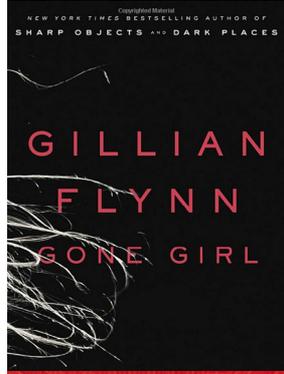
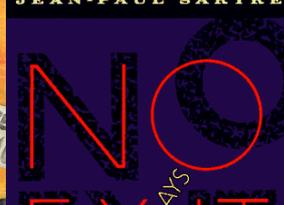
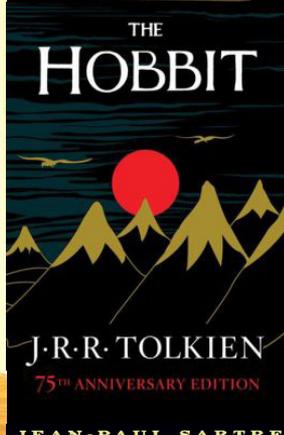
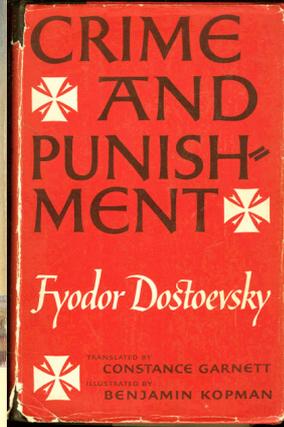
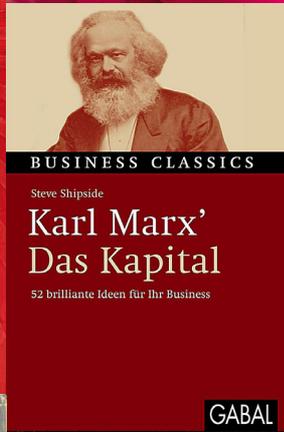
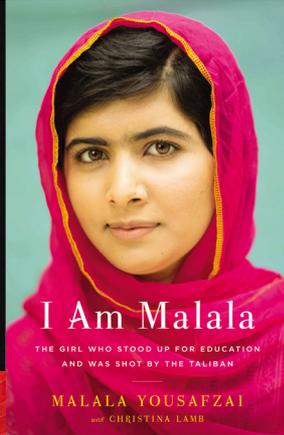
The Hobbit
J.R.R. Tolkien

East of Eden
John Steinbeck

1984
George Orwell

Crime and Punishment
Fyodor Dostoevsky

Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close
Jonathan Safran Foer

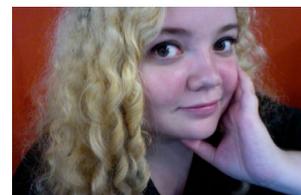


Previous generations of *Applause*: Where Are They Now?

Dmitri Grigorieff catches up with his predecessors to see what they have been up to since their time on the staff.

Cat Santos

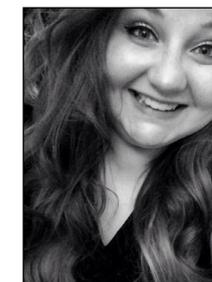
Class of 2012



I graduated in 2012 and I was a Visual Arts major. My occupation is several different things at the moment. I am a full time Barbarian at the Guild Hall. I am also a full time student at SCAD studying Sequential Arts. I also do a lot of freelance concept art and practical effects. Right now I live in an apartment located in Savannah, GA. Honestly there's a lot [of memories from being on the staff], but we kind of used to sneak things into *Applause* that looked legit but really weren't. I remember our final issue we had a category called "Most likely to name their Son Bubba." As if the category alone wasn't hilarious enough, one of the people who won didn't even go to our school, but was friends with everyone. It was really funny because underclassmen were actually trying to find him in the yearbook and couldn't. Dr. Cusatis would always banish me to my "hovel," which was actually the corner of the room, because I am a hobbit and the shire couldn't handle me.

Bailey Gaskin

Class of 2011



I graduated in May of 2011 with the School of the Arts degree in Theatre I am now a full time student at the University of Montevallo in Montevallo, AL, getting a BFA in Musical Theatre, and I'll be graduating this coming May! I loved working on *Applause* so much! My best friend Chaisson and I always got to do the student question that went on the back, and the adventures we had with that camera and a notepad interviewing our classmates were enough to last a lifetime. I did a CD review column as "my thing" for *Applause* and it was super cool to be able to listen to music all class and then write about it.

Alex Berlinsky

Class of 2013

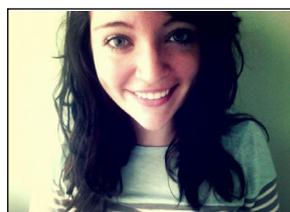
I graduated in 2013 and I was a Theatre major. I'm currently a student at Georgia Tech and live in Atlanta. My favorite memory of *Applause* was definitely interviewing Damian Lillard, point guard for the Portland Trailblazers. He was the nephew of one of the hearing impaired teachers so I got to interview him as the season was starting. He even signed the article for me after it got printed. Well sure enough, about a month later I noticed that he did an exclusive interview with ESPN about how his rookie season was going. Nice try ESPN, but *Applause* and I broke the story first!



DeAnna Kerley

Class of 2013

I graduated in 2010 through Creative Writing. Right now, I'm a Marketing Coordinator living in Burlington, Vermont. One of my favorite memories of *Applause*: (this is back when we were in the old SOA building) - we wrote the April Fools edition of the paper that year. I want to say this was 2009. At that time, I was in charge of the music review. I think I reviewed a Miley Cyrus album for April Fools? It was fun.



Tori Roy

Class of 2011

I graduated in 2011 as a Vocal major. I am currently living on campus at Dalton State College in Dalton, Georgia. I am a senior level biology major working on two independent research projects, one on ecotoxicology and the other in microbiology. As far as a favorite memory, that's a hard one. It's been a hot minute. It was probably a collection of Dr. Cusatis' sarcasm and life advice (all of which I have found to be true...so far).



Dorothy Behre

Class of 2009

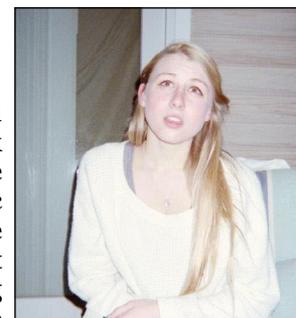
I graduated in 2009 as a Creative Writing major. I currently live in Taipei, Taiwan (not Thailand!) and am pursuing a Masters in International Communications while teaching English writing and reading comprehension. My favorite memory of *Applause* is helping come up with ideas for the horoscopes. They were always absurd, but sometimes unexpectedly accurate!



Danie Johnson

Class of 2013

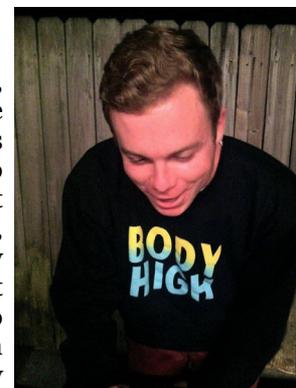
I graduated in 2013 as a vocal major, the best major there is. I work at Mellow Mushroom downtown, the best restaurant there is, and Classic Coffee in Avondale, the best coffee there is. I currently live in Avondale in West Ashley. My favorite memory of working for *Applause* was when **Will Dodge** would practice making mixes during class and I got to hear his amazing music.



Jacob Elsey

Class of 2012

The night that *Applause* alum, **Will Dodge**, and I did not complete the hot wing challenge at Giuseppi's in Mount Pleasant distinctly comes to mind even though it wasn't that great laying down in the backseat of my car, tearing up and trying to explain to my gastrointestinal tract why I would hurt it like this. I am grateful, however, to have been able to write about it later on and see one of the lowest points of my life layed out on paper for the school to read.



Shaless Robinson

Class of 2012

Technically, I didn't graduate from SOA. I moved to New Mexico and transferred schools before graduating. But I was a Creative Writing major! I live in Las Cruces, NM. I am currently a senior at New Mexico State University. I also work in retail. There were a lot of great memories made at *Applause*. Working with Dr. Cusatis and all of the staff made every day at *Applause* was amazing. Journalism can definitely be stressful especially meeting deadlines but Dr. Cusatis would always bring in some levity. My time at *Applause* influenced me to keep writing even if it wasn't fiction or poetry. I ended up being editor of my college's newspaper.



Catching up with Ben Forney, 2004-2005 Applause editor

Ben Forney is a former Applause editor who graduated SOA in 2005. He attended USC and graduated with a BA in English Literature. He is currently living in Seoul, South Korea. Staff member Dmitri Grigorieff caught up with him for the fifteenth anniversary issue.

Dmitri Grigorieff: What jobs have you worked since college? What are you currently doing?

Ben Forney: I received a Fulbright Grant to work in South Korea for one year after college. I've lived and traveled around Asia for most of the past five years, and I'm currently in graduate school studying International Relations in Seoul.

DG: What is your most important goal for the near or distant future?

BF: Finish my graduate thesis, unify the Korean peninsula, win the Nobel

Peace Prize, retire in the tropics, write my memoirs, catch fish.

DG: Reflecting on your time at SOA what was the most important class you took?

BF: Dr. Cusatis' AP English class, because it was a once in a lifetime opportunity to study the lesser-known works of Donn Pearce. Also, I did a report on the poet Theodore Roethke, whom I still enjoy reading today.

DG: In what ways has your SOA major remained a part of your life?

BF: Unfortunately, I don't play the violin much anymore, but I still play guitar almost every day and it's one of my favorite ways to pass the time.

DG: If you could tell your senior class something now, what would it be?

BF: Sorry I can't come to the ten year reunion.

DG: What do you recall most fondly about SOA?

BF: I really enjoyed the trips to Appalachian State with Ms. Fitz and the orchestra. Also, winning the Battle of the Bands in 2004 as one half of the legendary rock duo The Spicy Bandits was excellent.

DG: If you could have known

something during high school that you know now, what you have liked to know?

BF: Knowing a foreign language is invaluable, no matter what you want to do in life.

DG: Looking back, how was attending SOA the right choice for you?

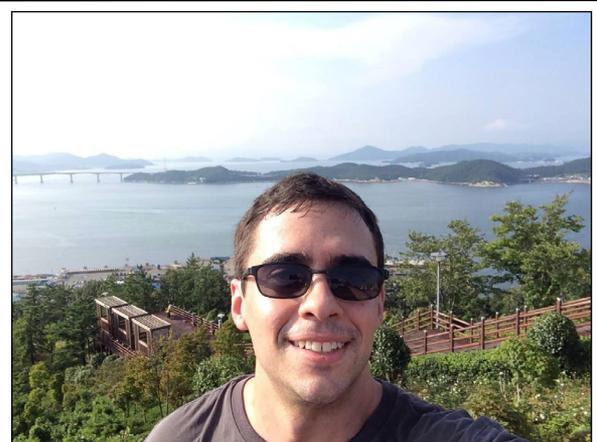
BF: I only moved to Charleston when I started the 11th grade. I instantly felt at home at SOA and really enjoyed meeting such an eclectic group of people. Nothing but good memories.

DG: In what ways was your time as editor worthwhile either during high school or later?

BF: Editing the *Applause* was really fun. It was a great experience, and we tried to make each issue funny and entertaining, with an occasional splash of news. It took a lot of time, but I was always proud to see the final product.

DG: Is there an issue of the Applause that you particularly remember working on? Why?

BF: Once, for the featured student of



Provided

the month, I made up a student and gave him a ridiculous back story. I didn't tell Dr. Cusatis he wasn't real until after the paper was published.

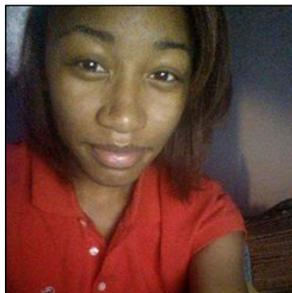
DG: Other than countless hours of work, what do you feel you contributed to Applause?

BF: The Word Search. Looking back at the old issues I did, I found a word search in which the co-editor and I put our own names as two of the words you needed to find. It was that kind of Stephen Colbertesque approach to our editorial policy that made our year great.

Desiree Horlbeck

Class of 2014

I'm currently a psychology major and minoring in biology at the University of South Carolina in hopes of going to medical school and being a psychiatrist one day. I still reside in South Carolina, splitting my time between Charleston and Columbia. Journalism class was almost always pretty entertaining considering the personalities we had on staff last year.



Grace Collins

Class of 2009

I have recently earned my license as a professional cosmetologist/hairstylist. I'm still here in Charleston, but I work in Mt. Pleasant at my Uncle Nick's hair salon, Nick's Hair Salon. This has been my dream and life goal since 8th grade.

I'd have to say some of my favorite memories of being on the *Applause* staff would have to be chasing people down for pictures to go in the school newspaper with **Allie Augustine** and being pulled out of class by Dr. Cusatis to get the paper done and perfect. **Chaisson Dangerfield** and **Bailey Gaskin** also gave me fond memories of enjoying the class and looking to them for advice on articles.



Catching up with Savannah Miller, 2011-2012 editor

Savannah Miller, creative writing alum, was editor of the SOA Applause between 2011 and 2012. She attends Emory University, where she is pursuing a double major in environmental sciences and creative writing.

Dmitri Grigorieff: What are you currently doing?

Savannah Miller: Just like in high school, I have continued to wear many hats. At Emory, I am the Sustainable Events Coordinator for Emory's Office of Sustainability Initiatives. I train organizations on how to implement sustainability into daily practice and how to make an impact through their events. In addition, I am the Fencing PE class teaching assistant, a clerical assistant for Emory's English Graduate Program, a nanny for a crazy bunch of twins, and am excited to announce I've just scored an internship with Atlanta's Greenlaw environmental law firm.

DG: What is your most important goal for the near or distant future?

SM: Right now, my most important goal is continuing to narrow in on my passions, and make sure to take advantage of all the resources I've been given at Emory, so that

I can become a change-agent myself in the future. After I graduate, I hope to pursue a master's degree abroad via Emory's Bobby Jones fellowship or the Marshall Scholarship, and if all goes well, law school afterward.

DG: Anything else you have done since high school that you are willing to share with our readers?

SM: I'm thankful to have snagged research with one of the coolest professors at Emory. Last spring break I opted to tag along with a small group of environmental sciences students to the Amazon Rainforest. From soccer with the village kids, to tarantulas in the outhouses, to discovering the most poisonous snakes in the entire world (twice) on night hikes, it was a life-changing experience. I really hope to return and conduct my own sustainability research. This summer, I will head to Namibia and Botswana with another group of students and the same professor to do similar research.

Interview continued on page 18.



Provided

Aries: Beware of flying lawnmowers.

Leo: The fungus on your foot is tired of being stepped on.

Cancer: It is not wise to spit at the wind.

Sagittarius: Watch out for the giant bear at the McDonald's drive thru.

Taurus: There are snakes in your car. Open a window.

Virgo: That nightlight you had as a child is actually the soul of some poor trapped fairy.

Capricorn: Stay away from the pyrotechnic displays at concerts.

Gemini: Cookies may taste good but they are bad for your health.

Libra: Never let a rogue toaster into your house.

Aquarius: Two people can play the exploding head game.

Scorpio: Playing chubby bunny while driving down the highway is not a good idea.

Pisces: Invest in Lysol. Seriously.

Above: Horoscopes in December, 2011. They're still pretty believable.



"Joe Jonas."
Halie Stevenson- 6th grade, Visual Arts



"Fergie."
Simeon Washington- 6th grade, Theatre

Current seniors **Halie Stevenson** and **Simeon Washington** answer the question "Who is your perfect Valentine's Day date?"

Why I hate France (and air travel in general)

From the archives of *Applause*

AMHS on the impending move

Sass-Attack: New Year's resolutions

Toys for Tots far exceeds goal

Rock me like a Herman Cain

Prepping for prom

Singin' the Application Blues

the winter holidays

Vocalists belt it out for Young Americans

A snapshot of theatre senior thesis

Mr. Scapellato talks about writing and Pat Conroy



Left: **Zachary Sharpe** shares his thoughts on SOA's campus merge with Academic Magnet in 2010: "I'm actually really excited. I think they have a lot of good-looking people and I'm ready to play the field."

Writer's strike devastates T.V.

Theatre major performs downtown

SOA is a school united by eccentricity

Mr. Orvin's Apple Bobbing is a Splash

From midterm exams to candy cane grams

Dr. John Cusatis



Family: Wife, Anna; son, Giovanni (age 2)

Marathons completed: 11

Forthcoming publications: "The Curious Desire of Knowing" in *Restoring the Mystery of the Rainbow*

Life-changing books: *The Bible*, *Walden*, *Thus Spoke Zarathustra*

Last rock concert: The Doodlebops

Next rock concert: The Wiggles

David Sass



Major: Creative Writing

Additions: Warhammer 40k, Cherry Coke, Macs

Favorite Bands: The Offspring, System of a Down, Audioslave

Dream Job: Writing for Black Library Publishing Company

Above: **David Sass**, creator of "Sass Attack", was introduced as a new staff member in 2007.

Left: **Dr. Cusatis** appears under "Meet the Staff" in the first issue of the 2007-2008 school year.

Below: In December of 2007, **Mike Hears** immediately makes everyone jealous of his family when he explains one of their holiday traditions.



"After dinner, we blow up a pie my aunt made. It's pecan pie."
- Mike Hears, 12th grade



Above: An old picture of **Dr. Price** was featured in the October issue of 2011.

Right: Students and teachers celebrate Spirit Week in the fall of 2011 and utilize "Twin Day" to dress as each other.

Kirk Lindgren

Kirk Lindgren brings an interesting background to SOA.. He has taught a year at Stall High School, backpacked around Europe twice, lived in the Caribbean for a year, and driven 14,000 miles around the continental United States. He has lived in a tent in the woods near Aspen, Colorado for three months.

Before joining SOA's science department, Mr. Lindgren waited tables, bartended, and sold diamonds on St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands.



Above: High school science teacher **Mr. Lindgren** was featured as a new teacher in 2006.



"Getting used to this school and then changing to the new one."
Jay Rode, 6th Creative Writing

Junior **Jay Rode** explains his deepest apprehensions about the campus move in January of 2010.



Above: Creative Writing instructor **Ms. Miles** shared her beautiful wedding photo in a past issue when she was featured in "Where Were They Then?"



"A new jacket."
Graham Martini, 6th Grade Visual Arts

Right: **Graham Martini** responds to the Question of the Month answer: "What's on the top of your holiday wishlist?"

Below: In 2012, current senior **Mackenzie Glasgow** explained what her Dance class had been perfecting over the past few months.



Mackenzie Glasgow - 10th Grade
"We are working on perfecting our technique. My favorite thing to do in dance is turning."

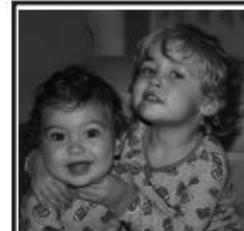
Merry Christmas vs. Happy Holidays



Sarah Courville and Dmitri Grigorieff on "Twins Day"



Ms. Cimballa and Ms. Miles on "Dress Like Your Favorite Teacher Day"



Congratulations to our October Patrons of the Month **The Cusatis family**

Above: **Dr. Cusatis'** family was chosen to be patrons of the month for the October 2008.

Angel Tree trimmed in record time by Emily Thomas



Mr. Lindgren and NHS President Emily Thomas

Above: The December 2012 issue of Applause featured an update on the familiar Angel Tree.

A brief look at SOA's history...

It would require a thick book to list all of the regional, state, and national accolades garnered by our students, but here are a few historical milestones.



Aug 1995
SOA opens, Ms. Rose Maree Myers, principal.



Dec 1999
First Issue of Applause



April 2000
Guys and Dolls is performed at the performing arts center



Jan 2002
Peter Pan



Nov 2003
Fantasia, Variety Show by SOA artists



Dec 2006
Groundbreaking for the new SOA Campus



Dec 2007
SOA is among the best High Schools in the Nation as per the US News first ever survey of 18,790 high schools.

Oct 1999
first Jump Jive and Wail Jazz Band to "Jump Jive an' Wail"
Parents, high school students and the SOA Band are invited to join the SOA Jazz Band on Friday, November 5 at the Maritime Center for a swinging time. Tickets are \$15 per couple and \$8 per single. Heavy hors d'oeuvres will be served. For more information call 881-9518.



Early 2000
First junior ring ceremony

June 2001
First graduating class, Adam Kassim, valedictorian.



Jan 2006
Big River, SOA Production at North Charleston Performing Arts Center

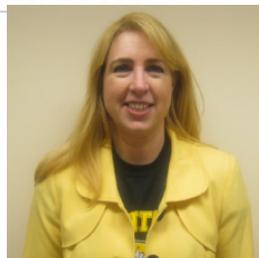


Dec 2009
SOA moves to the new campus

Aug 2008
Mr. James Reinhart, new principal



Aug 2012
New principal: Dr. Shannon Cook

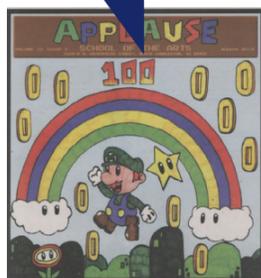


June 2010
National Book Award Winner Colum McCann delivers commencement address

Jan 2013
Hairspray



Oct 2013
Beauty and The Beast produced by Vocal Department



Mar 2012
100th issue of Applause



April 2010
RMM Theater dedicated

May 2014
Ribbon Cutting for Pegasus Garden



Dec 2009
Applause turns 10!



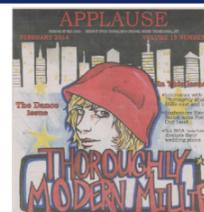
Dec 2009
First Toys for Tots collection at SOA - collected 620 toys and \$630 in the bearded beauty contest.



August 2009
SOA welcomes Deaf and Hearing Impaired Program.



Jan 2009
The Wiz



Feb 2014
Thoroughly Modern Millie



Aug 2014
Fashion Design Major added

Happy 15th Anniversary, Applause! December 2014

"I love being in band because it allows me to express myself musically, in whatever way that may happen"

Senior Band Major Alex Ostapeck

Left: **Alexander Ostapeck** shares his thoughts on his major, Band, in 2011.



"I would love to have point shoes."

Elle Root
6th grade, Dance

Above: **Elle Root**, 12th grade Dance major, shares what she would like for Christmas in 2008.

"Eragon from Eragon because he always has to solve problems. I find it very interesting."
A.J. Dales
8th grade Piano



Above: **A.J. Dales** explains why *Eragon* is his favorite book in December 2005.

Master and Commander

by Ben Forney

It is rare that a movie captures your attention to such an extent as to make you feel like you're actually in the film. Yet *Master and Commander* accomplishes this feat with stunning perfection and was without a doubt one of the best movies I've seen in a long time. Walking out of the theatre I felt like I was walking off the nineteenth century British warship the movie focused on, and the drive home seemed lacking in



Above: An excerpt from featured editor **Ben Forney's** review of the movie *Master and Commander*.

Applause

Right: **Mr. Clarke**, featured in the December 2005 issue as "Where Were They Then?"

Below: **Lucy Hunter's** Editor Letter in the December 2007 issue of *Applause*.

Letter from the Editor

Happy holidays from the *Applause* staff! Before wishing everyone a happy winter break, I want to point out some of the interesting articles

school complex, while Blake Engel reports on SOA's recent ranking in *US News and World Report* as one of the best public schools in the nation. I look forward to the upcoming vacation, and to coming back in 2008!

Sincerely,
Lucy Hunter



you'll find in the December issue. On page nine, we've made a literary gift list based on our survey of students about the books they wanted most. On page five, **K. Chaney Long** examines the issues surrounding the plan for the new

Savannah Miller, 11th Grade

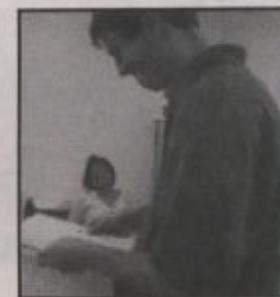


Savannah and Marin Miller went to France for the month of June, discovering escargot, the Moulin Rouge, and that mopeds will not stop for pedestrians.

Above: **Savannah Miller**, future editor, shared a picture from her summer vacation to France in 2010.

Mr. Patrick Ratigan

Patrick Ratigan, a new algebra and SAT prep teacher, grew up in Lilburn, Georgia. He attended Truett McConnell College where he received an Associates Degree in General Studies and Piedmont College where he received a BS in mathematics and computer information system and an MAT in



Mr. Ratigan, high school math Secondary Education with a concentration in Mathematics. Mr. Ratigan is "excited to see the students perform" now that he is at SOA. He studied in theatre and dance classes and was also part of his high school's drumline! For those of you wondering, Mr. Ratigan is both an Eagle Scout and a high school soccer coach.



"Freedom."
Dmitri Grigorieff, 10th Grade Creative Writing

Above: **Dmitri Grigorieff** responds to the December 2011 Question of the Month: "What is at the top of your holiday wish list?"

Above: In October of 2010, high school math teacher **Mr. Ratigan** was introduced as a new teacher.

Dating Slang

Compiled by: Traci Cantwell & Sohayla Roudsari

In Honor of Valentine's Day, here are some current relationship terms that we at SOA use to classify different levels of commitment. They are in order from "Yeah, he's cute," to "I want to marry him."

- 1) **Hooking up with someone:** Spontaneous encounter that usually doesn't last until the next day.
- 2) **Layin' the smack down:** Hitting it off with a guy or girl; successfully making them interested in you.
- 3) **Talking to someone:** Learning about each other over the phone - no commitment.
- 4) **Dating someone:** Seeing each other outside of school - no commitment.
- 5) **Seeing someone:** Not exclusive, but small commitment.
- 6) **Dating exclusively:** A test to see if you can stay committed to each other.
- 7) **Going out:** Actually called boyfriend or girlfriend. Commitment and seriousness build over course of relationship.

Below: History teacher Heath Orvin as an old gobbler.



Left: Way back in February of 2000, the staff featured an article on dating slang.

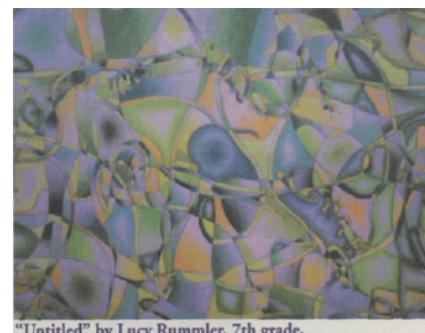
*Below: Current Creative Writing teacher **Ms. Beth Webb Hart** was shown in the very first 1999 issue, assisting a student with her work.*



Mrs. Beth Webb Hart with a seventh grade creative writer.

Dangers of hand sanitizer are exposed

Big thanks to Angel Oak Eye Center who have been advertising with us for 15 years! Your support makes what we do possible.



"Untitled" by Lucy Rummler, 7th grade.

Left: Student artwork from May 2007.

Powderpuff a triumph in school spirit

Nick Scapellato snapped photos of the annual role-swapped Junior vs. Senior football game.

Nick Scapellato



Cheerleaders strike a victorious pose, topped by senior Dance major **Daniel George**.

Nick Scapellato



Senior Theatre major **Devin Donaldson** clutches the football as she sprints down the field, guarded by Senior Band major **Katy Lebaron**.

Savannah Miller interview, continued from page 11:

DG: Reflecting on your time at SOA what was the most important class you took?

SM: That's a hard question to answer...so I won't single it down. I'm thankful for my history department for demonstrating how fun learning can be. With Mr. Brehm's economics and government courses, I learned how to sit down and study. Of course, I could say the same for chemistry with Dr. Price. And I will never, ever forget Dr. Cusatis' poetry project. That single-handedly prepared me for any college English course term paper I've turned in since. Lastly, and possibly most importantly, I would not be the person I am, nor have the opportunities I've been given since, without the lessons I learned under the tutelage of my Creative Writing teachers.

DG: In what ways has your SOA major remained a part of your life?

SM: SOA is and always will be a major part of my life because it gave me my voice. Creative writing will always be an outlet for me, no matter if I decide not to pursue it as a full career. I am so lucky to have given my formative years to SOA because I learned that everyone has a passion; you simply need to provide the stage.

DG: If you could tell your senior class something now, what would it be?

SM: I'm so proud of everything I've seen all of y'all accomplish. Keep on trucking! We're almost "real" adults now-well at least under Obama, we've got until we're 26.

DG: What do you recall most fondly about SOA?

SM: So, so, so many things. One of my favorite stories I like to tell is how we came with rain and left with rain. On my first day of sixth grade, and **Jacob Elsey** can attest to this because we were in **Ms. Newell's** homeroom together, it poured. And I mean poured. Lighting struck the trailer and all of the sixth graders scattered out. It was about time to find our major classes anyways and of course creative writing was separate from all the others. Jacob and I sprinted from building to building. Finally, we were directed to the "block building" and **Ms. Henry** greeted us with a warm hello and a paper towel roll. And then, on that last day on the original campus, it monsooned again. Everyone was scrambling around, packing up, and saying goodbyes. We painted all over the walls and the lockers, and danced in the rain.

DG: If you could have known something during high school that you know now, what you have liked to know?

SM: I would emphasize to create goals and stick to them. Without steadfast goals, I would never have been able to complete my senior thesis, which I still consider my highest achievement. We tend to get stuck in the rut of the day-by-day, but each day culminates into each other, and if you focus on the right things, you can create

something remarkable. I'd also emphasize that no matter what college you end up at, you'll find your niche.

DG: In what ways was your time as editor worthwhile either during high school or later?

SM: So worthwhile! It taught me how to interact with others, how to interact with others while on a deadline, and the importance of detail, quality, and precision.

DG: Is there an issue of *Applause* that you particularly remember working on? Why?

SM: I would say the graduation issue my senior year, but then I don't necessarily "particularly remember working on it" due to every single one of those sleepless nights shaping and reshaping, cursing at Adobe Indesign, and shaping and reshaping quotes again. To say the least, the fondness gets fuzzy there. But when everything came together, it almost felt like a second senior thesis. I was so proud to create a 64-page color edition that everyone in my senior class could also enjoy.

DG: Were there any memorable moments you'd like to share during your time as editor?

SM: You know, I could explain them, but a picture is worth a thousand words. But briefly, favorite moment was watching Jacob's food ordeals. We somehow convinced him to not only do a wing-eating contest with Will, but also snatch the fried-everything platter at the county fair. I wonder how all that is sitting in his stomach today...



Provided

DG: Other than countless hours of work, what do you feel you contributed to *Applause*?

SM: I hope I added some more professional journalism to the paper and a little fun with the design. Honestly, I think it helped me more than I helped it.

DG: What was your favorite *Applause* feature?

SM: In the end, despite the bathroom tears, definitely my graduation issue.

DG: Any favorite Cusatis-isms?

SM: EMAIL ETIQUETTE. TIMELINESS. QUALITY, NOT QUANTITY. ONCE AGAIN, EMAIL ETIQUETTE.

Catching up with Madeleine Vath, 2013-2014 editor

Madeline Vath graduated from SOA last year and is currently pursuing a degree in print journalism at the University of South Carolina Honors College. She works as a copy editor on The Daily Gamecock staff. The Daily Gamecock is distributed every class day on and around the USC campus, and is currently focused on finding a good internship to boost her resume.

Dmitri Grigorieff: What jobs have you worked since (or during) college?

Madeleine Vath: I work as a copy editor on *The Daily Gamecock* staff. *The Daily Gamecock* is distributed every class day on and around the USC campus.

DG: Anything else you have done since high school that you are willing to share with our readers?

MV: I went to Australia. I hope to study abroad there with the journalism program in the future.

DG: Reflecting on your time at SOA what was the most important class you took? Why?

MV: Both AP Literature and AP Language have been important because the majority of my homework assignments and exams are made up of reading and writing. Those two classes taught me how to read and write in the most time-efficient ways. I don't think I would be able to manage the workload if I hadn't learned how to skim through the most important information and write in concise sentences from those classes.

DG: In what ways has your SOA major remained a part of your life?

MV: I am a part of the student-run organization called Off Off Broadway on campus; we put on a musical or a revue each semester. This past semester, we put on a superhero revue and next semester we will be putting on the musical *9 to 5!*

DG: If you could tell your senior class something now, what would it be?

MV: Why did you guys all go to Clemson? Go 'cocks!

DG: What do you recall most fondly about SOA?

MV: Having covered walkways. Getting rained on during a 15-minute walk to class sucks.

DG: If you could have known something during high school that you know now, what you have liked to know?

MV: I know nothing about InDesign.

DG: Looking back, how was attending SOA the right choice for you?

MV: The heavy workload was helpful in preparing me for the amount of reading that I have to do for some of my classes. Also, learning to always question everything from Mr. Donnellon is something I might not have learned until later if I had not attended SOA, and is very important to live by wherever I may go.



Provided

Madeleine Vath interview, continued:

DG: In what ways was your time as editor worthwhile either during high school or later?

MV: Being editor was extremely beneficial in that it gave me time and stress management skills, and being on staff in general improved my writing exponentially (or so I hope).

DG: Is there an issue of *Applause* that you particularly remember working on? Why?

MV: The Vocal issue was a lot of fun because of all the interviews we had to do with the cast of *Beauty and the Beast* and the editorial we got to write. I'd have to say the first issue that I put together as an editor is the most memorable for me because I was able to try out different designs and having the final (or next to final, I guess) say was just so new.

DG: Were there any memorable moments you'd like to share during your time as editor?

MV: The time when Ted took off his pants. And the time when Ted took off his shirt. Just Ted in general. Ted was a memorable moment.

DG: What was your favorite *Applause* feature?

MV: I'd probably have to say *Where Were They Then* was my favorite because of all the great old pictures we would get from teachers.

DG: Any favorite Cusatis-isms?

MV: "Ma'am? Excuse me, ma'am?" – to a sleeping student

Catching up with Lucy Hunter, 2007-2008 editor

*Lucy Hunter earned a BA from Barnard College in 2012, and is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in the History of Art at Yale University. She commutes between Brooklyn, where she runs an art gallery called *Where*, and New Haven. She is kept busy by a lot of unpaid but important work: teaching, doing personal research, and curating exhibitions.*

Dmitri Grigorieff: What are you currently doing?

Lucy Hunter: Ph.D. candidacy is a lot of (very unpaid) work, between teaching and personal research. Where, my gallery, also demands a lot of attention! I also curate exhibitions; I have one coming up at Yale in February: www.thelegalmedium.com/exhibition.

DG: What is your most important goal for the near or distant future?

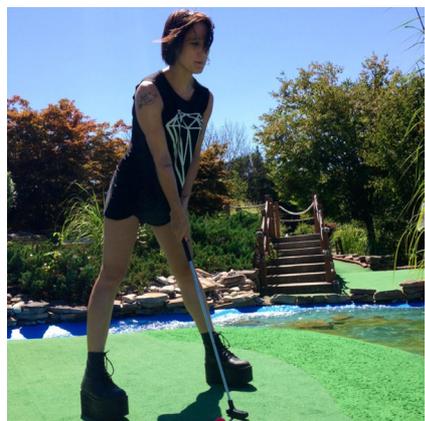
LH: Finishing my doctorate, which should take another five years but feels eons away!

DG: Reflecting on your time at SOA, what was the most important class you took? Why?

LH: Dr. Cusatis's English class! I think it best prepared me for college and introduced me to a level of intellectual thinking and academic rigor that would become very important in shaping my future goals.

DG: In what ways has your SOA major remained a part of your life?

LH: I met my best friend, Rachael Lee, at SOA. She's currently getting her Ph.D. at Harvard in Comparative Literature.



Provided

Casey O'Neill: 2004-2005 *Applause* editor

Casey O'Neill completed her B.A. at the University of South Carolina in Experimental Psychology with a minor in Chemistry in 2009. She received her MA in 2011 and will receive her PhD next semester from the University of Colorado Boulder in Neuroscience. She has been a research assistant, in various different laboratories, focusing on different parts of the scientific process. She is currently working as a graduate researcher at the University of Colorado Boulder Neuropharmacology Laboratory.

Dmitri Grigorieff: Where do you attend college?

Casey O'Neill: I completed my B.A. at the University of South Carolina in Experimental Psychology with a minor in Chemistry in 2009. I received my MA in 2011 and will receive my PhD next semester from the University of Colorado Boulder in Neuroscience.

DG: What is your most important goal for the near or distant future?

CO: Finishing my PhD is probably the most immediate goal for me, but that should happen by March. After that I will be moving on to a postdoctoral fellowship. I have interviews at the University of Colorado Medical School in Denver, University of Washington (in Seattle), Duke University, and University of North Carolina, and Medical University of South Carolina.

DG: Anything else you have done since high school that you are willing to share with our readers?

CO: I spent a lot of time in college traveling in Europe while I studied abroad, and a lot of time in graduate school traveling the western US. I would highly encourage SOA students to pursue as many opportunities to travel as possible. Also, our national parks are actual treasures.

DG: Reflecting on your time at SOA what was the most important class you took? Why?

CO: It's hard to say what the most "important" class I took at SOA was. So many classes I took there were key to my intellectual development. Both Dr. Cusatis and Mrs. Marshall helped me to develop a deep and continuing love of literature. Dr. Ball's classes helped to develop my interest in biological sciences, and Mr. Smyth's statistics course helped me realize that there are some types of math I might actually like.

DG: If you could tell your senior class something now, what would it be?

CO: I'd like to tell them thank you. I had a great time growing up with them, and I feel really grateful to have had such a great high



Provided

school community.

DG: If you could have known something during high school that you know now, what you have liked to know?

CO: I guess just that there's not much to be worried about when you're in high school despite what it might feel like.

DG: Looking back, how was attending SOA the right choice for you?

CO: The education and community that exists at SOA is not matched at any other school, I still tell people how lucky I was to get to attend.

DG: In what ways was your time as editor worthwhile either during high school or later?

CO: It taught me how to reprioritize tasks to make deadlines and multi-task.

DG: Is there an issue of *Applause* that you particularly remember working on? Why?

CO: I remember working on the senior issue because it was so huge, and I forgot to include a letter to the creative writing majors. I felt terrible and did my best to stuff a print out of it into the papers before they came out, but I still feel a little bad about it.

DG: What was your favorite *Applause* feature?

CO: My favorite feature was the restaurant review column I did with **Samantha Danna**. I think they probably left a bit to be desired as a restaurant reviews go, but we had a ridiculously good time putting them together.

DG: Any favorite Cusatis-isms?

CO: This may not qualify, but I remember once in my AP English class Dr. Cusatis was trying to reference a bible verse and each time he would paraphrase it a crash of thunder would follow as if some higher power was angry with his misquoting. It was hilarious.

Hailey Bowers, 2010-2011 editor of Applause

Hailey Bowers is currently studying at Oglethorpe University in Atlanta and working on a degree in Behavioral Sciences and Human Resource Management. She is currently focused on completing the LSAT, and getting into law school. She works at the Office of Admissions and the Office of Special Events on her campus, as well as at Boone Hall. Hailey just learned that she will be interning for Coca-Cola this summer, and she is excited to work with an internationally recognized brand, as well as drink free coke.

Dmitri Grigorieff: What jobs have you worked since (or during) college? What are you currently doing?

Hailey Bowers: I work in the Office of Admissions and Office of Special Events on campus. I interned last summer at the Tides Enterprises, the company that owns Hilton Head Popcorn and Charleston Nut Company, and am still working at Boone Hall Plantation.

DG: What is your most important goal for the near or distant future?

HB: The LSAT and law school! Wish me luck!

DG: Anything else you have done since high school that you are willing to share with our readers?

HB: After a very long wait, I just found out that I will be interning at Coca-Cola this summer! It is a great opportunity with an internationally recognized brand. Plus, it is heaven for a Diet Coke addict like myself!

DG: Reflecting on your time at SOA what was the most important class you took? Why?

HB: Dr. C's AP Lit class! The writing skills I developed in his class have really given me an advantage in college.

DG: In what ways has your SOA major remained a part of your life?

HB: My mom just donated my old oboes to the school... Does that count? I still haven't made it back for a JJW yet either, which I feel really guilty about! Sorry Mr. Kerr!

DG: If you could tell your senior class something now, what would it be?

HB: Don't take things so seriously. High school is easy, so enjoy it.

DG: What do you recall most fondly about SOA?

HB: The strangeness, acceptance, and individuality!

DG: If you could have known something during high school that you know now, what you have liked to know?

HB: It is okay to mess up and you do not have to be perfect. Don't get too wrapped up in the small things.

DG: In what ways was your time as editor worthwhile either during high school or later?

HB: I really enjoyed my time as editor! It taught me organization and working under pressure and deadlines.

DG: Is there an issue of the Applause that you particularly remember working on?

HB: The graduation issue! It was so much work and no one turned in anything on time, but it was so rewarding to see every single page of it in print.

DG: Were there any memorable moments you'd like to share during your time as editor?

HB: For one issue we needed extra time, so my dad and I drove to Georgetown to pick up all 1,000 copies on a Saturday. I got to meet the printer and everyone I had been emailing for

months. It was nice to put a face to the email address!

DG: Other than countless hours of work, what do you feel you contributed to Applause?

HB: I was definitely overly meticulous with the small details no one would notice but me. I feel like I cleaned up the lines and maybe organized it a bit more. Really I just contributed time. Lots and lots of my time.

DG: What was your favorite Applause feature?

HB: Sass Attack when David Sass was still writing it!

DG: Any favorite Cusatis-isms?

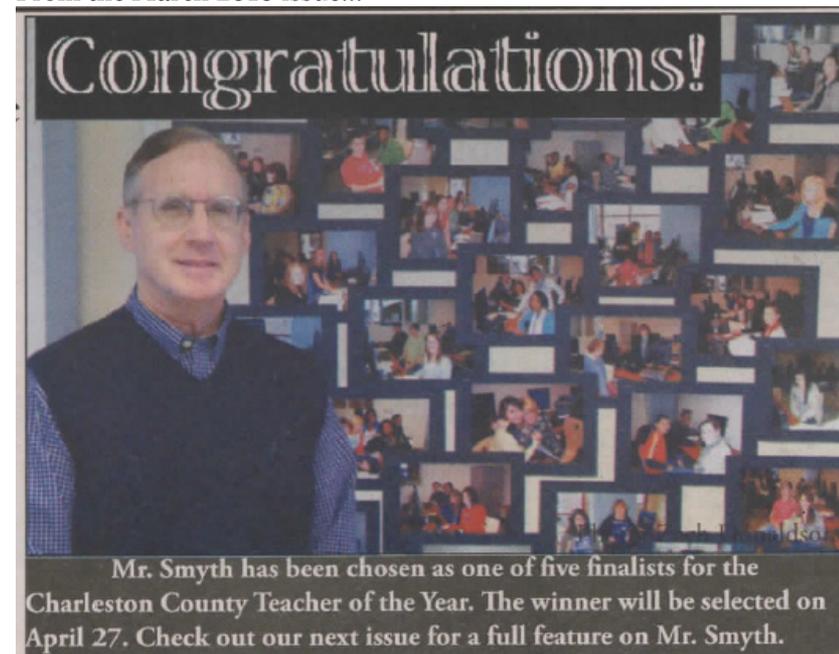
HB: The whistle!



Provided

Midterm Exam Schedule
Friday, Jan. 9: 1A, 3A
Monday, Jan. 12: 1B, 2B
Tuesday, Jan. 13: 2A, 4A
Wednesday, Jan. 14: 2B, 4B
Thursday, Jan. 15: No School
Friday, Jan. 16: No School
Monday, Jan. 19: Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday

From the March 2010 issue...



Happy Holidays from Applause

Sass Attack: Get Into The Holiday Spirit

by Aly Wintz

I swear some people are like their twelve-year-old "too-cool-for-this" selves when it comes to Christmas. Since when is it a pain to be in the Holiday Spirit; since when is it ignorant to partake in the fun society has made for us? Whether you're Jewish, Atheist, Christian, etc., this part of the year is perfect for being excited over awesome food, family, and the spirit of Winter! The entirety of Charleston is currently decked out in beautiful lights. The mood of the city is in a state of beauty and giving! These people need to get up off of their behinds and look around!

Don't you remember when you were younger and every Christmas Eve you couldn't sleep because you were so excited about the upcoming day? You would wake up periodically throughout the night and keep looking at the clock, waiting for it to be an acceptable time to go downstairs and see what Santa had brought you? Most of the time this would involve waking up WAY too early and waiting eagerly for your family to get up (Maybe even making coffee for your parents just so they would have motivation to move).

Now as soon as everyone breaks out the tacky Christmas sweaters, the fun lights, the gifts, and colorful paper you have a bunch of people verbally attacking us, claiming we're not celebrating this season correctly.

I'm all for knowing about the true meaning of this time of year, Christmas, Hanukkah, or Kwanza alike. However, while doing that I want to enjoy my life and years while I still can. I want to love this holiday for the magic that comes with it, that our culture puts into it, because that magic is a giving, amazing thing. I want to see children's eyes light up in wonder as they hear stories of adventures in the snow, and learning to accept family and friends.

So, ignore the holiday spirit haters. For while their "enlightening" comments are welcome, their patronizing is not.

Christmas favorite just as iconic 44 years later

by Graham Crolley

There are certain things we all think of when the holidays come around: the smell of Christmas trees, multicolor lights as far as the eye can see, the somewhat unrelenting yet infectiously festive stream of holiday tunes from 102.5 radio station. And then there are the movies, whether you're a fan of Buddy the Elf, George Bailey, or good old Rudolph.

For this special Christmas issue, I ventured back to 1970 and watched the Jules Bass and Arthur Rankin Jr. television special *Santa Claus is Comin' to Town*. I grew up watching this movie when Christmas came around, and re-watching it years later proved just as magical as when I was younger. The entire special is done in stop-motion and in the classic frame story style with a mailman voiced by Fred Astaire starting the film from the present and proceeding to narrate Santa Claus's unknown story before the film returns back to real time in the end. The special follows a young Santa Claus AKA Kris Kringle as



pixgood.com

he grows from a foundling child raised by elves to a young man determined to deliver toys to the children of the aptly named Sombertown where fun things such as toys are banished by the cantankerous ruler Bugermeister Meisterburger.

Watching the movie as an older person, it is easy to see the cliché plot developments and lines, but what makes the movie so iconic is still there— its unique charm. Like other stop motion television specials of its time such as the aforementioned *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer* or even *The Little Drummer Boy*, this feature has a rough-around-the-edges likeability to it that secures its place among classic holiday movies. In what other Christmas special is our young protagonist Santa joined by a sidekick penguin? In what other holiday flick does the change of heart of a winter warlock come about with perhaps one of the catchiest songs of all time, "One Foot in Front of the Other?"

Santa Claus is Comin' to Town is an ever-enjoyable part of the holidays and if you haven't seen it, I highly suggest donning your festive candy cane onesie, curling up by the fire with 15 to 20 gingerbread cookies, and watching it.



"I was told I look like a Jonas Brother."
Graham Crolley, 8th Grade Creative Writing

Above: Current editor **Graham Crolley** has been appearing in *Applause* since 2009, when he claimed that his most embarrassing was being "told I look like a Jonas Brother." He now admits that this isn't true, and in fact never really happened, and instead, he panicked immediately upon being asked and answered the first thing that came to mind.



"My lanyard because I never wear it but I never get caught."
Douglas Smith, 10th grade Creative Writing

Current senior **Douglas Smith** answers the question "What is your good luck charm?" in March 2013.

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Maya Gardner

from “Tin Foil Hats”

She tucked the articles back in her bag between two pages of the journal she brought with her. She had a few dozen at home. Their condition was questionable, and no matter how she tried at the end of the month, or two if it was slow, there were water stains and crumbs in the crevices and maybe even a broken spine. These were the journals, a dozen a year give or take, full with sketches of robins and white-crowned sparrows with Polaroids stuck in of a birds nest or eggs, a migration or a baby bird on the ground sinking in the leaves and begging to be let back up. She was paid for the one line under Nebraska in the encyclopedia for how the birds were doing. If the weather was warm enough or the trees were moist enough to sustain all of the hummingbirds they put out food for and woodpeckers that woke them up in the early morning. If they should be worried about the red-tailed hawk on the cusp of extinction because the foxes have overpopulated and have a taste for them. For some she submits her years of seeing through binoculars in a series of colors. It was like a test on her laptop at night, her eyes wide from going from outside to inside rather quickly and inserting her months of research in a rainbow code: click black for dangerously low population, red and orange and yellow for threatened, and violet for I've seen three today and I think they'll last a bit longer on your timeline.

*The above excerpts are the opening paragraphs of short stories written by 8th grade Creative Writers **Molly McConnell, Maya Gardner, and Elle Hueske**. Thank you to **Mr. Hammes** and his class for submitting their work to Applause! We look forward to featuring them again.*



Molly McConnell

from “Snake One Down”

And as for her, there were days like this in the office with analog clocks and plastic plants and a letter he wrote about how the green sea reminded him of her as he flew over it and that picture of him with the flag with wind blowing into it and I'm sorry for your loss and it'll get better Rene and he did it for a greater cause. But there wasn't a cause to support anymore because he was the only one who supported her before this. Those days were fast and cold. Like today.

And today had been in monotone when she said she was healing and thank you and you really shouldn't do all of that for me, and while she said these things, it was a solid blue outside. But not a blue that lunged out. It was one of those soft feathery blues that would fluff your sheets and hold you in its hands until you feel warm and safe and go to sleep. Like a blanket. Like that shade of blue that they had picked out but would never buy it because *they* had turned to *she* and the reason to buy the paint no longer matched.



Elle Hueske

from “Held By Gravity”

Mama Grande was a medicine woman. People came to her when they were desperate and needed help. She had spent a year with the Cherokee learning herbal remedies and native medical practices. They told her about the galaxy and Orion's belt and about the nymphs that lived in brooks and rode on trout, and about the Star Souls.

The Indians had said the sky was not opportunity, but regret. There were so many people asking the sky for answers that would never be solved, that all the questions clung to the galaxy and formed a glass sheet of problems that blocked the earth from the moon. The souls who had left this world before they were meant to, drifted to the galaxy and got trapped on the other side of this sheet. But the loved ones lost still had a presence. They tried to escape back to Earth and paced back and forth leaving footprints of stars and messages riddled in constellations.



Chloe Hogan, 11th grade Visual Arts

Amy Walsh, 11th grade Visual Arts



Cameron Frye, 11th grade Vocal



Elsa Cline, 11th grade Visual Arts



Parker Richardson,
11th grade
Visual Arts

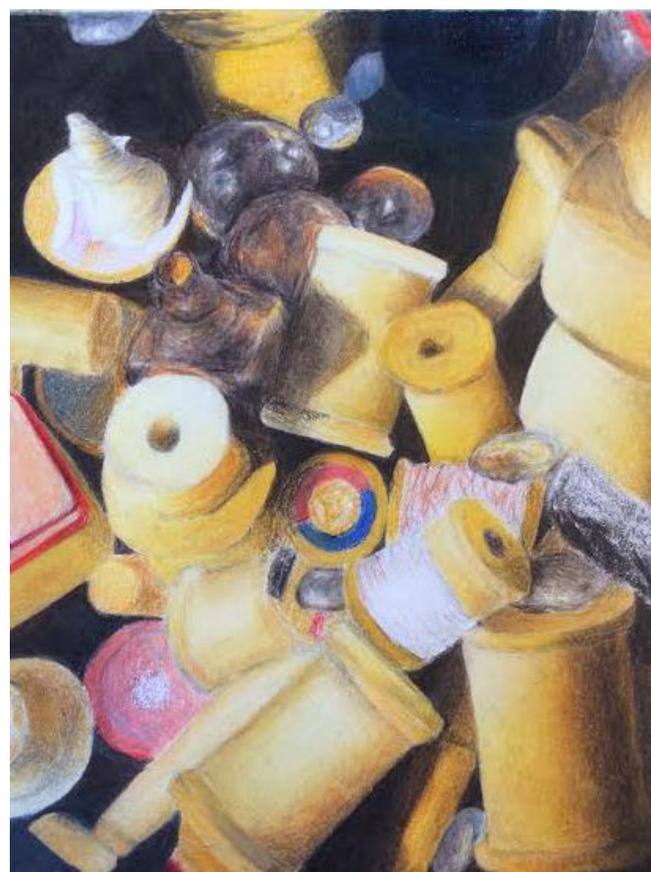
Thank you to the many generous and talented students who have shared their work with us this issue! If you are interested in being featured in an upcoming issue, please send a digital copy of your work to suzanne@soa-applause.com.



Jessica Leiker, 9th grade Creative Writing



Leo Horton, 8th grade Visual Arts

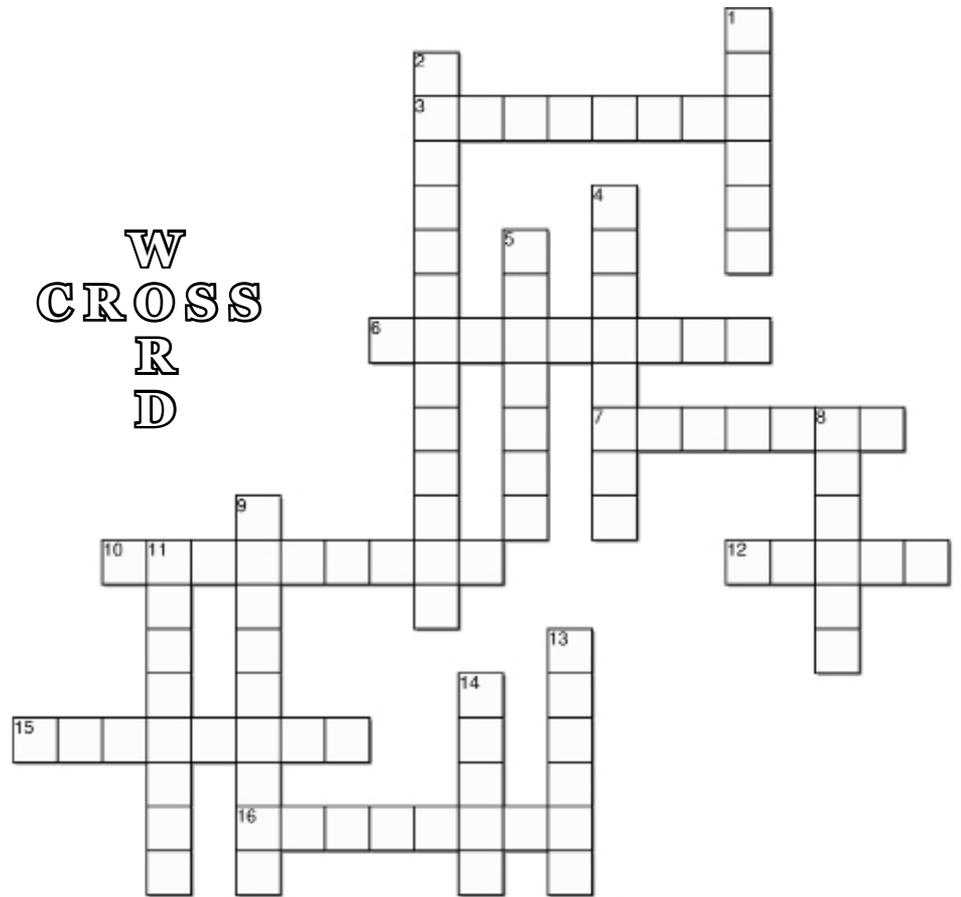


Erick Won, 8th grade Visual Arts

Sudoku

6		1		2
4		6 2		7
		3	7	8
2		4		9
	1			2
	3	8		5
9		8	4	
	4		3 2	9
2		7		4

W CROSS R D



This Week in History

by Jakob Lazzaro
Source: wikipedia.org

SUN 12/14	MON 12/15	TUES 12/16	WED 12/17	THUR 12/18	FRI 12/19	SAT 12/20
<p>1911: Roald Amundsen becomes the first man to reach the South Pole.</p> <p>2008: An Iraqi journalist throws his shoes at President Bush.</p> <p>2012: 28 people are killed in the Sandy Hook school shooting.</p>	<p>1832: Gustave Eiffel is born.</p> <p>1938: Construction begins on the Jefferson memorial.</p> <p>1939: Gone With The Wind premieres.</p> <p>1966: Walt Disney dies.</p>	<p>1497: Vasco de Gama passes the Cape of Good Hope.</p> <p>1773: The Boston Tea Party occurs.</p> <p>1997: The notorious seizure-inducing episode of Pokémon is aired in Japan, affecting 685.</p>	<p>1892: The first issue of Vogue is published.</p> <p>1903: The Wright brothers make the first powered airplane flight.</p> <p>1989: The Simpsons premieres on Fox.</p>	<p>1892: The Nutcracker premieres in Saint Petersburg.</p> <p>1917: The 18th Amendment is passed by congress, enacting prohibition.</p> <p>1946: Steven Spielberg is born.</p>	<p>1732: Ben Franklin's Poor Richard's Almanac enters publication.</p> <p>1843: Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol is published.</p> <p>1997: Titanic premieres.</p> <p>1998: President Bill Clinton is impeached by congress.</p>	<p>1803: The Louisiana Purchase is completed.</p> <p>1860: South Carolina secedes from the Union.</p> <p>1946: It's A Wonderful Life premieres.</p>

Across

3. Your favorite newspaper.
6. People you don't want to come into town for the holidays.
7. That one reindeer no one liked.
10. The 25th of December.
12. Someone you want to come into town on Christmas.
15. Put these out for Santa!
16. 'This is your _____. We've hung it on the tree since you were born.' -Any family member

Down

1. 'Dashing through the snow, in a one-horse open _____'
2. Some creepy relatives might try to dress as this holiday figure on New Years Eve by wearing a diaper.
4. You will see these cute furry creatures scampering around the forest and on roads like you always do.
5. Good luck spelling this African holiday.
8. _____ Butter.
9. Don't be caught under this with someone unless you want to 'pucker up'.
11. Dreidels. Menorahs. 8 fun-filled nights.
13. Strung by the dozen on houses and trees.
14. Very short creatures with pointy ears that make toys.

6th vs 12th Grade

by Aly Wintz

Applause asked both a 6th grader and a senior what book is or was the most popular book during their time as a 6th grader.

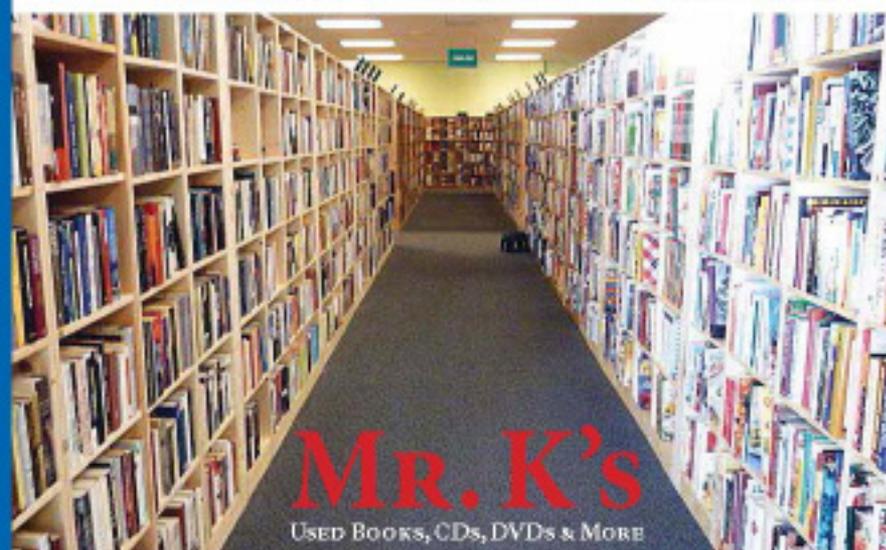


Surrounded by her friends, 6th grade Creative Writer **Molly Tippey** says that the most popular book is *Divergent* by Veronica Roth.



Taking a break from a strenuous vocal rehearsal, **Madison Bowman**, Senior Vocal major, explains that the best book was definitely *Eragon* by Christopher Paolini.

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Horoscopes

♊ Sagittarius ♎

A strategy that you have put into action appears to have produced no results so far. One small, minor adjustment, as opposed to a large, sweeping change will get you where you need to be.

♏ Capricorn ♏

A certain person in your life may be a bit high-maintenance. Take some time to consider why this may be to help yourself better understand and appreciate what this individual has to offer.

♒ Aquarius ♒

Pleasing others at the cost of your own time and resources may be a source of unhappiness in your life. Rationally explaining your feelings will reveal that your intentions were not clearly understood and may set you on a path to a stronger relationship.

♓ Pisces ♓

Something that you desire may seem very unlikely to occur, possibly because you doubt your own luck. You need to accept the fact that you are deserving, Pisces. Learn from your mistakes and be kinder to yourself; your fortune will take a turn for the better.

♈ Aries ♈

Don't allow yourself to become overwhelmed, Aries. There may be someone in your life demanding your time and assistance. The frustration you are feeling is better balanced out than expressed angrily. Remember: by helping another, you may end up helping yourself.

♉ Taurus ♉

Recently, you may have felt that you are facing great conflict and struggle in your life. It feels as if you are being torn in several different directions. A dramatic improvement is coming your way, Taurus. In the meantime, do your best to continue on the current path.

♊ Gemini ♊

Be careful to avoid missing out on any important opportunities arising. However, do consider the possible challenges or you may be caught unprepared. You are mentally agile and capable of thinking on your feet; trust that, and you will be fine.

♋ Cancer ♋

Let the phoenix be your symbolic totem for today. You have the capacity to rise up and reinvent yourself, so begin with a goal that is close to your heart.

♌ Leo ♌

You have a dream that you fear others will view as silly, unrealistic, or that you are undeserving of its fulfillment. Remember that a hidden dream is far more difficult to pursue. You may discover supporters willing to assist you in achieving it.

♍ Virgo ♍

You may be struggling with an authority figure in your life at the moment, Virgo. This individual lacks your abilities, yet you must answer to them in some way. Express and voice your opinion in a calm and balanced manner. You will reach the person who can change this unreasonable relationship.

♎ Libra ♎

If you do not extend yourself into certain unfamiliar boundaries, you may not overcome the challenges set before you. Do so with pride and confidence to find yourself on the other side.

♏ Scorpio ♏

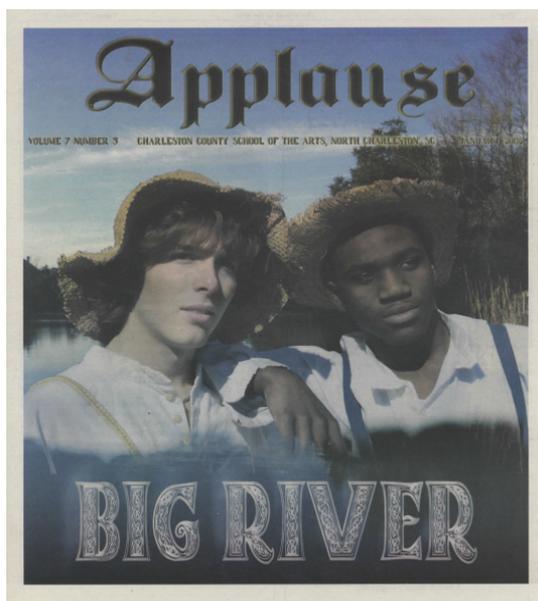
Someone in your life is testing you, Scorpio. You may resent this but an honest and open response will be the most effective. Otherwise, you will be putting off the inevitable.

A look at some of our finest covers...

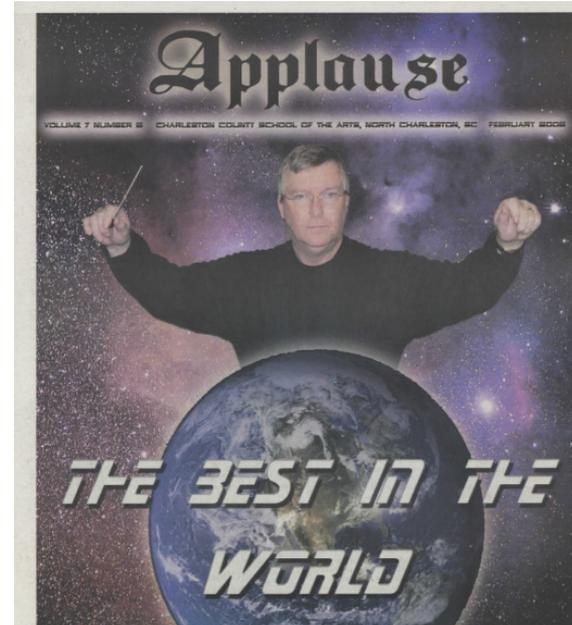
Applause editors and staff chose a few of their favorite covers from the past 15 years. Cover artists are as follows: **Ben Forney** and **Casey O'Neill** (V6 No.4), **Omi Naderi** (V7 No.3-7), **Kenish Magwood** and **Chrissy Thorne** (V10 No.6), **Alek Mihok** and **Caroline Rogers** (V 11 No. 4), **Chris Ulmer** (V11 No. 5).



V 6 No. 4: December 2004



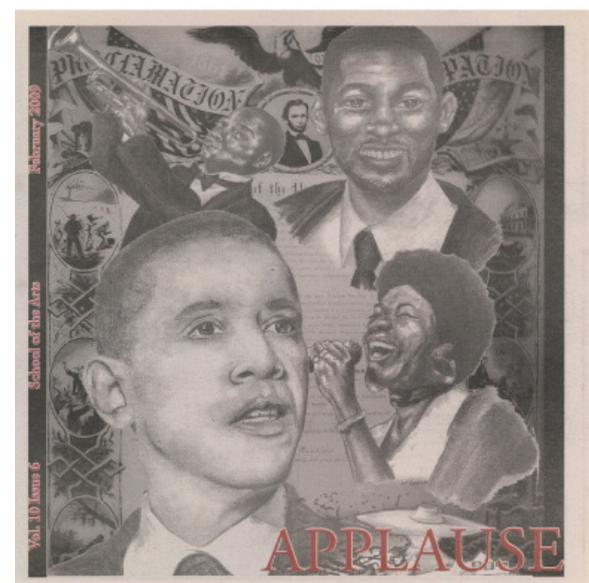
V 7 No. 5: January 2006



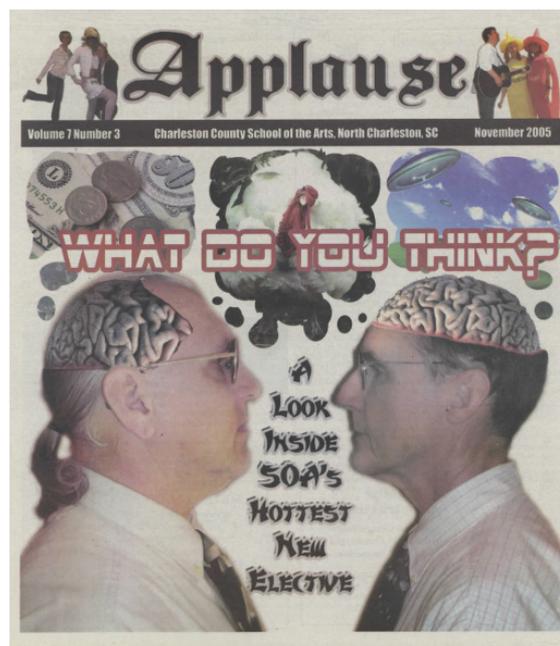
V 7 No. 6: February 2006



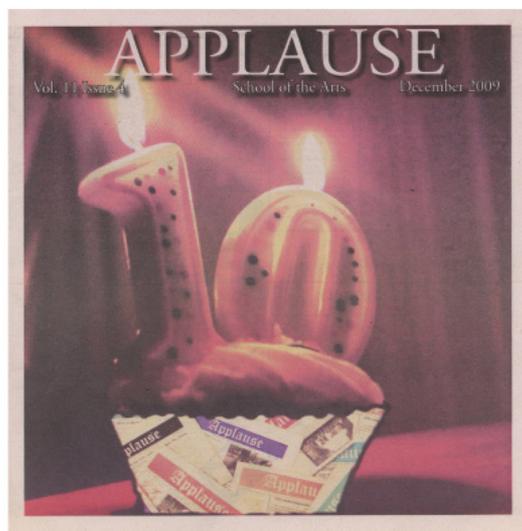
V 7 No. 7: March 2006



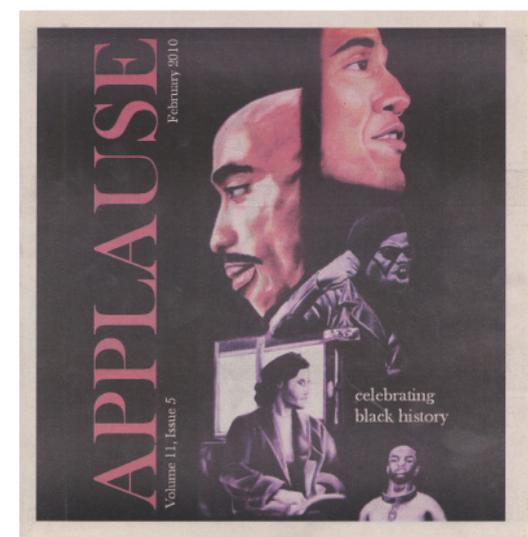
V 10 No. 6: February 2009



V 7 No. 3: November 2005



V 11 No. 4: December 2009



V 11 No. 5: February 2010

Paint the Town Red & Gold

by Aly Wintz

Charleston Stage Presents: A Christmas Carol: A Ghost Story of Christmas:

Now-December 21st

The Polar Express 4-D experience:

Now-December 31st

Visit the South Carolina Aquarium for a fun 4-D adventure with clips of the Christmas Classic.

Holiday Festival of Lights

Now- January 1st 2015

The Festival of Lights is back! Come see amazing decorations all from the comfort of your car and even meet santa if you're feeling adventurous.

A Sweet T. Christmas

December 11th-27th

Returning to Black Fedora Comedy Mystery Theatre, come out and see the amazing modern show!

Holiday Dinner Cruise

December 12th, 19th, 26th, 27th

Enjoy a gourmet buffet and a beautiful tour of the harbor!

The Sound of Charleston

December 12th, 19th, 26th, 30th

Come out and hear the sounds of Charleston, from Gershwin to gospel!

Polar Plunge!

January 1st 2015

Help raise money for the Special Olympics by taking a freezing swim off the coast of Sullivan's



Next door to The Terrace Theater.
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The Trivia Challenge

by Jakob Lazzaro

Are you interested in competing for the title of Trivia Emperor in The Trivia Challenge? The winner will receive a \$15 Barnes & Noble gift card and eternal glory. If you are interested in competing talk to Dr. Cusatis in room 1115 during High School lunch or email jakob@soa-applause.com with the subject line "Trivia". We hope to see you!

Bells are ringing, lights are shining, and Christmas break is beckoning, so Applause is joining the celebrations with holiday themed trivia! Jack Martini returns with his crown and scepter to battle Jemma Wyke-Smith in this frosty competition.

Questions

1. True or False. Christmas Day was originally the conclusion of a Roman holiday called Saturnalia.
2. What miracle does the Jewish holiday of Hanukkah celebrate?
3. What (modern) country was St. Nicholas, the inspiration for Santa Claus, from?
4. Name all nine of Santa's reindeer.
5. What parody holiday was popularized by the television show Seinfeld?
6. Who is the first ghost to appear to Scrooge in A Christmas Carol?
7. Name the holiday created in 1965 to celebrate African heritage.
8. What does Frosty the Snowman say when he comes to life?
9. True or False. Bing Crosby's White Christmas is the highest selling single of all time.
10. How many candles are on a menorah?

Jemma Wyke-Smith 12th Grade Theatre

1. True.
2. If I get this wrong, all my Jewish friends will hate me... Moses, I think? And 8 candles?
3. I'm gonna go with, like, Belgium.
4. Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donner, Blitzen, and Rudolph.
5. Opposite Day.
6. The Ghost of Christmas Past.
7. Kwanzaa
8. Hey kids! I'm alive.
9. True.
10. A menorah has 8.



Jack Martini 12th Grade Vocal

1. False (I have no clue).
2. Passover. Go for it. That's not even a thing.
3. Lets go with Italy.
4. Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Rudolph, the other one.
5. Festivus.
6. The Ghost of Christmas Past.
7. Is it Kwanzaa?
8. <mumbles lyrics>
9. I'm going to go with true.
10. Nine.



4.28/10

4.5/10

The Victor

A snowy wind of change has blown through the air, providing just enough leverage to push the crown off of Jack's head and onto Jemma's. Although it was an extremely close contest, Jemma will fly off into the stars on a reindeer as the new trivia empress, returning next month to play again.

Answers
1. True. 2. The oil lasting for eight days. 3. Turkey. 4. Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donner, Blitzen, and Rudolph. 5. Festivus. 6. Jacob Marley. 7. Kwanzaa. 8. Happy Birthday! 9. True. 10. Nine.

