

# Applause

Volume 17, Number 1

School of the Arts, North Charleston, SC  
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October 2015

20th Anniversary

See pages  
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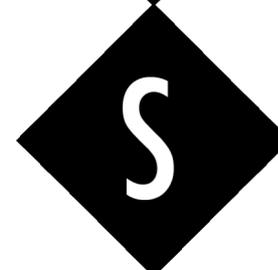
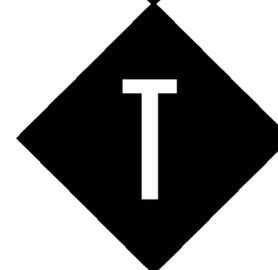
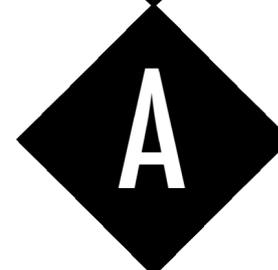
of School of the Arts

- Meet the new *Applause* staff: 4-5
- From befriending Ray Bradbury to loving Candy Crush, SOA's new teachers full of surprises: 14-17, 22-24
- Summer brings education, thrills: 6-7, 10-11, 20-21

**SAPPHIRE****Rhoda Ascanio & Mark Lazzaro****James and Jennifer Moriarty****AMETHYST****The Allardice Family****Alan Brehm****Kimberly Zerbst****TOPAZ****Tyson Smith****Gus and Wendy Molony****Dr. Shannon Cook****The Doran Family****David Bundy****Katy Richardson****Keith and Dawn Rizer****Ann Marie Fairchild****Kimberly Hond****TURQUOISE****Tracey Castle****Mr. and Ms. Cline****Jacob Fairchild****The Gadson Family****Beth Webb Hart****Kathy Horres****Basil Kerr****Laura Smith****PERIDOT****Anonymous****Christine Bednarczyk****Brian Johnson****Cheyenne Koth****Lynn Kramer****Kaci Martin****Stacy LeBrun****Kirk Lindgren****Abbey Reeves****Holly Rizer****Sheryl Sabal****Dr. Christopher Selby****Antoinette Green****GARNET****Ginger and Heather Snook****Kimberly Hod****Brenda Brooks****Sarah Fitzgerald****Doug Horres****Cynthia Pate****Nancy Rickson****Bill Smyth****Bethany Crawford****Debra Benson****Brett Johnson****Rosamond Lawson****Sylvia Watkins****Debbie Dekle****Marcellus Holt****Eyamba Williams****Brenda Buoks****Sue Bennett****Sean Scapellato****Kevin Short****Debbie Summey****Sylvia Edwards****Anonymous**

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## Letter from the Editor

Welcome back, SOA!

As your new editor, I will strive to make this year's *Applause* fantastic. Our largest staff of 24 coupled with my experience gained at a five-week journalism program at Northwestern University this summer, we'll help bring you more of the content you crave smarter and faster. Turn the page to get to know all 24 of us.

SOA celebrated its twentieth anniversary this August and *Applause* spoke to the first graduating class on how their time here affected them. Turn to pages 13 and 35 to read. Having trouble keeping all the new faces asking you for your ID straight? You'll find interviews with SOA's thirteen new teachers on pages 14-17. Want to know what your friends and teachers did this summer? Check pages 6-7, 10-11, and 20-21. Music reviews, book reviews, the Great Flood of 2015, the new dress code policy, you name it and we've got it covered.

Connecting with *Applause* has never been easier. Just head to **soa-applause.com**, where you can contact a staff member or view our archive! We're also on **Facebook** at "Applause 2015-2016" and on **Twitter** @SOAApplause.

We exist to serve *you*. Have a story that needs coverage? Want to share your opinion with a letter to the editor? Have some awesome artwork or writing you'd love to see published? Just let us know. This is your newspaper.

We strive for every issue to be a reflection of the wonderful community and unique environment at SOA. Also, thanks to all of our patrons and advertisers! You guys let us do what we do.

Here's to a great year, SOA!

Jakob Lazzaro, Editor-In-Chief

Jay Rode



# Applause

since 1999, the official student  
publication of

## School of the Arts

*Founded in 1995 by Rose Maree Myers*

### Editor-in-Chief:

Jakob Lazzaro

### News Editor:

Etta Elliott

### Features Editor:

Nick Scapellato

### Graphics Editor:

Jay Rode

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Annika Gadson

Emily Dail

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Jackie Evans

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Jada Orr

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## Where you can find *Applause*

### North Charleston

Mr. K's Used Books,  
Music and More

### Mount Pleasant

CCPL, Mount Pleasant  
Branch

Sea Biscuit Cafe

### James Island

CCPL, James Island  
Branch

Joseph's Salon

Ladles

### West Ashley

CCPL, St. Andrews  
Branch

East Bay Deli

### Downtown

CCPL, Main Branch

Mama Kim's

Cobb Dill & Hammet,  
LLC

### Johns Island

Angel Oak Eye Center

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**Cover by Jay Rode**

# Meet Your New Applause Staff



Jay Rode

**Jakob Lazzaro**

*Senior Piano Major*

**Favorite news source:** NPR

**Name of car:** Bruce

**Has lived in:** Sydney, Australia

**Has dropped phone:** 23 times



Jay Rode

**Savannah Porter**

*Senior Creative Writer*

**Favorite song:** The Front Bottoms' "Twin Sized Mattress."

**Favorite color:** Navy blue. No other shade of blue. Just navy.

**Favorite place:** The Bowery, NYC

**Favorite quote:** "Everything I've ever let go of has claw marks on it."

- David Foster Wallace



Jay Rode

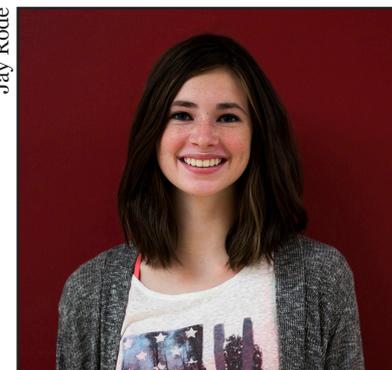
**Emily Dail**

*Junior Dance Major*

**Loves:** Boba tea

**Favorite animal:** Giraffe

**Wants to live in:** NYC



Jay Rode

**Mollie Pate**

*Sophomore Creative Writer*

**Celebrity crush:** Misha Collins

**Enjoys:** Vegetable-themed ankle socks

**Envisioning:** Alternate realities

**Anger:** Depends on the time of day



Jay Rode

**Alyssa Melsopp**

*Senior Visual Artist*

**Favorite major:** Creative Writing

**Favorite song:** "Africa" by Toto

**Favorite shape:** Not a square, because that's what you are.

**Favorite activity:** Screaming



Jay Rode

**Cheyanne Koth**

*Junior Creative Writer*

**Favorite major:** Visual Arts

**Making:** History

**Can be found:** Buying clothes for babies that aren't mine.

**Friends:** Like three



Jay Rode

**Erin Molony**

*Junior Band Major*

**Likes:** Myself, Dogs

**Sign:** Scorpio

**Favorite rapper:** Basil Kerr



Jay Rode

**Annika Gadson**

*Junior Dance Major*

**Ice cream flavor:** Pistachio

**Spirit animals:** Giraffes and Turtles

**Favorite football team:** USC



Jay Rode

**Jackie Evans**

*Senior Vocal Major*

**Favorite artists:** Ed Sheeran, John Mayer, and NEEDTOBREATHE

**Wants to be:** A well-known singer/songwriter

**Three:** Dogs

**Is a:** Difference maker



Jay Rode

**Meagen Horres**

*Senior Dance Major*

**Type of cuisine:** Mexican.

**Actor:** Leonardo DiCaprio.

**Hates:** Mayonnaise.



Jay Rode

**Holly Rizer**

*Senior Visual Artist*

**Ice cream flavor:** Cookie Dough

**Favorite color:** Red

**Favorite art medium:** Oil Paint

**Favorite lollipop:** Lemon



Jay Rode

**Anizia Fulmore**

*Senior Dance Major*

**Favorite animal:** Capuchin Monkey

**Favorite song:** "Pop Thieves" by Childish Gambino

**Dream job:** Book editor

**Dream school:** Winthrop



Jay Rode

Jay Rode

Jay Rode

Jay Rode

**Nick Scapellato**

*Senior Creative Writer*

**Favorite Name:** John Cusatis

**Favorite Bands:** Ten, Fifty, Hundred

**Favorite Necklace:** SOA Lanyard

**Motto:** "Live your life so your friends will ALWAYS defend you, and rarely have to."

**Mia Pernice**

*Senior Vocal Major*

**Favorite Color:** Periwinkle

**Favorite sport:** Skiing

**Favorite candy:** Pretzel M&M's

**Favorite quote:** "Thanks a heap coyote ugly. This cactus stings more than your abandonment." -Juno

**Jay Rode**

*Senior Creative Writer*

**Has a shrine to:** *Interstellar*

**Is fluent in:** Cursive

**Probably:** Daydreaming right now

**Thinks he is:** Alan Watts

**Jada Orr**

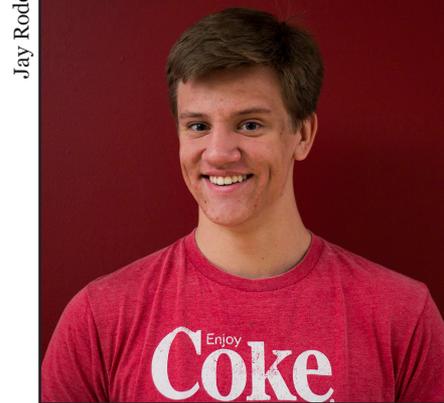
*Sophomore Fashion Designer*

**Favorite food:** Pad Thai

**Favorite place:** Soho, New York

**Instagram:** @the\_new\_exotic

**Favorite old TV shows:** "Martin" and "A Different World"



Jay Rode

Jay Rode

Jay Rode

**Etta Elliot**

*Senior Vocal Major*

**Favorite food:** Donut holes

**Favorite body part:** My earlobe

**Favorite pastime:** Driving in traffic circles

**Denver Baer**

*Junior Vocal Major*

**Favorite movie:** *The Big Lebowski*

**Favorite book:** *The Count of Monte Cristo*

**Favorite Dr. Pepper knock off:** Dr. Dazzle

**Jacob Fairchild**

*Senior Vocal Major*

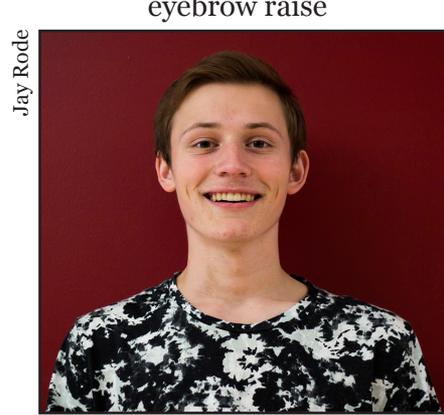
**Favorite sport:** Rugby

**Favorite sports team:** Clemson

**Favorite facial expression:**

The devious, cunning, and goofy eyebrow raise

**A free press can, of course, be good or bad, but, most certainly without freedom, the press will never be anything but bad.**  
-Albert Camus



Jay Rode

Jay Rode

Jay Rode

Jay Rode

**Taylor Carnie**

*Senior Band Major*

**Plays:** Guitar, piano, and saxophone

**Future Career:** Computer Science

**Collects:** Retro video games and consoles

**Black belt in:** Karate

**Claire Conway**

*Junior Creative Writer*

**Likes:** Kittens, encouragement, breakfast, soft indie folk music

**Dislikes:** Unkind words

**Hero:** Mrs. Zerbst

**Has a:** Album on iTunes

**Nick Huss**

*Junior Band Major*

**Also known as:** NuccBoi

**Spends free time at:** Church

**Favorite Jellybean flavor:** Pear

**Favorite Planet:** Jupiter

**Ryan Biddex**

*Senior Theater Major*

**Often seen:** Whippin' to smooth jazz.

**Favorite food:** Gold

## Summer brings students academic, personal enrichment

*From Chicago to Uganda, summer programs brought unique experiences to SOA students*

### Summer brings junior Lydia Cook a New York state of mind

by Etta Elliot

Junior costume design major Lydia Cook adores both New York City and clothes. She pursued both passions this summer while attending a week long camp at New York City's LIM College of Fashion Merchandising. During her stay, she took classes on being a merchandiser in the fashion industry, styling clothing, the business behind fashion textiles, and the production of fashion shows and shoots.

By visiting the "China: Through the Looking Glass" exhibit at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, she was exposed to vintage clothes and fabrics made by famous designers including Coco Chanel and Yves Saint Laurent.

The camp's students also attended a professional photo shoot where they were able to pick from a variety of clothing, equipped with a professional designer and a professional photographer. Lydia Cook gained proficiency and tactics from her week at LIM, and we are excited to see her new ideas at this year's fashion show.

### Seniors experience the British isles as "People to People" ambassadors

by Holly Rizer

This summer, Casey Derieux, Nick Shaarda, and I traveled with "People to People" to the United Kingdom and Ireland for three weeks. Beginning in England, we took a ride on the Coca-Cola London Eye and gave fish n' chips a try. Next we traveled to Wales, where we repelled down a 100-foot castle wall and hiked in the mountains.

After making our way to Ireland by boat, we lived with local families while doing community service. Giant's Causeway and the Carrick-a-Rede Rope Bridge in Northern Ireland were also trip stops.

We traveled by boat once more to Scotland, visiting a traditional Scottish farm where we bottle-fed lambs and played with Border Collie puppies. These activities were only the tip of the iceberg.

"From the big city of London to the small town of Cahersiveen, the trip was full of fun activities and unforgettable experiences," Casey Derieux said.

People to People



Seven of the 44 People to People ambassadors squeeze into an Endinburgh Castle guard booth.

### Uganda mission work brings senior Maddie Depuy fulfillment

by Etta Elliot

Senior creative writer Maddie Depuy traveled with a team of missionaries to Uganda this summer with "Hands of Love." Started by pastors Ruth and Elijah Sebuchu, "Hands of Love" cares for thousands of orphans at its two locations in Uganda.

The organization is dedicated to rescuing orphans from the streets of Uganda and raising them up in Christ to be leaders in Uganda, to change their country and, to some degree, change the world. Maddie and the crew spent most of their time at the two orphanages. By serving the staff and children at two different locations, she was able to get to know the local people and share hope and love with them.

Maddie also had the opportunity to distribute 71 handmade dresses, crafted by ladies in the Charleston area. Each dress was made carefully for the girls at the orphanages, as many of them previously lacked real clothing. Maddie explained how she learned the importance of appreciating education and what real hope and real love looks like.

### Ledes to dorms: summer journalism camp a good experience

by Jakob Lazzaro

I solidified my passion for journalism this summer and prepared to be Editor-In-Chief of *Applause* while studying journalism at the Medill Northwestern Journalism Institute this summer. Held at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois, the five-week long program gives talented young journalists a crash course in professional journalism and a trial run of college life.

The students, known as "Medill Cherubs," attend daily lectures and workshops devoted to improving their journalism skills. Constantly writing several stories a week on a variety of topics, students also create audio and video content. In addition, the program hosts many successful journalists and Medill graduates as weekly guest speakers. Wednesdays are reserved for weekly field trips to Chicago media outlets and other attractions such as the Art Institute.

Students also experience the excitement of living independently. Evanston, Illinois, a college town filled with restaurants and attractions and perched on the shore of Lake Michigan a few miles north of the loop, provides a superb backdrop to a superb summer.

The program draws a diverse crowd, with the 2015 class of 84 "Cherubs" representing six countries and more than twenty states.

In the final week of the program, "Cherubs" write, shoot, record, and program articles, videos, audio pieces, and interactive graphics for a website showcasing the opportunities the program provides. To view the 2015 website and see my work and the work of the 84 other young journalists, head to:

<http://cherubs.medill.northwestern.edu/2015/>

Jakob Lazzaro



Students take selfies before a Chicago architectural tour and boat ride.

## Senior Ashley Green wins big award at Las Vegas dance convention

by Meagan Horres

Provided



This summer, senior Dance major Ashley Green attended "The Dance Awards," a prestigious dance competition and convention held in Las Vegas designed to inspire and help dancers grow.

While attending the dance awards, Ashley took classes from teachers including Nick Lazzerini, Stacey Tookey, Mia Michaels, and Travis Wall, who can all be seen on "So You Think You Can Dance", along with many other working

professionals in the dance industry.

Ashley was also able to participate in the Best Dancer competition, designed to find the most talented and devoted dancers in the country. The process included performing a solo in front of a panel of judges and taking several classes where the students were auditioned in different styles of dance.

After many days of intense dancing, performing, and auditioning, Ashley won "Senior Female Best Dancer 2016."

"It was the biggest achievement I have made in dance so far," Ashley said.

Winning this title allows Ashley to tour with The Dance Awards group while getting paid to assist the teachers, providing a great learning experience and allowing her to cultivate more connections in the dance world.

Ashley said she learned to better her art form every day and to never give up on her dream of becoming a successful dancer. But meeting new people was the best part.

"Being around so many amazing dancers was surreal," Ashley said.

## Fresh rides to school

by Jada Orr

Tired of last year's broken down buses, the school district purchased several new ones equipped with dark blue leather seats and air conditioning for the new year. In addition, there are rumors of possible Wi-Fi connections. Don't be surprised if you hear the radio playing when you board, either.

The school board voted on a new contract for bus services last February, and students across the district are now transported on new buses from SchoolWheels Direct, marking the end of the previously dangerous travel.

The new buses are a hit among SOA students. Seventh grader Jorge Valencia rides bus 555 and appreciates the new air conditioner. Eighth grader Kiavon Buie said the seats are comfortable enough sleep in. Bus drivers love the new features as well.

"My bus driver is always turning up to gospel music on the radio," eighth grade vocal major Nelson Gibson said.

The new buses have had a significant effect on Haley Schmitt, who now loves her bus.

"If it were a person, I'd marry it," Schmitt said.

## Berklee College of Music summer program a high note for seniors

By Denver Baer

Over the summer, seniors Cameron Frye and Jackie Evans attended one-week programs at Berklee College of Music up in Boston. These camps gave them a feel of life at Berklee.

### Singer/Songwriter Workshop: Jackie Evans

**Denver Baer: Tell me a little about the program.**

**Jackie Evans:** The song writing workshop was absolutely incredible. I learned so much about writing and it really helped me become a much better writer.

### DB: What kind of classes did you take?

**JE:** I took classes like "Song writing Techniques" where I learned some different ways to approach writing. I also took a "Stage Performance Workshop" with Livingston Taylor, James Taylor's older brother, who is head of the Stage Performance department of the school.

### DB: What were the teachers like?

**JE:** Some of the teachers were former students, like my mentor for example, and it was really neat to be taught by someone a few years older who had attended the school and could give a good perspective on the life of a Berklee Student. All of the teachers were really cool and they all taught me a lot.

### DB: What was something you learned?

**JE:** I learned that there is no such thing as writers block. An artist just needs to confront whatever is bothering them in their life and use it.

### DB: What was your favorite part of the experience?

**JE:** I met so many cool people with the same passion as me. Bonnie Hayes, the head of the song writing department, said herself that us songwriters are different from everyone else. I felt a connection with so many people that were like me. It was amazing and something I will never forget.

### Vocal Summit: Cameron Frye

**Denver Baer: Tell me a little about the program.**

**Cameron Frye:** I went to the Vocal Summit, which focused on vocal technique and performance.

### DB: What kind of classes did you take?

**CF:** I took three different classes: a belting class, a song writing class, and a riffs and runs class. I loved every single class because there was never a moment when I was bored.

### DB: What were the teachers like?

**CF:** The teachers were so amazing and they were able to keep me engaged while teaching me more that I have ever learned about music.

### DB: What was something you learned?

**CF:** I felt like my belting really improved after Berklee. I knew I needed help with it, but I didn't know what I needed. The teachers at Berklee helped me to know what I needed and completely fixed what I was doing wrong.

### DB: What was your favorite part of the experience?

**CF:** I don't think I could choose a favorite part. I loved every minute. Everything I did was so eye opening and really life changing. I loved everything about it. The people were great too, both the full time students and the summer students. Everyone was so welcoming and friendly, and I just really enjoyed the experience overall.

Provided



Cameron Frye sings her heart out during the summit.

## Applause editor represents South Carolina at Washington D.C. “media geek’s heaven”

by Jakob Lazzaro

The Al Neuharth Free Spirit and Journalism Conference, held at the Washington, D.C. area Newseum, features one student journalist from every state and the District of Columbia. This year, I was South Carolina’s and SOA’s first representative. Founded by Al Neuharth, Freedom Forum chairman and CEO of Gannet, the publisher of *USA Today*, the five-day conference focuses on the importance of the First Amendment and the future of journalism.

All of the “Free Spirits” were chosen as strangers, but thanks to social media and the shared love of journalism, 51 people gained 50 close friends before the conference even began. Upon arrival, the vibe was of a family reunion, not so much of an awkward first introduction. The 51 Free Spirits headed off for a few hours at the Air and Space Museum followed by an introduction to the program at the Newseum.

Over the next five days, we were living in media geek heaven. The sixteen-hour days were dominated by discussions with working journalists and other prominent media figures and visits to local memorials and media outlets.

PBS NewsHour co-anchors Judy Woodruff and Glenn Ifill discussed ethical reporting. Ron Nessen, former White House Press secretary to President Gerald Ford, discussed covering the White House. A panel including POLITICO editor Bill Nichols and NPR political reporter Juana Summers discussed political reporting. Digital media strategist Val Hoppner gave several talks on the role of social media in journalism. We also attended talks on preparing for college. Several Freedom Riders also presented their stories.

The Free Spirits went to NBC, viewing a live taping of Sunday’s “Meet The Press” and attending a Q&A session with host Chuck Todd. The program focused on the tragedy at Mother Emanuel AME and the controversy over the Confederate flag, hammering home the blinding national spotlight focused on Charleston. Visiting Gannet’s headquarters on Tuesday let the Free Spirits experience an active, modern newsroom.

Two more marble buildings played a part for us. We visited the E. Barrett Prettyman U.S. Courthouse and participated in a mock trial over the freedom of student speech with U.S. District Court Senior Judge Royce C. Lamberth presiding and answering questions afterwards.

We also toured the United States Capitol, viewing the Senate press gallery and sitting in on a press conference given by senior Vermont Senator Patrick Leahy. Afterwards, the free spirits attended a photo presentation and Q&A session by *New York Times* presidential photographer Doug Mills.

The five days flew by to graduation: medals, certificates, handshakes, and speeches by our two elected class representatives, Apoorva Nori from Georgia and Matt Harmon from Michigan. In an instant, we were alumni, teenagers dancing on the final night.

**My years learning and growing in SOA have taught me how to break out of my shell, and be a mom that can fully support her unique, gifted kids in all that they want to do in life.**  
- Tamera Lynn Carroll Dion, '02



All 51 Free Spirits attentively listen to a lecture on social media by Val Hoppner, a media consultant.

From adventures in newsrooms and discussions with journalists to fun times at monuments and unfortunate encounters with revolving doors, those five days in Washington DC were the most magical in our lives. As 51 young journalists, now 51 Free Spirit Alumni, awoke at 51 different times to travel to 51 different places- vowing to remain in contact with 51 different friends- we all knew we would never be the same.

## Senior visual artists dive into AP portfolios

by Alissa Melsopp

With the beginning of a new school year comes a whole new set of challenges, and visual arts seniors face a unique one firsthand with AP Portfolios. Part of the visual arts senior thesis and a helpful way to obtain scholarships for college, participating in the College Board’s annual art exam is typically a must for visual arts majors.

AP Portfolios consist of twenty-four pieces with twelve in the breadth category, or works that demonstrate an understanding of issues with design, and twelve in the concentration category, or a set of pieces that adhere to a certain theme or concern with design.

Senior art instructor Mr. Moore stated that highest scored concentrations “are ones that the student has a personal connection with.” Mr. Moore is also trying to push his students one step further by requiring them to make thirty pieces in total, so that they have more to choose from for their portfolios.

The date for a completed portfolio isn’t until the end of the school year but the pressure is already on. Mr. Moore has said that he is expecting fours and fives from all of his students, as he does every year. The incredible talent of the senior Visual Arts majors is definitely not going to disappoint.

Alissa Melsopp



Senior Visual Arts major Chloe Hogan works on one of the pieces for her portfolio.

# Clubs and academics- a delicate balance

by Cheyenne Koth

In case you students missed the line of lunch tables out in the sweltering heat full of people screaming at you to join their club, SOA's club fair took place on Friday, September 4th. Even if you were just visiting the booths for the sole purpose of getting a melted Kit-Kat bar, it was hard not to notice that people can be extremely passionate about their clubs. Understandably balancing your major, academics, friends, family, and clubs can be hard. No fear, though, club-goers and club-runners, there is a way. The secret? Balance.

"Clubs are a great way to become a more well rounded person," Mr. Clark, high school World History and Geography teacher and club-coordinator, said. "Time management is important for teachers and students alike. Fun and extracurriculars are important, but you can't let fun get in the way of your responsibilities. Make good choices."

This intimidating prospect of 'balance' should not turn one away from joining clubs, which are a pivotal element of high school life. Clubs benefit one as a student, a member of the community, or just a generally fun-loving person (as I know most of you are).

"[Clubs provide an] opportunity to participate in fun activities, learn more about the topics, play games, help with charity events, make new friends and have fun," Mr. Clark said.

However, clubs aren't just for students. Many teachers are involved and not just because they have to be.

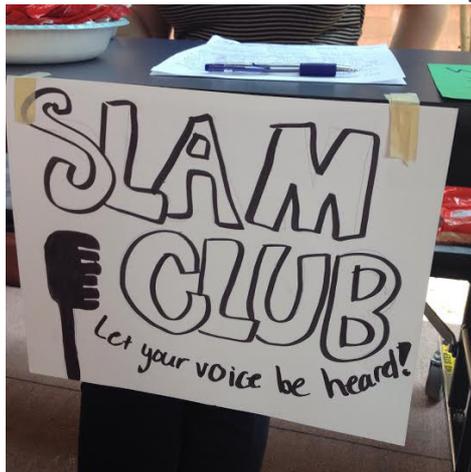
"SOA is one of the few high schools that actually allows teachers to choose which clubs they want to participate in, or are interested in," Mr. Clark said, a proud expression on his face.

This is indisputably true, as many teachers start their own club based on what they want to talk or teach about, which is wonderful.

Clubs are not something to scoff at. They are enjoyable opportunities that everyone should flirt with. Test out clubs that interest you. There is no commitment necessary for just one meeting. If you don't like it, don't return. But don't get too caught up in clubs and let your academic life suffer.

"It's important to have balance in life. Fun is a part of that balance," Mr. Clark said.

Matthew Foley



Slam Club's sign prepares to attract future members.

# SOA's internship program continues to prosper

by Cheyenne Koth

SOA's internship program continues to gain momentum after its first highly successful year with seventeen interns working with professionals. Locations include *The Post and Courier*, KizStudios, MUSC, the Solicitor's office, the Center of Birds of Prey, and many more. The number of interns has risen "quite a bit" according to Mr. Bill Smyth, the founder and coordinator of the rapidly growing program.

Patrick Burns, a senior band major who plans on studying applied history, is working with Stephanie Thomas-Champion of the Education Department at the Charleston Museum.

"The skills I'm obtaining will most definitely help me out in my future profession," Patrick said. "Getting to know the way preservation and presentation of historical artifacts works is so wonderful."

Senior visual artist Elsa Cline is working with Audrey Poplin, the Husbandry Coordinator at the Center for Birds of Prey, and is thinking of going into "wildlife biology or conservation."

The most impressive thing about these programs is the ways students incorporate their majors into their work. Elsa is creating a map of the Birds of Prey Center.

"The original, which I painted in watercolor, is displayed in their main office," she said. "A smaller copy with labeled buildings can be found on brochures to help people navigating the center."

Senior Kathleen Kittrell, who is being mentored by Jennifer Shealey and Scarlet Wilson at the Solicitor's office, will hone her skills as a creative writer by taking notes at a trial she will attend next week in hopes of turning the experience into literature.

Senior band major Peter Gair is working with Dr. Christi Kern, a basic research scientist in the field of regenerative medicine and soon to be Associate Professor at MUSC. He sees a theoretical connection between his work and Dr. Kern's.

"Medicine is an art as much as music is," Peter said. "The end goal is to produce a refined result through the means of practice and study."

Elsa Cline



Elsa Cline poses with a bird at the Center for Birds of Prey

## Thoughts on Club Fair

"Club fair was rad! I joined FEM, Art History, Ecology, and the one where you plant gardens!"  
**- Copeland Barrett, 12th grade Visual Arts**

"It was really crowded and loud. I want to join FEM club and GSA."  
**- Chloe Koth, 9th grade Fashion Design**

"Is Foodies still a thing? I want to do Foodies."  
**- Alissa Melsopp, 12th grade Visual Arts**

"I think it went pretty good. Last year I didn't join any clubs and figured that I should this year, so I joined the rowing club!"  
**- Haley Swittenburg, 10th grade Band**

## Mr. Lindgren spends summer in South American paradise

*The high school science teacher traversed three countries in nearly seven weeks*

Kirk Lindgren

by Nick Scapellato

Whether it was in Physical Science, recycling club, Liberty Hill Literacy Program, or even the oh-so-“phun” Physics class, you probably know of the sharp-dressed nerd we know and love as Kirk Lindgren- but you might not know of his secret life.

This past summer, Mr. Lindgren laced his boots and tore the buttons from his shirt to reveal not a superman suit, but a tank top and some hiking shorts. Accompanied by his fiancé, Mr. Lindgren took a seven-week trip through paradise.

It all began in what Mr. Lindgren describes as the South American version of Charleston- Cartagena, Colombia, vibrant and filled with old world charm mixed with amazing Colombian restaurants. The next stop was Medellin, Colombia. This big city reminds Mr. Lindgren a little of Pittsburgh, though the football stadium hosts soccer matches.

From Medellin, they travelled to the lost city of the Tayrona Indians. A whopping 44-kilometer hike, it took four days to complete. According to him, there were times where “they wanted to quit.” And understandably so- the hike features steep inclines and deep rivers. In order to get to the city itself, one must traverse 169 terraces and 1200 stairs wound through the dense, tropical, and not to mention humid, forest. Mr. Lindgren said this was “by far the most rewarding” part of his journey.

The trip took a few more stops. Bogotá, Colombia; Quito, Ecuador; and Bocas del Toro, Panama all left their own unique mark on Mr. Lindgren’s life. Finally, the pair took a five-day sailing trip through the San Blas Islands of Panama. Don’t worry if you’ve never heard of them- just think of the Windows desktop background of the island that seems to be floating on water that defines the color aquamarine. Mr. Lindgren spent five days sailing those waters before returning to Cartagena and then Charleston.

Kirk Lindgren



Mr. Lindgren and his fiancé pose in the lost city of the Tayrona Indians.



Mr. Lindgren contemplates the streets of Cartagena, Columbia.

**Nick Scapellato:** Which of the cities you visited had the biggest impact on you and why?

**Kirk Lindgren:** Loved Cartagena, Colombia! It had old world charm mixed with amazing Colombian restaurants. It’s kind of like a South American version of Charleston!

**NS:** What was the most rewarding part of the trip?

**KL:** The most rewarding part of the trip was the four-day hike to the Lost City of the Tayrona Indians. The hike was very intense, and there were times we wanted to quit, but we pushed through and made it.

**NS:** I noticed your fiancé joined you for the trip this year. How did that change things?

**KL:** I usually travel alone, and love the opportunity to meet new people that comes along with that, but this time with my fiancé it was quite different. We stayed in nicer places and had fancier dinners, which I quite enjoyed. When you are traveling with someone you consider your favorite person, it is easy.

**NS:** When did you first pick up your love for travelling?

**KL:** My first trip was when I was a sophomore in college; I was 19. We traveled to Europe and rode trains all over (England, France, Netherlands, Switzerland, Italy) and I absolutely loved it. I’ve been globe-trotting ever since, having now been to 53 countries.

**NS:** What drives you to make a trip to somewhere incredible every summer?

**KL:** Adventure, curiosity, and love of other cultures

**NS:** How does that drive change your everyday life?

**KL:** I travel every summer because it re-energizes me. It makes me appreciative of what I have. When you are living out of a backpack with very few possessions, and the normal things that you take for granted aren’t there, like drinkable water, and working toilets, it reminds you to be appreciative of the little things.

**NS:** Where is one place you’ve always wanted to go?

**KL:** I really want to go to Philippines and Indonesia and I think they are my next adventure, next summer. Can’t wait to scuba dive and see what is under the sea there!

**NS:** If you had to pick one place to re-visit, where would it be and why?

**KL:** If I could revisit anywhere, it would be Iceland. Hands down, no question, the most naturally beautiful and most inspiring place I have ever gone. Go, you won’t regret it.

**NS:** How many trips have you taken in your lifetime? What have been some of the noteworthy ones?

**KL:** I think that last summer was my thirteenth summer backpacking trip, but I have also driven 14,000 miles around the US, lived in Aspen, Colorado, and in St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands, which were really just long adventures.

## Mr. Smyth spends summer on European odyssey

by Nick Scapellato

Mr. Smyth was a busy man this summer. Spending two weeks in Switzerland and Austria, he had a mere two day break before leaving for two weeks in Italy, the highlights being major art exhibitions in Rome, Venice, and Salzburg.

Mr. Smyth recalled his first time playing tourist in Europe at age 19 as being something like a dream. Though he felt “naïve” compared to his present self. That trip was when he “first picked up a love for the arts.” Upon returning, he signed up for an art history class at his college and immediately began thinking about the next time he would visit.

While European cuisine is the major attraction for some, Mr. Smyth described the food as “inconsequential,” saying he was “there for the art and the architecture.”

Though it was his seventh trip abroad, Mr. Smyth still finds wonder in the arts.

“Seeing a famous artwork in the flesh makes you feel like a new person,” Mr. Smyth said. “I feel like a student again. I’ve been a student for forty years now.”

Mr. Smyth said making a return visit is often times even better than the first in that you know what to look for. You are not quite as overwhelmed with the sheer magnitude of what you’re seeing and can pick out small details.

His To-Do list (as far as travelling goes) includes a return trip to Japan, and trips to China, Greece, and Turkey, all countries he has never been to.

We look forward to keeping up with Mr. Smyth as he continues his world travels.

## Ms. Cline has a fun summer

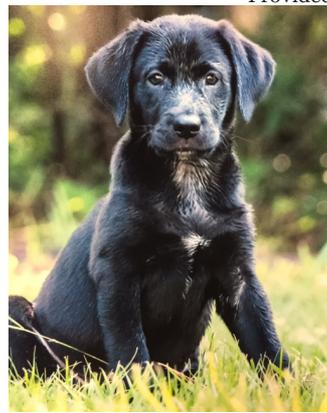
by Erin Molony

Dance teacher Ms. Linda Cline had a fun summer travelling far and wide and gaining a new family member. Mrs. Cline took her 87-year-

old father to Martha’s Vineyard, an island located off Massachusetts. They took a train and a ferry to the island. Mrs. Cline said it was a very fun and thoughtful experience and they became more connected.

Mrs. Cline also spent a week in Avon, North Carolina with her family. They rented a beach house and spent a week at the beach eating and enjoying family fun.

At the end of the summer, Mrs. Cline adopted a new family member, Cable Cline. Believed to be a black lab, the dog was rescued from a litter.



The newest Cline family member.

Provided

## Mr. Orvin rolls with the stones

by Erin Molony

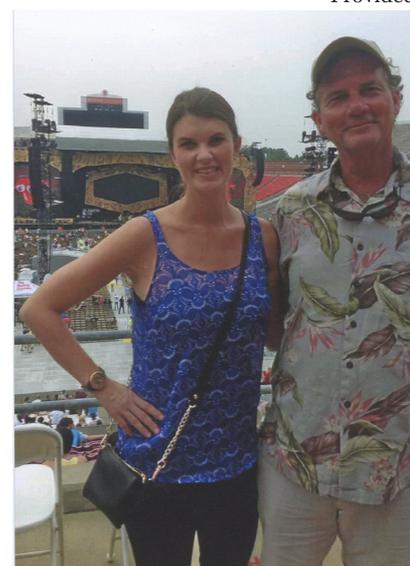
High school world history teacher Mr. Orvin travelled with his daughter Allison to Raleigh, North Carolina to see the Rolling Stones for the fifth time.

Mr. Orvin has always enjoyed seeing the Stones. Raleigh was no exception. Mr. Orvin said that they “sounded and looked phenomenal.”

Mr. Orvin said that the Rolling Stones are still able to rock out for three solid hours and put on an amazing show even though the band members are all over 70.

“They’re not just going through the motions because they need money,” Mr. Orvin said. “They do it because they love rock and roll.”

After seeing the Stones, Mr. Orvin stayed with family on the outer banks of North Carolina. Unfortunately, the beaches were completely devoid of human life because of a shark situation. Mr. Orvin insisted on scaring his family to death by going surfing anyway. Overall, Mr. Orvin had a great time in Raleigh with his family and with Mick Jagger.



Mr. Orvin and his daughter, Allison, at the concert.

Provided

## Ms. Crawford experiences Ecuador with SOA students

by Claire Conway

This past summer, Mrs. Crawford took a group of eleven students and two chaperones on a trip to Ecuador. Travelling by bus, the group made stops in Quito, Guayaquil, Puerto López and Rio Bamba.

Mrs. Crawford spoke with wonder about the diversity of Ecuador’s geography, describing the gently rolling green mountains of the Andes, the colors of the tropical coast, and a hike through volcanic terrain that seemed “almost like being on the moon.”

The natural variety of the country means an abundance of opportunities for travelers. The group snorkeled along a coral reef, hiked mountains, befriended an alpaca named Juanita, brought supplies to students at a school in a poor area, and even tried stewed llama while visiting an indigenous Quichua community.

The llama, she said, was a challenge for them, but out of respect for their hosts’ generosity, they all swallowed their fears and ate the meal. The verdict? It’s good!

When asked her favorite thing about Ecuador, Mrs. Crawford said without hesitation that it was the people. She remembers the visit to the Quichua village, interacting with their tour director, and time spent with Ecuadorians along the way as some of the most enriching parts of the trip.

“They are warm, welcoming, kind, and generous,” Ms. Crawford said. “Seeing that we have so much more in common with the Ecuadorian people than we have not in common was just a unifying, enjoyable experience.”

For students interested in an international adventure, Ms. Crawford’s next trip is in June 2017. She’ll be heading to Spain, Greece and Italy. See her for more information on how you can take part.



The group poses with local Ecuadorian students.

Provided

## High water brings problems for SOA students

by Jacob Fairchild

Heavy rains, leading to flooding in the North Charleston area, caused issues for many SOA students' commute on the morning of August 31st with many late to school and some not making it at all.

"I woke up to a lake of sorts surrounding my house," senior band major Paris Byars said. "I wasn't able to leave until well after the rain stopped out of fear of damaging my car. As I readied myself to leave, I witnessed a biker attempt to ride down my street in water nearly the height of the wheels."

Paris was finally able to leave his house around 9:45 and arrived at school just before 11.

Senior creative writer Jay Rode had to follow an ambulance down Montague Avenue in the opposite lane to avoid having his car stall out.

Tardies were not counted on this day, but classes continued as normal starting at 8:10. Many hoped for a 1-3 hour delay to allow the floodwaters to recede. Unfortunately this did not occur, causing many to miss valuable class time.

The great flood was a culmination of the high tide, a full moon, and the passing of what had been tropical storm. Flooding is a common problem in Charleston, especially downtown, due to the low altitude.

Controversy over how the flood was handled flew between SOA students as many felt the traffic problems could have been avoided with a two-hour delay. But it seems the storm may have been moving too quickly for an effective response.



Cars struggle through a flooded street on August 31st.

## Concern over dress code enforcement draws protest

by Jakob Lazzaro

Concern over what some students perceive as unfair and embarrassing enforcement of the SOA dress code prompted approximately 100 students to sport red "A's" on September 24th in protest. The movement, known as "Not 'A' Distraction," aims to peacefully express student frustration and promote dialogue with the Scarlet Letter inspired markings.

SOA's administration was supportive of students asserting their right to be heard. High school vice principal, Dr. Perrineau, said that students were welcome to work with administrators to ensure a fair policy. Talks have continued.

"I'd encourage them to be involved with teachers and administrators in creating an environment that is a healthy and safe product for all," Dr. Perrineau said. "The student leaders that took time to organize the demonstration are more than welcome to continue to work with their administrators."

Many students, however, do not support the protest, including senior Piano major Ben Zuber. He believes that the current dress code is quite laid back.

"I understand where they're coming from," Zuber said. "I feel like we're very lucky to have such a lax dress code, and if they want to complain that teachers are being rude to them when they're out of dress code, it's their own fault for not dressing properly."

Senior Band major Noah Jones respects that many students feel strongly about this issue but feels that there are bigger problems in the community that deserve more attention.

"These girls deserve to be respected for who they are, and they deserve to have self expression. That's why we don't have uniforms, because our school feels that way," Jones said. "You are literally arguing about clothing when there are kids in our own district who don't even have a house. I give them credit, though. They're fighting for what they believe in, which is something we all need to learn. But overall, it is completely ignorant to fight for such a trivial task."

The code first generated controversy by requiring students to report to the office if they were believed to be in violation. Concerns over the effects of missed class time snowballed, and protest organizer Reese Fischer said the movement also aims to make enforcement fairer for all students.

Jakob Lazzaro



Senior Vocal major Cody Beasenburg shows off his 'A'

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"Not 'A' Distraction does not in any way want to terminate the dress code," Fischer said "We are simply asking for violations to be dealt with respectfully."

According to a Change.org petition with 228 signatures at the time of publication, the movement urges teachers and administrators to handle dress code appropriately and fairly in their own classrooms without students missing class time.

Senior Vocal major Cody Beasenburg, who participated in the protest by wearing two 'A's' and making more to share with other students, agrees.

"Having a dress code is a very good idea but I feel the way it's being enforced needs to be improved upon," Beasenburg said. "I believe that, overall, there's a better way to handle the situation."

Several teachers and students have acknowledged that enforcing the dress code can be uncomfortable for all those involved and suggested students simply comply with it.

## From “funky little place” to first in South Carolina: SOA turns twenty

by Cheyenne Koth and Alissa Melsopp

During her tenth year as principal of Ashley River Creative Arts Elementary School, which she founded in 1984, Rose Maree Myers was challenged by CCSD School Board chair Robert New to create an arts-integrated high school.

Ashley River, by this point, had garnered a Blue Ribbon Award and the prestigious Elizabeth O’Neill Verner Award, among others, and was recognized by the Kennedy Center and the National Endowment for the Arts. Due to the school’s success, Ms. Myers had become a nationally-sought consultant on arts integration, traveling to forty-three states to assist other districts seeking to imitate the example of Ashley River.

Ms. Myers accepted Mr. New’s challenge, the first step of which was selling the idea to parents. “We had a number of meetings throughout the district,” Ms. Myers told *Applause* in 2009. “I told them what the school was going to be. It would be a place for students to learn regardless of how they learn,” she explained. “And learning would be fun. After all, why shouldn’t it be?”

After laying out plans for the school in “a little dungeon of a room” she was given in North Charleston Elementary School, Ms. Myers was assigned a former vocational school, with a propensity for flooding, to set up her arts facility, and a 75-year-old former elementary school for academics.

“We moved in. We set up shop. And we started.”

“Basically, when the school started,” says band instructor Basil Kerr, “it was a funky little place. The energy level was so high, and the kids and the faculty knew they were doing something special that had never been done before.”

Elizabeth (Buck) Ballard, who went on to become a music teacher and mother of two, was one of those kids who entered SOA for the first time in August 1995.

“I remember my first day at SOA very clearly,” she recalls. “Simone Wilson and I boarded the 579 bus at Wando High School, and it took us to this unknown destination on Saranac St. We were met by Ms. Reyne Miller, the guidance counselor, and she sweetly walked us to Ms. Michelle Bell’s classroom, where Kelly Blohme and Carter West sat with us in our group of four.”

“Ms. Terry Graves was our social studies and language arts teacher. It was all so new and exciting. Can’t believe we embarked 20 years ago on a journey that would transform us into the adults we are today. I still remember the school’s telephone number: 529-4990.”

Ms. Graves watched the school develop and was an integral part of that development for almost two decades.

“Wow, it’s hard to believe SOA is 20 years old,” she says. “I am proud to have spent the first 19 of those years with such remarkably talented educators and students. Too many awesome memories to list. Happy Birthday, SOA!”

Fletcher Williams III, whose Charleston-themed art work is being exhibited nationally –most recently this summer at San Diego State University –also credits the welcoming atmosphere and camaraderie that distinguishes SOA for helping shape him as an artist during his youth.

“I am glad I attended SOA,” he says. “Quality of education, the quality of schools, and diversity within schools are becoming highly discussed issues as we approach the election of a new mayor for North Charleston and the City of Charleston.”

“At SOA, I was fortunate to attend a school that did not lack diversity or a quality curriculum. Upon my first day as a seventh grader, I was introduced to classmates of all races, religions, and socio-economic backgrounds, but I quickly realized that the most valuable trait each of my classmates possessed was creativity. SOA knows the importance of the arts in education.”

Like many SOA graduates, Laurel Coons, a strings major and member of SOA’s first sixth grade class, chose a career outside of the arts. She largely attributes her success, though, to the creative environment she enjoyed at SOA. Currently a Research Fellow at Duke University & the National Institutes of Health, Laurel told *Applause*, “SOA taught me self-discipline, work ethic, dedication, and how to be passionate about what you are doing.”

2003 SOA graduate Ashley-Ann Dorn Woods, now Assistant to the Vice President of Academic Affairs at Trident Technical College as well as an English professor and football official, recalls the benefits of being surrounded by open minded, accepting teenagers and faculty at SOA.

“Attending SOA changed my view on just about everything. For so long I thought I was weird and strange and alone, and in finally finding a home at SOA, I found a community that not only understood me but embraced me.”

Students are not the only ones who appreciate the learning atmosphere SOA has provided for two decades. Many faculty members have been here for most of those twenty years. The last of the original faculty, Ms. Mandy Wade, retired in the spring, much to the chagrin of students and faculty alike.

“Maybe I will write a book about all of my experiences now that I have more time on my hands!” Ms. Wade told *Applause* in June. She recalled the early days of SOA with pride and fondness:



A member of the original faculty, Ms. Terry Graves taught at SOA for 19 of its first 20 years.



Fletcher Williams III, class of 2005, at City Gallery at Waterfront Park next to his sculpture “Oak,” which was displayed in the Piccolo Spoleto juried exhibition.

**Continued on page 28**

## MEET SOA'S THIRTEEN NEW TEACHERS

From Fashion Design to Spanish, from a parent of a current student to a high-fiving master, SOA's thirteen new teachers are filled with stories to share. Applause's own **Jay Rode** sat down with all the new teachers to discuss their subjects and life at SOA.

### Ms. Smith- Middle School Spanish

**How has your experience differed from what you expected?**

I was pretty nervous about teaching at a new school. I did not know what to expect, but I have been extremely impressed by the talented student body. I have appreciated the welcoming atmosphere.

**What's the best part of your subject?**

I love teaching about celebrations, holidays and festivities of the countries that are studied. The way people celebrate gives a fun glimpse into their culture.

**If you could, what would you teach instead of your class?**

I would love to teach a course on mastering Candy Crush and Soda Saga. The assessments would be completing levels and getting high scores.

**What advice can you give students in your class?**

My advice would be to speak as much Spanish as possible. It is the only way to really learn it. Remember it's okay to make mistakes when speaking. The only true mistake is not attempting to speak the language.

Jay Rode



### Ms. Mahoney- High School Math

**How has your experience differed from what you expected?**

I was pleasantly surprised to see how excited students and teachers were to welcome me to SOA, make sure I was settling in and help me to start off the year right. The environment in the school is so energetic and positive, it makes me excited to come every day!

**What's the best part of your subject?**

I love finding new ways to solve a problem or teach a topic. I also like that it's not generally students' favorite subject so I enjoy showing people that it's not so scary and can actually be fun to learn.

**If you could, what would you teach instead of your class?**

I grew up dancing and have always love to draw, so if I were better at either I think they would be a lot of fun to teach.

**What advice can you give students in your class?**

Remember we are in this together. While the content is going to get more difficult as we progress through the year, they need to keep goals in mind and know that we will work together to make sure they are successful!

Jay Rode



### Ms. DeTiberus- Creative Writing

**How has your experience differed from what you expected?**

So far, the students and the faculty have exceeded my already high hopes and expectations. The talent and dedication my students display has blown me away. Their enthusiasm about learning is truly refreshing.

**What's the best part of your subject?**

I believe that stories and literature teach us empathy. Language is expressive and connective. We learn about others and ourselves through this creative expression. It's my hope to foster that self-awareness, love of language, and radical empathy in my students through poetry and prose.

**If you could, what would you teach instead of your class?**

Right now I am in the beginning stages of planning a class I'd like to teach called Comic Books and American Mythology, which would apply historical, philosophical, and cultural analysis to the very American art that is the world of comics and superheroes.

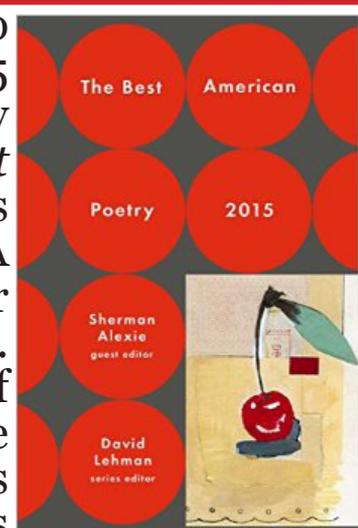
**What advice can you give students in your class?**

Learning is an interactive process, so I always advise my students to be present in their own education. Coming to class with questions and enthusiasm is the best way to succeed in my class or in anyone else's.

Jay Rode



Applause is proud to announce that the 2015 edition of the highly prestigious anthology *Best American Poetry* features "In a Black Tank Top" by SOA creative writing instructor **Ms. Danielle DeTiberus**. The poem was one of seventy-five chosen from the nation's top literary journals and magazines by this year's guest editor, the award winning poet and fiction writer Sherman Alexie. Ms. DeTiberus joined other poets featured in the new volume for a book launch and reading hosted by Alexie and series editor, David Lehman, at the New School in New York City in late September.



## Mr. Woodard- Middle School Math

**How has your experience differed from what you expected?**

As I had no prior teaching experience, I did not have much in the way of expectations. However, I found the number of new things coming my way a bit overwhelming.

**What's the best part of your subject?**

Math was my major in college and my professional career was very much math oriented so math, to me, is what I do reasonably well.

**If you could, what would you teach instead of your class?**

I would love to teach a course in Music Appreciation. Music is my second love.

**What advice can you give students in your class?**

Be curious, study and work hard and push yourself as far ahead as you can in terms of learning.

## Mr. Naas- Business Applications

**How has your experience differed from what you expected?**

I didn't really know what to expect. I have only taught in at risk schools before. I was totally overwhelmed with the friendly staff and student body. I am not used to seeing smiling faces and being treated cheerfully and cordially by students intent on learning.

**What's the best part of your subject?**

My subjects are entrepreneurship and integrated business systems. I look forward to honing students computer skills and connecting to the real world. Entrepreneurship is a subject that is very meaningful to artists. Many artists such as painters, musicians, writers, etc. will be entrepreneurs.

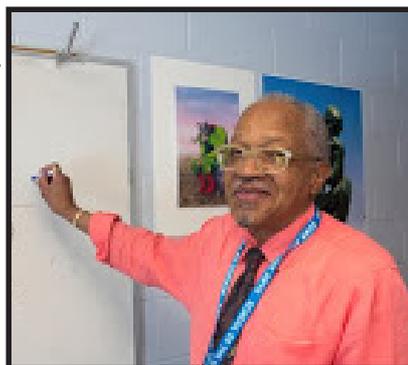
**If you could, what would you teach instead of your class?**

I would like to teach STEM and Robotics. I will be able to teach robotics in a club setting. Maybe the future will present an opportunity to teach STEM.

**What advice can you give students in your class?**

Come with an open mind to make the course interesting and FUN.

Jay Rode



Jay Rode



Jay Rode



Jay Rode



## Ms. Sabol- High School Math

**How has your experience differed from what you expected?**

I was not expecting the enthusiasm. It's great to see it from students.

**What's the best part of your subject?**

I like working with polynomials and factoring- it's all just fun for me, really.

**If you could, what would you teach instead of your class?**

I would teach yoga. I've taught hand sewing, accounting, Microsoft Office, and entrepreneurship- but I would want to teach yoga.

**What advice can you give students in your class?**

Try to enjoy math, and don't be overwhelmed by it all. You'll make mistakes, but it isn't big and scary and you'll always figure it out.

## Mr. Morrow- Hearing Impaired

**How has your experience differed from what you expected?**

Listening to the music blew me away, seeing the artwork- it all blew me away. I knew the students were talented, but I didn't know how talented.

**What's the best part of your subject?**

I like working with the kids and learning new words and sign language, I like seeing them learning how to get along with each other. Very gratifying work indeed.

**If you could, what would you teach instead of your class?**

Film! I love movies. I go to see a movie a week, sometimes two, sometimes two in one visit. I think they are entertaining and that you can learn more about yourself, people in general, and how to react to people. It's a life-learning experience. You can learn about society through films. You can see how time has changed. I have been lucky to know some movie stars and writers over the years. Ray Bradbury was a friend of 29 years. Chuck Jones, the creator, writer and director of many Looney Tunes animated cartoons, was a friend of many years.

**What advice can you give students in your class?**

That the deaf and hearing-impaired are just like anyone else. They're very friendly, so they're really no different than you and I except that they may have trouble hearing. I think the important thing you should walk away with in this class is that everybody is the same and you should learn to get along with people. Just communicating with them a little bit means a lot to them. So by all means, approach them and say hi. A friendly smile and a wave are always welcome. And even learning a few words in sign language goes a long way in brightening their days. If one doesn't know sign language, finger spelling is also a wonderful way to communicate with them.

“Ray Bradbury was a friend of 29 years. Chuck Jones, the creator, writer and director of many Looney Tunes animated cartoons, was a friend of many years.”  
-Mr. Morrow, Hearing Impaired.

## Mr. White- Jazz Piano

**How has your experience differed from what you expected?**

Not that much actually. I was aware of the character of SOA and my expectations have been pleasantly validated.

**What's the best part of your subject?**

I love Jazz! I love the Piano! This is a subject that can be explored indefinitely. I believe when a person cultivates an art, they are engaging in an activity that can last a lifetime.

**If you could, what would you teach instead of your class?**

I would teach mathematics.

**What advice can you give students in your class?**

Listen to a lot of jazz. Practice with purpose. Play and have fun!

Jay Rode



## Mr. Howard- Middle School Visual Arts

**How has your experience differed from what you expected?**

My experience has differed somewhat from what I expected. I expected that all of my students here would be very serious and mature. However, I'm discovering that some students are still growing and developing, just like students at other schools.

**What's the best part of your subject?**

What interests me most about visual arts is likened to the old adage, "a picture is worth a thousand words," but sometimes it can be worth a thousand dollars!

**If you could, what would you teach instead of your class?**

I would like to teach an art class in creating personal iconography.

**What advice can you give students in your class?**

The advice I would give to students taking my class is: follow not the wrong crowd, be more studious when it comes to your major, and always strive to exceed expectations.

Jay Rode



## Ms. Scott- Hearing Impaired

**How has your experience differed from what you expected?**

I kind of knew what to expect, as I had already been a part of this program in the past, so it was like being with part of my family I hadn't been with in a while. I've been an interpreter for over 15 years. Interpreting is just something I love doing and our kids are amazing.

**If you could, what would you teach instead of your class?**

I would love to get more involved with art related classes.

**What advice can you give students in your class?**

Work hard and you can achieve anything if you put in the time.

Jay Rode



## Mr. Foley- High School English

**How has your experience differed from what you expected?**

I spent the last two years teaching 7th Grade ELA at my previous school, so it has been an interesting but enjoyable transition to work with high school students once again. I had grown accustomed to a certain level of immaturity and silliness that comes with a 7th Grade class, so it was quite a pleasant surprise to work with students with such mature attitudes and thoughtful opinions about life. I've been extremely impressed by the level of creative talent, enthusiasm, and intelligence of SOA students. They challenge me to be at my creative and intellectual best every day in the classroom.

**What's the best part of your subject?**

When I was in high school, I was lucky enough to have some really incredible English teachers. They created class environments filled with creativity and open-mindedness. As a teenager going through some challenges and family issues, these english classes became one of the few places in my day where I could really open up and express what I was feeling in the form of poems, stories, and essays. Writing became my outlet, my therapy, my catharsis. My hope is to provide that same experience of support and freedom of expression for the students I teach. I want reading and writing to become tools for them to process the challenges they face, to cope with difficult emotions, and to find a genuine voice for themselves as artists, students, and human beings.

**If you could, what would you teach instead of your class?**

If I could teach a subject other than English, I would probably want to teach a Music Appreciation class. I am an absolute music fanatic, despite having almost no musical talent myself. I keep a record player in my classroom and have a ever-growing vinyl collection of diverse genres: jazz, funk, classic rock, hip-hop, soul, country... I listen to a little bit of everything. I would love to teach a course on the history of popular music in America, analyzing different eras, song lyrics, styles, etc. But you don't want to hear me try and sing.

**What advice can you give students in your class?**

To me, the most important element to learning is meaning. When we make a personal, meaningful connection to a concept, our learning actually lasts. When we don't make a meaningful connection, we typically forget it a few days after the test. My number one priority as a teacher is to create lessons and activities that will have real, genuine meaning in a student's life, but I also need you to meet me halfway. If students approach my class as just another academic hoop to jump through on their way to graduation, nothing will have much meaning and they won't create learning for the long-term. I ask students to keep an open mind and strive to make personal connections to what we read and write in English, even if that means stepping outside their comfort zone and finding the courage to express an idea or feeling they might otherwise be terrified to share.

Jay Rode



## Ms. Baker- Fashion Design

Jay Rode



**How has your experience differed from what you expected?**

Teaching is so much more than showing others how to do something. I have a whole new appreciation for all of my children's teachers, as well as my own. It is a LOT of administrative work so I realize now how hard all of my great teachers were working to fit it all in!

**What's the best part of your subject?**

Everything! I love everything about design, but if I had to narrow that focus I would say that I love the feeling of helping someone and using both sides of my brain in the process. There is so much joy in putting a custom design on a customer who has either never had clothing fit them correctly or is struggling with some change in her body (like a breast cancer survivor) and seeing that moment where she feels like her beautiful self. That is magical moment. I also feel so privileged that I get to use both sides of my brain in going between the creative world of design and sketching and the mathematical world of 3D draping and 2D flat pattern making. I love problem solving, art, history, people, research, fashion, math and creating a product- so this job is the best! I feel exponentially blessed to be teaching design at SOA where I am surrounded by students who love design as much as I do. I love teaching and my students continually inspire me.

**If you could, what would you teach instead of your class?**

I would love to teach the "What to Wear" version of the TV Show "What not to Wear". Dressing is not easy for everyone, and slight adjustments can really go a long way towards helping someone feel great. I think it is especially tough for young ladies aged 12-24 to navigate the current fashion scene since so much of what is "trendy" sends a message that conflicts with what we teach people to value in themselves. I am interested in closing that gap. What we put on is the first art we make each day. Our clothing tells a story about each of us, whether we are fashion designers or not, and that story fascinates me.

**What advice can you give students in your class?**

Be intentional. To me, whether your goal is making an "A" in my class, getting into Harvard or re-vamping your image, the process is pretty much the same. Start with the goal, define it, and then work backward with intention to map out how to get there. As Emerson said, "Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm." I find enthusiasm to be a very active, dynamic and intentional engagement and I think it can take you a long way in life. In the words of Leonardo da Vinci, "People of accomplishment rarely sit back and let things happen to them. They go out and happen to things." Figure out what your "things" are and start happening to them now. Intention inspires enthusiasm and enthusiasm breeds accomplishment.

## Ms. Godwin- High School Science

Jay Rode



**How has your experience differed from what you expected?**

I've experienced much higher participation in class, which is delightful.

**What's the best part of your subject?**

I was actually a geology major. I was asked by a department head to teach chemistry, and as I taught it I fell in love it. I love how the periodic table lists every building block we have.

**If you could, what would you teach instead of your class?**

Astronomy! It really puts you in your place.

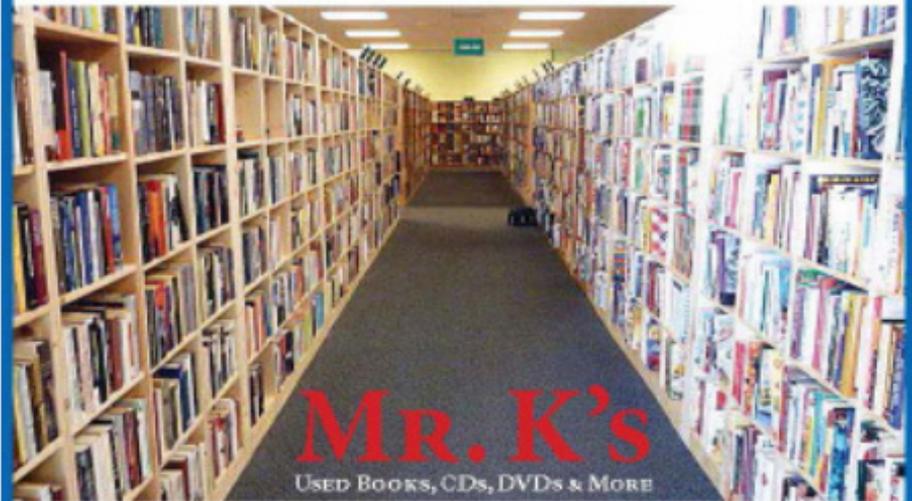
**What advice can you give students in your class?**

Pay attention- mainly keep up with your work, then you should be absolutely fine! Practice makes perfect.

**In addition to these general introductions, Applause will choose four new teachers to profile every month until all thirteen have been interviewed in depth.**

**This month we chose Mr. White, Ms. Mahoney, Mr. Foley, and Ms. DeTiberus. To read, turn to pages 22-24.**

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## Where Are They Now: Allison Burke

Allison Burke is a 2014 SOA graduate who majored in dance. She is currently a Dance Theater major at the American Musical and Dramatic Academy in New York City, pursuing her dream to be a Broadway performer. Applause's **Meagan Horres** caught up with her and discussed dance, life in New York, and her fond memories of SOA.

Allison Burke

**Meagan Horres: What inspired you to become a professional dancer? And what made you want to move to New York?**

**Allison Burke:** The supportive people around me inspired me to become a professional dancer. In my opinion, if you are as passionate about something as I am about dance, you should pursue it as a career so you get to do what you love every day. I moved to New York because everyone here is unique in their own way and I'm constantly surrounded by art and creativity.

**MH: How do you think this big life move has changed or bettered you?**

**AB:** Living in New York City has definitely changed me for the good, I'd say! People are so open minded here, and no one is afraid of being the truest form of themselves. Because of this you learn not to judge and you learn to humble yourself. Once you realize that there is so much more to life than what you originally thought: you're unstoppable.

**MH: How have you adjusted to moving to such a fast paced city?**

**AB:** It wasn't easy coming from such an easy going city and having to get used to a fast paced routine. What helped me adjust was definitely my schedule. AMDA puts you on a schedule that helps you get used to the nonstop working mindset. You also have to learn how to walk on the sidewalk. Being from Charleston I'm kind of used to tourists stopping in the middle of the sidewalk to find directions or to read something, but up here the locals aren't as nice as we would normally be about it.

**MH: What's a normal day like for you in the Big Apple?**

**AB:** Well, I'm going to be honest and say it's not easy. I usually have about two 2 1/2 hour dance classes a day along with musical theatre classes and voice lessons. And after a 12 hour day, I go to sleep and wake up and do the same thing the next day. But if I didn't absolutely love what I'm doing I wouldn't still be here!

**MH: What kind of training and opportunities has AMDA offered to help you develop your skills?**

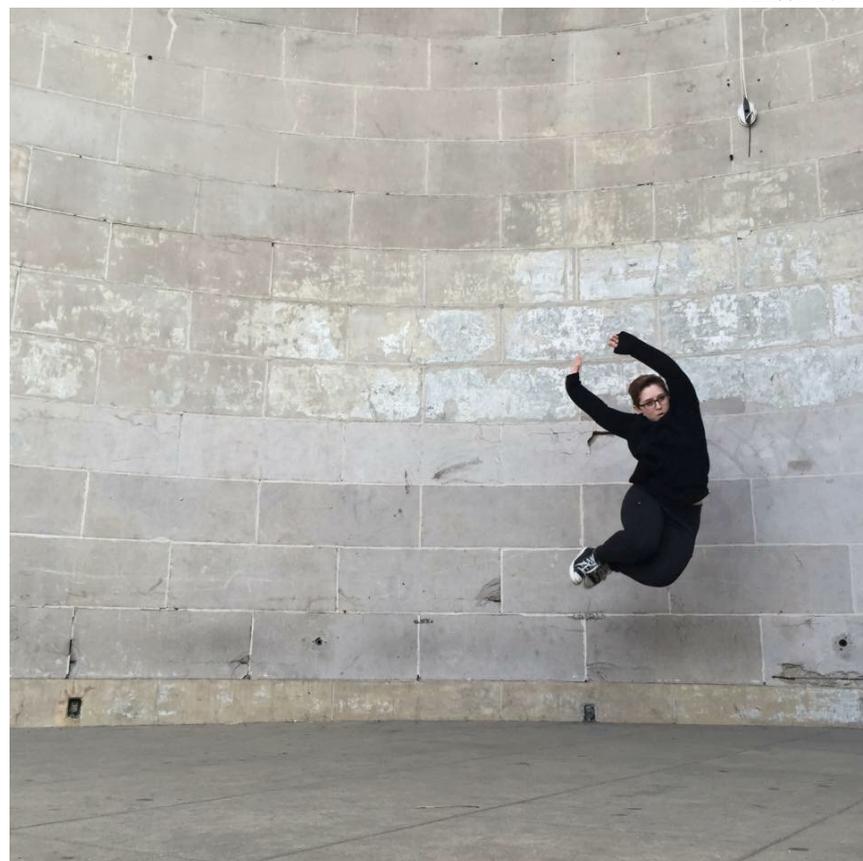
**AB:** The training at AMDA is helping me become more of a well-rounded performer rather than just a dancer. If you want to work in the theater, you have to know how to sing and act. The faculty here is amazing at what they do, and they are so supportive. In this business, it's not about what you know; it's about who you know. Name dropping is your best friend in this field of work.

**MH: What are your plans after graduation?**

**AB:** My plans for after I graduate depend on what happens in my fourth semester. Fourth semesters at AMDA have classes at night so we can go to auditions during the day. I plan to go to as many calls as I possibly can while I'm still in school, but audition season doesn't really start until after I graduate in February. I would love to work on a cruise ship or do some extra work on film. Broadway is the ultimate goal/dream, of course!

**MH: How did SOA help prepare you for this step in your life? What do you miss most about SOA?**

**AB:** The environment at SOA really prepped me for what I'm doing. I didn't have one negative response from anyone when I told them I was going to school for dance. Junior composition and senior thesis also helped me understand the creative process, which I use every day. So shout out to Mrs. Pitman/Ratigan and Ms. Cline: you guys rock! I miss the amazing, supportive faculty and the campus at SOA. The Rose Maree Myers Theater stage is bigger than some Broadway stages, so appreciate it while you can!



An advertisement for Sea Biscuit Cafe. The top part features a colorful illustration of a woman with long, flowing hair holding a basket of fruit. A banner across the illustration reads "SEA BISCUIT CAFE Since 1986". Below the illustration, the phone number "843-886-4079" is displayed in blue. The address "21 JC Long Boulevard, Isle of Palms, SC 29451" is in red. The bottom section, separated by a blue line, lists the hours: "MONDAY-FRIDAY BREAKFAST ~ 6:30-11:00 LUNCH ~ 11:30-2:30" and "SATURDAY-SUNDAY BREAKFAST ONLY 7:30-1:00". The website "www.seabiscuitcafeiop.com" is at the bottom.

## Where Were They Then: Kathryn Owensby

Applause's **Jackie Evans** sat down with seventh grade math teacher **Kathryn Owensby** to discover her life before

Kathryn Owensby



Kathryn Owensby

Ms. Owensby and her saxophone, a favorite childhood instrument.

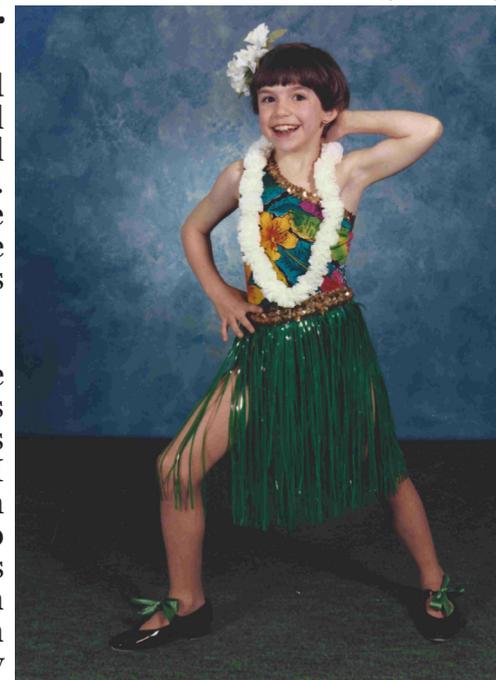
**Jackie Evans: What is the first thing you can remember from your childhood?**

**Kathryn Owensby:** I remember being around six, and my dad flew sailplanes, like gliders, and so we would always like travel and he would fly in these glider races. I remember we would all sit in a van with the back trunk open, making sandwiches there. I remember being really little at my grandmothers house and she would always have the best food, and then we were about to leave and she was always trying to get us ice cream and my mom was like "no, no, no, its ok."

**JE: What made you want to teach?**

**KO:** I don't know what it was. Probably because I've had some really good teachers that I thought were really good role models that I thought I would like to be like, and I also had some teachers who weren't good and I was like, 'You know what? I feel like I can teach that, and do a better job.' I also found my diary from 2nd grade when I was in high school, which said 'when I grow up I want to be a teacher.' I thought that was funny, because I was already planning on doing that. I actually didn't want to teach middle school (I wanted to teach elementary) but when I was in

Teacher Cadet in High School I got put in a sixth grade classroom and I realized that I actually really liked Middle School. I'm so glad I get to teach at SOA, because I wish I could've gone to school here. When I interviewed for this job, the principal at the time was telling me about the school and it sounded so awesome.



Ms. Owensby enjoyed dance as a child.

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**JE: Why math?**

**KO:** I can actually teach math and science but they didn't have a science position open when I came here. I'm actually glad that I got math. It was kind of a fortunate accident, because now that I've started teaching it, I feel like I do a pretty good job of teaching it. I also try to make it fun and I think that's kind of hard to do so I like it. In middle school I was actually pretty bad at math, but I think having that viewpoint gives me better perspective on the subject.

**JE: If you had a Middle School version of yourself in one of your classes, what would you think of her?**

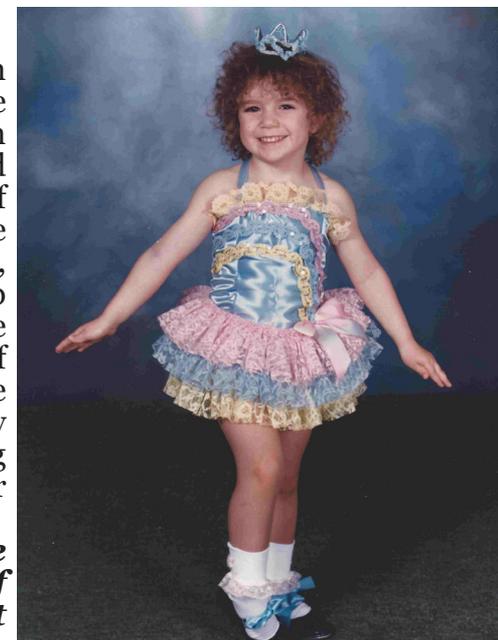
**KO:** I would probably think that they were awesome. We would probably get along pretty well. I would probably like them, but I would still challenge them.

**JE: What are some fun facts about you?**

**KO:** I remember in second grade, I wore this Wizard of Oz sweatshirt everyday. Even if it was hot outside, I still wore it. I remember my sister being like, "Oh my gosh I can't believe you're wearing that everyday." I think she literally told my mom, "Mom, you can't let her wear that to school everyday."

**JE: Looking back, what do you think is the most regrettable fashion choice you've made?**

**KO:** Everything I've ever worn ends up being a fashion mistake. Maybe getting bangs when I was in eighth grade. It was a bad idea.



Kathryn Owensby

# Summer



Provided

## Ari Levine

*12th grade Theater*

"This summer I spent five weeks in Israel making friends, traveling, and having the best time of my life!"

Provided



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## Alan Bi

*7th grade Piano*

"We were taking a walking tour along the beautiful and peaceful Haihe River in Tianjin. There are many statues and unique buildings along the river."



Provided

Chloe Koth, 9th Grade Costume Design, Alissa Melsopp, 12th Grade Visual Arts, and Magnet Student Jackson McQueeney enjoyed the Charleston Pride rally.



Provided

## Nina Kremser

*11th grade Dance Major*

"I went to Germany for a month to visit my family. While I was there we went to a lot of places including Munich and Passau and did a lot of hiking in the Alps."



## Mia Pernice and Samantha DuPree

*12th grade Vocal and Visual Arts*

"We spent three weeks traveling between Ireland, Scotland, and London."



Provided

## Abby Edwards

*11th grade Theater*

"Over the summer, I spent three weeks earning college credit for a photography course in Iceland."



Provided

## Jessica Leiker, Molly Pate, Kate Grayson

*10th Grade Creative Writing*

"We caught our dinner!"

# Highlights

Provided



**Alex Hepburn**  
*12th grade Piano*  
 “In Victoria, British Columbia, Canada, I found three copper representations of myself.”

Provided



**Abbey Kirkland and Bridget Conley**  
*12th grade Band*  
 “In the Outer Banks, we went paddle boarding and spent lots of fun days in the sun!”



**Amelia Cobb**  
*10th grade Vocal*  
 “I traveled all the way to Maui and Oahu!”

Provided



**Dr. Teseniar**  
*High School History Teacher*  
 Dr. T at 12,000 feet on Guatemala’s Mt. Acatenango, overlooking Feugo Volcano.

Provided



**Georgia Hunt**  
*12th grade Vocal*

Provided

“The most memorable experience from my Peru trip was hiking into Machu Picchu. The Incan trail was full of rich history and beautiful sights that will stay with me forever.”



**Angeleki Zecopoulos**  
*11th grade Dance*

Provided

“I went on a month long Greek Orthodox Church Camp. I stayed on Glyfa Beach, and traveled to Zakynthos, Aegina, Kalavrita, Kefalonia, Bartholomeo, Patras, and Athens, visiting monasteries and worshipping at famous churches in Greece.”

## Mr. White jazzes up the piano department

by Cheyenne Koth

*Mr. Richard Harris White is SOA's new Jazz Piano instructor. Born and raised in St. Louis, he and his wife Jessica have two daughters, Ariana, 4, and Josephine (named after vocalist and actress Josephine Baker), 2. We discussed childhood, his love of jazz, and his music career. The school went into a code yellow lockdown at the end allowing Mr. White to perform a few pieces, a nice finale to an*

*Cheyenne Koth enjoyable interview.*



**CK: How did your childhood affect your interest in music?**

**RW:** Well, I grew up in a family of vocalists, both of my parents and a number of aunts and uncles sang, mostly in church. I was always surrounded by music. My dad had albums he would play at the house. I heard music all the time. I started piano when I was seven, and I played classical piano for ten years, from age seven to seventeen. I attended Casa School of the Arts. It wasn't a regular school, more of an arts school. It offered music, visual arts, dance, etc. That was where I took classical piano and piano theory. I started there in sixth grade, before that it was just private lessons with a separate teacher.

Right before eighth grade, my father took me to a jazz concert at the school where I had been studying classical piano. That was when it hit me. I was bitten by the jazz bug. I had been exposed to jazz before, though I didn't know what it was! You know, through the cartoons I watched: The Jetsons, The Flintstones,. Their theme songs were filled with jazz. After the concert, I decided to take a six-week course from the instructor, and I noticed that a lot of my teachers played jazz, as well as classical piano. I could tell that they were very interested in turning jazz into an official class.

**CK: Where did you teach before coming to SOA?**

**RW:** I didn't teach. I'm new to teaching, per say. I did brief stints teaching beginners for a little while in St. Louis. Not for very long, though, so I wouldn't really count it. Later on, I went to Canada with a friend of mine doing piano workshops, more intense. Jazz and gospel. I went back and forth from Canada to St Louis doing those with him. We were on the left side of Canada, over in Victoria.

**CK: What made you go into teaching, then?**

**RW:** My mother is a teacher, and she always wondered if any of her children would ever become a teacher, so I'm the one that filled that spot. It was something that was always in the back of my mind, actually, something that I would eventually do in my life. My wife Jessica is also a teacher. She teaches beginners privately. I enjoy sharing what I know, and I find that I have the ability to explain things to others. The opportunity arose, so I agreed, and everything has worked out so far.

**CK: Has teaching at SOA been challenging?**

**RW:** It's pretty early on, and I haven't found teaching that difficult so far. The students are amazing, and I'm really looking forward to seeing their growth over this year. That's what I'm most excited about, I'd have to say. I haven't really seen anything super challenging as of yet. It's only been a week. Getting up early, yeah, that's been a challenge, just like getting up after having a gig the night before. I look forward to coming here, so it's easier. I guess I have to make sure I don't hit the snooze button too many times!

**CK: How do you use your musical talent outside of teaching?**

**RW:** I perform a lot; that's still my main bag. I'm a regular performer. Every week, I'm somewhere. Every Monday and Thursday I'm at the Charleston Grill, the restaurant inside the Charleston Place Hotel downtown. Every Wednesday, I'm at a restaurant called Eli's Table. It's also downtown, on Meeting St. I've got a gig coming up in Simmons Hall on the College of Charleston campus. It'll be a tribute to the famous guitarist, Freddie Green. It's a book signing. His son wrote a book about him. It's a free concert. We'll be playing some of his songs and arrangements. I also play with a wedding band called 17 South. We're a party band, mostly for private receptions. We play everything from jazz to funk and Motown. Yeah, I've been involved with music in Charleston for a while now. I keep really busy.

**CK: How do you hope to change SOA?**

**RW:** They say you can't have progress without change, and if there's anything I can do to help develop the program, I'd really like that. I'd like to keep the quality, keep pushing for higher standards, and remain accessible at the same time. You see, if you're in this class and you want to learn, no matter what level you're at, I'd like to teach you. Whether it's taking individual time out with students, if that's needed, or pushing those who are more advanced to the next level. It's basically keeping the program able to do that. It's not running people who need help off, or boring people who already know about the instrument. I want to make students want to come here. I want them to know that no matter what level they are, they can be taught here, and improve here.

**What do you like about working with the SOA team?**

**RW:** Everybody seems to be on top of their game. The instructors here are very, very kind, thoughtful, and considerate. They all seem very concerned about the students' learning, and are enthusiastic about it. They all seem excited to teach. The results speak for themselves, really, seeing these children perform, and go to college and do other things. That's what you really look forward to. I like to think that I'm giving another perspective, you know, suggesting things to try out, suggesting things to avoid, and being a guide for learning. Because I believe that teaching is a dual role, as a teacher I am also a student. I am also learning things from them. It's communication. And everyone seems very passionate about what they're doing and why they're here. And I get to be around pianos all day. Can't beat that!

## A closer look at Ms. Mahoney

by Mollie Pate

*Ms. Shannon Mahoney is one of the SOA's Math teachers.*

*We discussed her plans for her career at SOA.*

**Mollie Pate:** *Can you tell me about your math background and why you decided to become a math teacher?*

**Shannon Mahoney:** I've always been very drawn to math and the logical thinking aspect of it, so in high school I was always pretty good at math and usually ended up teaching it to the other students. And then one year I had a terrible pre-calculus teacher who just threw notes up on the board and said, "Test next week." I had an older brother at home who was pretty good at math so he helped me, but aside from that I was practically teaching myself, and eventually I actually ended up teaching the other people in my class, and from that I was motivated to go into teaching math.

**MP:** *Where did you teach before coming to SOA?*

**SM:** I came here from Burke High School where I worked for three years, which is my only experience other than student teaching.

**MP:** *Can you tell me about your teaching style?*

**SM:** Fun is important to me, as is energy in the classroom, people talking and moving; I don't like silent rooms. I like to see people talking back and forth between each other, collaborating with each other, collaborating with me. I know that there are times when I need to be at the front of the room talking, but as much as I possibly can I like to let students run with a topic and be as creative as they can.

**MP:** *What do you enjoy most about teaching at SOA?*

**SM:** I love the creativity and the way this student body expresses itself in such a unique way. And while I know some students may not enjoy math, we've only been through a few lessons and I've already seen my students enthused and looking forward to coming to math class.

**MP:** *What are your plans for this year and years to come?*

**SM:** This year I really want to grow as a teacher. At Burke, I was one of the most experienced high school math teachers, so I more or less hit a wall as far as my growth as a teacher. I'm very excited to collaborate with my peers and just grow as a person and as a teacher. And as far as my classroom, I really aim to change students' minds about pre-calculus and math in general- that it doesn't have to be boring, and it doesn't have to be just notes and tests; math can be fun for years to come no matter your math skill.

## Mr. Foley- Slam poet extraordinaire

by Savannah Porter

*Mr. Matthew Foley is one of SOA's new English teachers. We discussed his passion for*

*slam poetry.*

**Savannah Porter:** *How did you become involved with the Charleston Youth Slam Community and how long have you been involved?*

**Matthew Foley:** Well, I have been writing poetry since I was in high school. When I came down to Charleston from Columbia, there really wasn't a slam community. I got seriously involved about four years ago. I started attending several open mics in Charleston, but I was looking for something different. I wanted to do my own open mic events. It's all a building work in progress, and the Charleston Slam Community is just a group of people trying to build slam up in Charleston.

**SP:** *Do you have any tips from your slam experiences that can be applied to other up and coming performance artists?*

**MF:** Well, first, practice. Particularly memorization of your piece. Slam poets have to work hard on this. Sometimes artists who are reading off paper sound disconnected with their piece or like it is the first time they have ever read it. Just know your piece. You need to spend a lot of time with your work. Also, find the emotional core of your work, and develop the voice required to perform it. The emotional heart of your work is necessary for you to be able to pinpoint, and you don't want to perform just for performances sake. There is more to performing than getting up on stage and screaming about what's wrong with the world.

**SP:** *Are there any artists that inspire your writing or performances that are not writers?*

**MF:** Yes, a lot of early 90's stuff. Bands like Smashing Pumpkins and Nirvana. I wanted to be a musician when I was younger. The song writing process is sort of like poetry if you think about it. There are writers like Walt Whitman and Pablo Neruda who also influenced me. There are some artists who specifically do slam like I do, people like Anis Mojgani and Buddy Wakefield. I think that the main thing for me is having an audience. That's really exciting, because then my poetry reaches people directly and it isn't just sitting in a book on a shelf. My audience is full of live bodies taking in my work and I love that.

**SP:** *Can you tell me about Holy City Slam and how to get involved?*

**MF:** Last year our slams were at my previous school, Charleston County Math and Science. I am working on moving this group to SOA and hopefully we can collaborate with the Creative Writing department. We have a slam club that people are welcome to come and join. I am hoping that we can get a slam team together that can travel to slam competitions. I'm shooting for nationals at Brave New Voices. Slam is expanding and it's getting bigger all over the country so we'll see.



Nick Scapellato



Nick Scapellato

**Attending SOA taught me a great deal and prepared me for a successful degree in music at USC which allowed me to become a licensed Kindermusik instructor. I am forever grateful.**  
**- Jennifer Paul Powell, '02**

## What's for lunch? Just ask Mr. Pettit

*Applause's own Mollie Pate sat down with the cafeteria whiz to discuss the plans for this year's meals.*

**Mollie Pate:** *What new items have been added to the menu this year and why?*

**Joe Petite:** A lot of the new foods you'll see this year are made from scratch. You'll notice there isn't a lot of frozen fruits and vegetables this year- we're using a lot of fresh produce. We've added plenty of new menu items too, such as the calzones, which were a huge success. Our hope is to make the cafeteria feel more like a restaurant and less like your typical school cafeteria.

**MP:** *What about up-and-coming lunches and menu items?*

**JP:** We have lots of ideas for future lunches, such as baked rotini with meatballs and mozzarella, turkey taco salad with freshly made Pico de Gallo, and black bean and corn salad. We're really trying to mix it up. And in addition to the menu we of course have a salad bar, an Asian cuisine bar, pizza, chicken, and we're even looking at possibly opening up a taco/burrito bar, or perhaps a sandwich station. And of course, we are always open to new ideas- anyone is free to offer up an opinion.

**MP:** *How does nutritional value differ from previous years, and how do you plan to improve it?*

**JP:** In 2013, the Obama Administration changed the food pyramid that most of us know to a "plate", and to meet nutritional guidelines, we insure a serving of fruits or vegetables with every students' meal. We're always trying to provide a balanced nutrition, focusing on low preservatives, salt, and sodium. The value of the food is always improving, never sacrificing the food's flavor.

**MP:** *What are your biggest plans to improve the cafeteria in general?*

**JP:** One of the biggest things we would like to see is more student interaction, volunteering in the kitchen, prepping food, etc. We would hope to become more involved in the culinary club, providing cooking and food preparation techniques. Not only student interaction, but entertainment in the cafeteria- different clubs and talents from SOA and Magnet entertaining during lunch. And finally, I think it would be a fantastic idea to utilize the school garden, using what we can grow right here on campus and turning it right back into our food.



A typical build your own salad bar in the Charleston County School District.

## Ms. DeTiberus thrilled with her new "dream job"

by Claire Conway

To Danielle DeTiberus, teaching creative writing and Mapping the Mind at SOA is a dream job. To anyone who has taken her classes or gotten to know her, her passion for writing and literature is clear.

While growing up in New York, Ms. DeTiberus showed an interest in reading and writing from the age of five. This passion eventually led to her undergraduate and graduate level studies in English. She primarily writes poetry, is currently working to publish her manuscript, and has won various awards for her work.

In her teaching career, she has taught preschool, kindergarten, middle school, and community college classes- everything, in fact, except high school. Ms. DeTiberus was attracted to SOA after seeing Reese Fischer, a junior creative writer, read at the Poetry Society last year. Almost immediately, Ms. DeTiberus was struck by the quality of the work. This made a lasting impression on her and drew her to learn more about the school.

Three weeks later, as she was struggling with a difficult job at Trident Technical College and even considering leaving teaching for good, she learned of a job opening in the Creative Writing program here at SOA and applied just a few days before the position closed.

Ms. DeTiberus is thrilled to be here and to have the opportunity to teach what she loves, describing it as the second best thing that has happened to her- other than meeting her husband.

"Since school started, I just walk around smiling like a fool," she said. "I'm just so happy."

As for the program, Ms. DeTiberus hopes to bring in more experienced poets and writers to expose students to a broader spectrum of written work and to expand involvement in the community.

"My hope is that I inspire my students and they inspire me, and that every day is full of creation and questioning," she said.

Jay Rode



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## Dr. Cook shares high hopes for the new year

*Applause's own Anizia Fulmore sat down with Dr. Cook to discuss her plans for her fourth year at SOA.* Anizia Fulmore

### **Anizia Fulmore: Can you tell us a little bit about yourself?**

**Dr. Shannon Cook:** This is my fourth year at SOA. I was principal at C.E. Williams for a year before that and prior to that a teacher and administrator in Dorchester County. I've always loved music and started piano lessons at four. In middle school I took up flute, and in high school played secondary percussion and even had a chance to play the recorder in a Madrigal group. Additional music opportunities included being drum major of my high school band, performing on stage and in the pit for several musicals, singing in a show choir and participating in the Illinois All-State Choir. I majored in education and later completed a Master's Degree in Curriculum and Instruction. After earning a certification in educational leadership, I moved from teaching to administration and eventually completed my Ph.D. in Educational Policies and School Leadership with an emphasis in arts integration. I have two daughters; one is a civil engineer currently working on the site preparation for Boeing's next expansion and the other works with the United Way organization. I also have a 150 lb. Mastiff whose demonstrations of affection can be overwhelming.

### **AF: How do you feel about last year's goals?**

**SC:** Last year we worked on a couple of different directions. One of the things we worked on was how to support students who might be struggling in some areas. I think our teachers do a great job of providing assistance during class and office hours, referring students for NHS tutoring and recommending internet sources that can support learning. This year we are looking at intervention systems we can have in place, ready for students who need help with organization, active study, content needs and other types of assistance. Another thing we'd like to accomplish is to have a bigger presence in the community, to let people know about SOA and the opportunities that are here. Our teachers have already taken the point with this goal: Ms. Reed is taking eighth grade Band students out to schools and Dr. Selby is taking Strings students out to perform. Mr. Younts and the Gnome crowd are again out in the community and our creative writers and visual artists are forging partnerships with local schools and businesses. Many of our non-arts teachers are also working on special projects and activities that take our students into the Low Country to demonstrate, assist, share, perform or support worthy causes. I think our teachers are really doing a good job helping us again establish a bigger presence in our community.

### **AF: How do you, as a principal implement these plans/goals?**

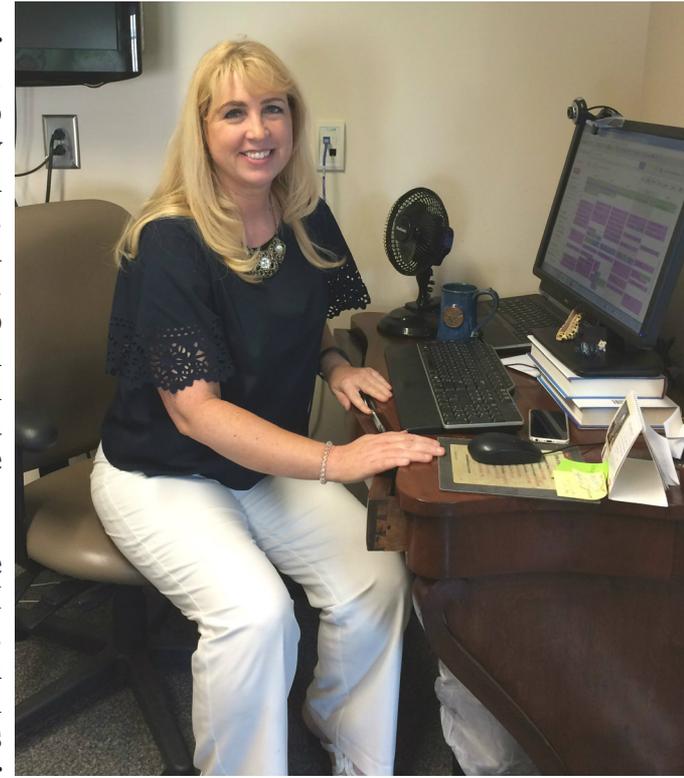
**SC:** We look at data and information from a number of sources. Sometimes, those are quantitative data; we look at test scores, attendance, and enrollment data. We also review qualitative data. We gather feedback from teachers, students, and parents from surveys that they have completed. We read what the local media prints about their perception of SOA. The administrative team meets and looks at those pieces and identifies areas for potential growth. Then, we meet with the leadership team and teachers and share our direction and ask for their input. Our teachers are phenomenal educators and compassionate community members who want to make sure we are on the right track. The leadership team takes the info back to their teams or departments. Each month we meet as a school wide staff to revisit our progress and celebrate our accomplishments.

### **AF: Do you believe that policies such as dress code and ID's will become more enforced this year?**

**SC:** I do. Four years ago, ID's were totally optional. Now, when students come on campus, 80-90 percent are already wearing their ID's. We direct the remaining 10-20% to the Media Center to get that taken care of. When all staff members enforce a policy we have a much easier time enforcing the rules. That has been a shift and we've made good gains. We've identified some challenges with compliance with our dress code as well as follow through with consequences. When there is a problem with a policy, we step back and ask what we need to do in order to have greater compliance and consistent follow through. We're currently working with a new system to address those who are not following the dress code. We hope to have it in place by the end of the month.

### **AF: Do you have any future advice for this school year for any of the students?**

**SC:** I am continually impressed with what our students accomplish in the arts, academically and in terms of personal goals. I would challenge students to figure out what it is you need to do to be successful in those three areas. Do what you need to do so you can be in class on time, prepared to do your best and learning all you can to maximize your abilities. One of the things I think is most powerful is when our students are able to put those three things in line and impact the local community. We see students whose writing can help heal a community; we watch benefit concerts that create change organized by and featuring our students; we see performances that honor courageous individuals and those whose memories we hold dear. As 6th graders, 10th graders, 12th graders you can take action, you don't have to wait until we're 25 and 30 to do those things, you can make a difference now. Practice, study, get here on time and make a difference!



## Ravens rugby begins new season

by Jacob Fairchild

The sport of rugby is growing on the local, national, and international level- and even making it to the Olympic level starting in the summer of 2016.

Following this trend, the Ravens Rugby club has started practicing for the upcoming season. The Ravens are a local high school level club, mostly comprised of SOA students while retaining players from other area high schools.

Last season the Ravens finished in the fourth seed in the playoffs after a heartbreaking loss to Irmo in the final minutes.

“We had a great season last year making it to the playoffs after moving to the top division,” Joel Driskill, the team’s head coach, said. “We graduated half of our starters and our younger players are going to have to step up, and feel they are up to the task this year.”

This year’s team leaders are Nick Brandon, Giovanni Meli, Jacob Fairchild, Tajh Horton, and Jacob Grieger. We wish the Ravens luck in the upcoming season.

For those who would like to join the team, practices are on Mondays and Wednesdays (with the possibility of a Tuesday or Thursday practice) at the soccer field adjacent to the Rose Maree Myers Theater, starting at 3:30 p.m. If interested in playing, come in athletic clothing.

Provided



Last year’s Ravens Rugby team poses after the playoffs.

Provided



Marissa Gigis, Emma Greig, and Taylor Kornegay pose in uniform.

## Volleyball a hit among many SOA students

by Mia Pernice

Volleyball has become quiet popular within SOA’s student body. This year, seniors Marissa Gigis, Emma Greig, and Taylor Kornegay are all members of West Ashley high schools’ Varsity Volleyball team.

On Thursday August 27th, these three talented students kicked off the fall season by competing against Fort Dorchester high school.

The trio played strong alongside their teammates- resulting in victory with a final score of 25 to 7!

We can’t wait to see how the three contribute towards the team and the season, and wish them luck with their next game!

## SOA freshman scores big in Wando football

Provided

by Mia Pernice

The all American sport, football, has caught the attention of one of SOA’s freshman, Trent Courville, who began his career playing on Wando high school’s “Z” football team.

From squats, to runs, to hours of practice, the season officially started on August first. Since then, the team has had five practices, prepping for their first game on September forth against Ashley Ridge high school.

The game was close, but sadly Wando lost 34 to 27.

After their first loss, the team gathered themselves up to play as hard as they could against James Island Charter high school on September tenth. The work paid off as Wando dominated the game with final score of 28-0.

With a little more of that hard work and perseverance there is no doubt that Wando will succeed in their next game!

“My experience has been tough so far but I am growing more and more every day,” Courville said.



Trent strolls across the field during a game.

**Want to see SOA students in action?  
Wando’s next home game is on  
October 9th.  
West Ashley’s next home game is on  
October 1st.**

Provided



The West Ashley high school Varsity volleyball team, of which the trio are members.

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**SOA turns twenty: continued from page 13**

“We were trying to put together offices and classrooms in a dilapidated building with old furniture and equipment. Even though we were putting in 12 hour days, the excitement far outweighed the fatigue. We were blazing a new trail – at least for Charleston County – and we had to show our adversaries that we were more than a “singing and dancing” school. And of course, we have proven ourselves as one of the top schools in the county, state and even the nation.”

She also recalled the unique circumstances of her job interview in 1995, which took place in Ms. Myers makeshift new office: a “mammoth white Cadillac.”

“A distinguished woman hissing “psstt” was calling out my name, luring me to the vehicle with her elongated finger. Everything my mother taught me about not getting into a car with a stranger left me as I approached and entered the great white vehicle.”

“She introduced herself as Rose Maree Myers, principal and founder of the newly created School of the Arts. Within five minutes, she had enlightened me about the philosophy of the school, given me the details of the job and offered me the position. Ms. Myers had a charisma and charm that was quite persuasive. She had me at “Pssst!”

After serving as Ms. Myers’ secretary for more than a decade, Ms. Wade began her teaching career at SOA.

“Teaching had always been my dream, but teaching at SOA was more than I could ever imagine.”

Fortunately for us, Ms. Wade has returned to work as a substitute teacher. And she is not the only staff member to return after retirement.

An SOA legend, Mr. Ace Roy Davis (who was once Ms. Wade’s teacher), came out of retirement to serve as assistant principal at SOA in 1999. Mr. Davis left and returned again before retiring for good. Mr. Davis continues to make it to graduation and several performances.

The allure of SOA also had its effect on Ms. Beth Webb Hart, who began teaching creative writing here in 1998 but left a few years later to devote her time to raising her children. After joining the Ashley Hall faculty and publishing six critically acclaimed novels, she returned to SOA.

“I missed it,” she explains. “I’ve been most comfortable in a creative environment, ever since high school. I’ve always loved being around other artists that are creating. I missed the camaraderie, and the cross-pollination of the work, and really, being around young people. That’s why I wanted to come back.”

“The campus is just alive with energy. It’s wonderful.”

Inevitably, when colleges and universities go on fall break, SOA’s halls are filled with graduates, returning to see the teachers who helped prepare them for college and for life in general. But even when careers, families, and great distances prevent them from returning, students carry their SOA experience with them.

“The theatrical training I received at SOA has stayed with me my entire career as a professional actor,” says 2001 graduate Todd Adamson, who just finished performing with the Broadway National Tour production of Queen’s “We Will Rock You,” produced by Hollywood titan Robert De Nero. Todd was also recently awarded “Best Lead Performance of the Year in a Musical” by *Stagescene LA* for his role as Huey in *Memphis*.

“Sharing the stage with celebrities and being in the NYC and LA theatrical community is something I attribute to the consistent pursuit of good acting which SOA taught me,” he says.

By the time Todd came to SOA in 1995, he’d already shared the set with a major celebrity: Tom Hanks. He told *Applause* in 2001: “My five minutes of fame was when I was in *Forrest Gump*. There was a scene where Jenny yells, “Run, Forrest, Run,” and three bullies are throwing rocks at Forrest. Well, I’m the kid in the middle.”

Todd credits SOA with nurturing his incipient talent.

“SOA gave me the drive, passion and training I needed to continue in my chosen profession, and I am forever grateful to this amazing school.”

“I hope the students that are there now can appreciate the incredible opportunity they have,” he added.

Elizabeth (Buck) Ballard echoes Todd’s feelings: “SOA was the best place. The school has made a huge imprint on my heart. I have the best memories of attending SOA. I can’t believe it’s been 20 years.”

“SOA, unlike most art schools in the state, has thrived, because the mission and the goals have never changed,” says Mr. Basil Kerr.

The motto of the school is “where talent and vision create the future,” and we still do that. “We have talented kids and talented faculty members who have a vision to help you guys be the future.”

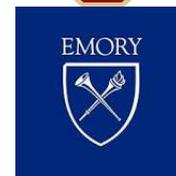
“I was certain we would succeed.” Ms. Myers told *Applause* in 2009, just months before the pristine campus she envisioned and

planned opened its doors to a new group of sixth graders - this year’s seniors - and the theater was dedicated in her honor.

Yet there were times along the way, she says, when she wondered if her idealism might have been “a little naïve.” Twenty years, fifteen graduating classes, and countless academic and arts accolades, however, surely validate her final verdict: “*Actually*, it wasn’t.”



**DON'T MISS SOA'S COLLEGE NIGHT!**  
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Shayla Green, 12th grade  
Pen and Ink and Watercolor



Fred Horton, 11th grade  
Oil Painting Detail  
(Commission for the Charleston Airport)

Jaden Brown, 9th grade  
Charcoal on Wood



Holly Rizer



Holly Rizer

Applause staff member **Holly Rizer** took a peek into Visual Arts, returning with several complete pieces.



Holly Rizer



## Wondering

Glistening wings  
of the marvelous insect  
Fluttering in the wind  
Outside my front porch

I see you  
wandering  
I see you  
gliding

you bump into the  
autumn leaves  
falling off the  
auburn oak

Your eyes rapidly  
rummaging through  
the surroundings

I go outside  
into the damp, cold  
air

you rest gently on my  
pale finger

your antennae  
brushes against  
my chilly pinky

Applause staff member **Cheyenne Koth** dropped in on  
the sixth grade creative writing class, returning with a  
smattering of poetry.

Cheyenne Koth



Charlotte Nofsinger, 6th  
grade Creative Writing

a nervous creature  
twitching at the sight  
of a face  
that's very different  
from hers

I'm looking at your  
gleaming wings

Staring at the  
Painted Lady  
Butterfly

Wondering

Cheyenne Koth



By Madelynne Burt, 6th  
grade Creative Writing

## The Ride

I walk in and see that  
the merciless seat is the  
only left

so I drift to the center of  
the yellow bus  
and I lean against the  
bearded boy

the bus starts and  
we fall to the hot floor  
as our seats slip from  
underneath us  
each bump in the road

people are  
yelling cursing laughing

the driver shouts  
"shut up"  
but still  
cannot stop the chaotic  
noise

and I sit there  
not making a sound

though quietly  
I'm screaming horrified  
in the merciless seat

## This Old Tree

I have cut down the tree,  
that holds your past  
Back when we played  
together,  
how young we were then  
A time when we could smell  
blueberry pie,  
and taste it too

Now, all I can smell is the  
rotting wood,  
sitting in our mother's  
backyard  
Reminding me of how  
much I miss you,  
ever since you started  
caring about the country,  
more than about yourself.

So, after leaving you  
flowers,  
I seized my axe and hacked  
away  
I know that if you were  
here,  
you would scowl at me for  
what I have done,  
But it feels so good to let go.  
It felt so good to chop down  
our tree.

Cheyenne Koth



By Hannah Pulaski,  
6th grade Creative Writing

***In honor of the 20th Anniversary of SOA,  
Applause correspondent Alissa Melsopp asked  
6th and 7th graders some trivia about the  
history of the school.***

***Who was the first principal of SOA?***

**Nolan Hart, 6th grade:** "I guess the principal now?"

**Cailyn Haiger, 7th grade:** "I have no idea."

**Charles McGuinn, 7th grade:** "Dr. Cook?"

***How old do you think SOA is?***

**Ashlyn Pyle, 7th grade:** "7 years old?"

**Charles McGuinn, 7th grade:** "I think it's 15 years?"

**Cailyn Haiger, 7th grade:** "20 years."

***How many campuses has SOA had?***

**Nolan Hart, 6th grade:** "3, I think."

**Ashlyn Pyle, 7th grade:** "4."

**Cailyn Haiger, 7th grade:** "2 campuses?"

Cheyenne Koth



By Kiran Narula,  
6th grade Creative Writing  
**Shadows**

always trailing behind  
me  
as it mimics my every subtle  
move

a misty reflection of  
darkness,  
that can only be seen by  
the rays of sun

a graceful  
silhouette,  
my ink-colored  
follower

tinging the earth with a  
dusty blackness

dancing, prancing,  
sweeping itself through  
the infinitely vast world

a mirror of anything  
but light itself

Cheyenne Koth



By Raily Fogle,  
6th grade Creative Writing

### **The Stairs**

You catch countless  
evidence  
of love and hate.  
You've always been there  
collecting all the dust and  
miscellaneous  
bits of my life.

From family to friends,  
many faces and feet  
walked up and ran down  
you.

That day we moved in,  
you were spotless  
Now 4 years later  
you have changed from  
ivory to dark grey

You have seen  
my little seven year old  
self in second grade  
grow to be a tall 11 year  
old in sixth.

Throughout the years  
dog hair has sunken  
in your coarse carpet  
Your ugly spots hold  
beautiful memories

Of times when there  
were fights about  
who takes a shower first  
and agreements on  
the name for the new dog.

I remember the times  
of wiping up  
dog pee, picking up poop.  
and milk splashing out  
the bowl  
of Lucky Charms.

You, my ugly stairs hold  
everything  
from dirt to glitter.  
Every once and awhile I  
spot you,  
hiding in small crevices,  
catching my  
attention from the corner  
of my eye.

I see dirt changing the  
color  
or your edges of stained  
wood.  
Crumbs of food from last  
nights dinner, falling off  
my mouth.

You are the witness of my  
life.

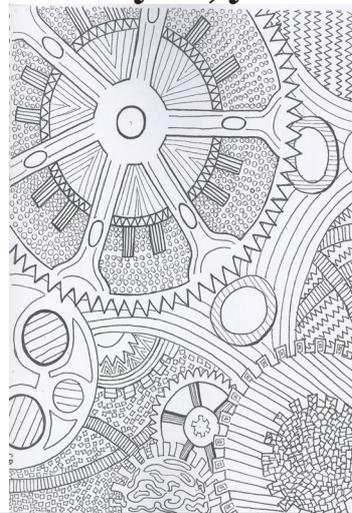
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## The Shoelaces- a local band ready to rock

by Jackie Evans

*The Shoelaces is a band born and raised right here in Charleston made up of Casey Malanuk (vocals, guitar), Chris Navin (keyboard), and Mason Haselden (drums), all sophomores at Wando High School. Though they are a younger band, they have a unique sound and have been together for nearly three years. I sat down with Casey to ask him a few questions.*

**Jackie Evans: How did the three of you come together?**

**Casey Malanuk:** It was eighth grade at Moultrie Middle School. I decided to join the jazz band and that was when I met Mason, but I just knew him as 'the drummer for the jazz band' and I was another rhythm guitarist. I think it was Octoberish when we really got together. Our awesome jazz band teacher, Ms. Evans, let us use the practice rooms in the jazz band room. We just went in there and we were jamming out to these songs and I literally couldn't even hear a single thing from his drums, it was so bad. I think the coolest part about when we first actually started playing together was that the first day we got in the practice room together, it was this small room and it was really crunched and it was awkward because we've never talked before. I started playing this song I had just learned and without skipping a beat he joined in. After that day we just kept going into the practice rooms and I kept bringing songs I was learning in to play, and songs that I was writing, and I would just play it for him and he would come up with some random beat. We played all through the summer. The first time we performed together was the Moultrie Talent Show. Chris joined at towards the end of the summer after I saw a Snapchat video of him playing piano. We got together one day and in about an hour he learned like five of our songs.

**JE: What style would you categorize your music?**

**CM:** I hate categorizing it as Southern rock, but it kind of is Southern rock (not country). It's more alternative though.

**JE: Who are your biggest inspirations?**

**CM:** NEEDTOBREATHE. Its not that all my music sounds like them, they influence me as a person because they seem like such genuine guys. John Foreman from Switchfoot, Hozier for sure. People think he's like a one-hit-wonder but I am obsessed with him, because if you listen to one song on his album and you just write down all the lyrics to the song, you will be wiped away- even if you're not a songwriter. Also, this band that I found recently called Typhoon. They produce their music the same way I'd like to and they inspire me a lot with the way they write and the way they produce.

**JE: On the new album:**

**CM:** John Keith Colbreth, the front man of Stop Light Observations, is producing us. He is one of the nicest people I've ever met and is producing our album because they came and played a show at Moultrie around the end of my eighth grade year because they went to Moultrie too. I went up to him after the show and asked him if I could talk to him sometime and I messaged him my SoundCloud link and ever since then we've been messaging back and forth, and we started getting together this summer. The new album that we're writing right now I think is going to be more of an EP. It's going to be kind of short and we'll release like song after song after song, I'm really excited about it. I'm very proud of it. I love every song and I'm going to love playing every song. The last album was very raw- we recorded it with nothing. This new album is top-notch production. If you listen to the old album, every song on there is different. There is a lot of Alternative Rock on the new album. It's as if Alt J, Portugal the Man, X Ambassadors, and Kodakidline had a baby and named it The Shoelaces. We are changing our name, but if you follow us on Instagram then you will know, we're not changing it till the album is released and nobody knows what it is yet. It's top secret.

## Back to school- new releases and artists to bring in the year

by Jada Orr

The Internet



### New Album: *Ergo Death*, The Internet

Released on June 26th, the smooth side of Odd Future brought summer break to an end with their new album "Ego Death". The neo-soul band released more funky vibes, keeping their deep bass and soft keyboard tones.

Unlike their last project, "Feel Good", this includes more features. We hear the Janelle Monae on a track titled "Gabby," Vic Mensa on "Go With It", and a new fan favorite "Girl ft. Kaytranada," where Syd the Kid gives us her soft vocals over some crisp beats and melodies. It's crazy to think the album was mainly recorded in Syd's basement over just three weeks. "Ego Death" is the band's first album released under Columbia Records.

### Upcoming Concerts

**Toro Y Moi**  
Tuesday, October 6th-  
The Music Farm

**Brandi Carlile**  
Tuesday, October 6th-  
The North Charleston  
Performing Arts Center

Alessia



### New Artist: *Here-Single*, Alessia

Out of the suburbs of Toronto, 19-year-old Alessia Cara released a "song for everyone who secretly hates parties," according to MTV, in her latest single "Here." The song details the emotions of a more introverted, observant, laid-back youth at the typical house party. The song gained quick notice and reached onto multiple summer playlists. Cara follows up this track with a new EP recently released on August 28th titled Four Pink Walls. The songstress' lyrical and vocal talent surely let's us know she'll be "here" to stay.

### Upcoming Albums

**Every Open Eye-Chvrches**  
September 19th

**Fetty Wap- Fetty Wap**  
September 25th

**Rodeo- Travi\$ Scott**  
September 4th

I am glad I attended SOA. The experiences I went through there as a teenager shaped the foundation for being open to all of the lessons that came afterwards in my life that have made me who I am today, as well as giving me the life I was seeking back then.

- Omi Naderi '06

## CO will soon be the hottest reservation in town

by Ryan Biddix

Charleston has gained a reputation as the center for culinary innovation. I have been dining in some of Charleston's hidden gems for several years now, and have discovered many holy grails during my experience. Many Eastern-Asian fusion restaurants have opened due to the among the wide array of southern staples. Although this may sound like an insult to your mothers' homemade biscuits and gravy, it is simply presented as an opportunity to expand your dietary palette.

And for those of you searching for an experience like no other, look no further than CO.

"In Vietnamese, "CO" means feast, a celebration in which food and drinks are shared around large tables," said the owner.

It becomes evident that this sentiment is the basis of CO's interior design and communal seating. This Vietnamese-fusion restaurant is located on lower King St, and is usually mistaken for a local bar. The decor allows the simplistic beauty of the food to really shine though the intimate vibe with low luminosity entices most diners.

I started with CO's famously constructed dumpling, specifically the five-spice tofu and spinach dumplings, which was served with black vinegar dashi broth. The carefully selected spices and dashi broth perfectly blends to create the aromatic smell of traditional Vietnamese street food.

For my main course, I decided on the lemongrass tofu banh mi, which is essentially grilled tofu with sautéed lemongrass, garlic, and a salad of pickled vegetables on French baguette. Immediately the lemongrass and pickled shredded carrots overpowers the tastelessness of the tofu, creating a mixed consistency of rubbery tofu and crunchiness of the pickled vegetables. CO offers a vast selection of vegan options allowing those with dietary restrictions to experience Eastern Asian cuisine.

Although I would love to be selfish and keep CO all to myself, the work of these chefs is too good to stay hidden for long. There's no doubt CO will rapidly become the fieriest reservation in town.



**Sunday-Thursday**

**11am-10pm**

**Friday-Saturday**

**11am-11pm**

**Price Range: \$-\$\$**

## October Spotify Playlist

Your monthly Applause certified list of jams- just head to **cusatisoa** on Spotify to listen.

"Flightless Bird, American Mouth"- Iron & Wine  
 "Atticus, In the Desert"- Kishi Bashi  
 "Tongue Tied"- Grouplove  
 "Rubik's Cube"- Athlete  
 "Tire Swing"- Kimya Dawson  
 "Change is Everything"- Son Lux  
 "Search Party"- Sam Bruno  
 "Uma"- Panama Wedding

"Girl"- The Internet  
 "Alive"- Adelitas Way  
 "The Underdog"- Spoon  
 "Francis Forever"- Mitski  
 "Lost it To Trying"- Son Lux  
 "Michigan"- The Milk Carton Kids  
 "Space Oddity"- David Bowie  
 "Past Lives"- Real Estate  
 "The Ballad of a Thin Man"- Bob Dylan  
 "Stairway To Heaven"- Led Zeppelin



## This Side of Brightness excites readers

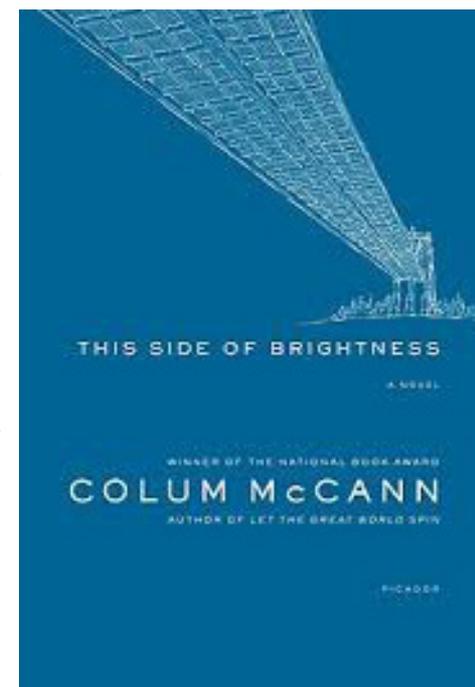
by Alissa Melsopp

*This Side of Brightness* was on the AP Literature and Composition class's summer reading list this year, and is a title that many of Dr. Cusatis's students should recognize. Despite many grueling hours of seemingly endless annotations, this was one book that students can agree was worth it. The intricate plotline spanning three generations and alternating timelines draws the reader in until the very end.

The book mainly follows Nathan Walker, a young black man working as a "sandhog" – a construction worker who digs tunnels underground - and Treefrog, a homeless man living beneath the streets of New York. Although their stories seem disconnected (Nathan Walker's story starts in 1916, whereas Treefrog's starts in 1991), these two seemingly different lives entwine by the end, which is a common theme within most McCann novels (those of you who have read "Let the Great World Spin" will understand; if not, then go read it).

This novel delves into some harsh topics like racism, sexism, and rape, which is one of the main reasons I applaud McCann- he didn't tiptoe over these issues. Instead, he made them real as if the reader is also experiencing all of the hardships the characters endured during their lives. Nathan Walker only felt equal to other men when he was in the tunnels, the darkness erasing all preconceived notions of race. Later on, the reader understands that everyone suffers from this oppression of society and they all seek a place where they feel safe from it (mostly underground, if you didn't get that already).

In addition, there's the beautiful imagery- snow twirling down from the sky into the sewer, the swamps in Georgia where Nathan grew up, and an unbelievable long forgotten tunnel underground with a grand piano and intricately carved fountain. McCann's language is unforgettable, as if the incredible plot wasn't already enough to have every reader hooked. His words flow seamlessly together, and make it hard to stop once you've started. I'd recommend this book to readers everywhere. You will not regret it!



# In a connected world, online privacy and security crucial for everyone

by Jay Rode

In the wake of the major data breach at Ashley Madison, the infamous social networking website dedicated to facilitating affairs, the discussion of Internet privacy has wildly intensified. This breach is good for society as it brings awareness to the topic of data security, a topic sorely overlooked by almost everyone.

It's not that every online product or service just doesn't care- most Websites use military-grade encryption systems, which require thousands of years to crack using brute force. However, not all sites use these systems and even those that do don't actually need the theoretical thousands of years. After all, it only takes one successful attempt to break in, and the successful combination won't usually be the last possible combination.

There are some newer data encryption methods in the works, namely ones that are comparatively slower. In the digital security world, time is the make-it-or-break-it factor because anything taking too many resources (time, processing horsepower, etc.) will be examined and the hack will be found out and dealt with- which means it would be harder in general for hackers but also slower for users (though not by some huge margin).

However, having strong data encryption is worthless if even a single user on a secured network brings (accidentally or otherwise) any malware to the network. A single mole, or infected device, can compromise the security of a network, so it is not just the computers that must be secured. The users need to learn, too. Simply search online for good digital security tips, and you will find a nice, long list of the various methods to aid in remaining secure.

But Internet privacy does not stop there. Ever wonder why Amazon or, really, any other Website with ads has such spot-on product recommendations? Through tiny bits of data stored on your computer called cookies, advertisement targeting services can build a strong profile of your shopping trends and interests so that they can deliver ads for products you might actually want.

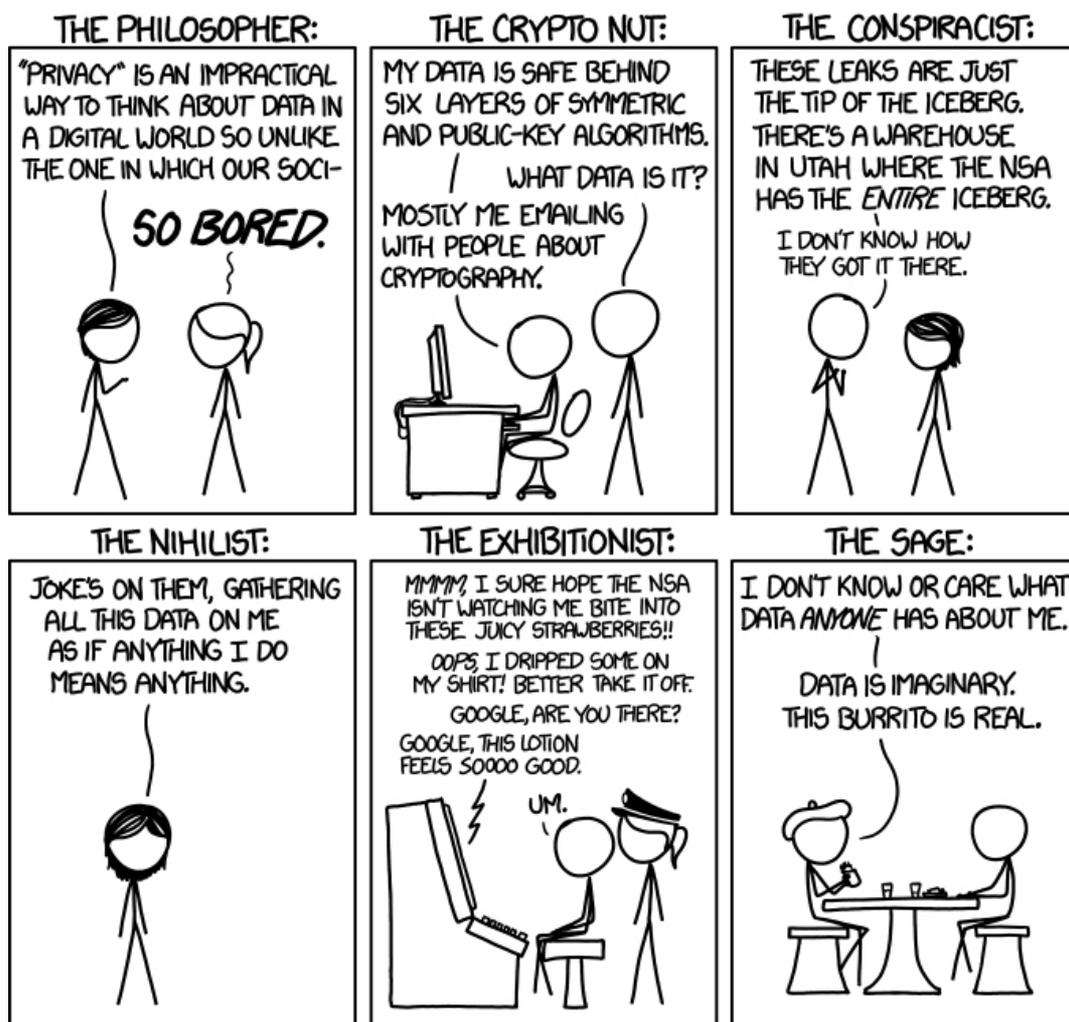
For many, such a system of data tracking (recording your length spent on certain pages, what pages you visit, when, what you search for, etc.) is an inexcusable invasion of privacy. In the European Union, all sites are required to notify users of cookie use if those cookies are for more than just for basic technical reasons (media playback, user input, etc.). You can set your browser to decline cookies, but things may get a little messy, so be careful.

Perhaps an even larger invasion of privacy, however, is how data collection is sometimes used to build extremely deep profiles based on our online communications. For example, Facebook analyzes all instant messages sent using its Messenger service to build "shadow" profiles. If I have a friend, John, who does not have a Facebook profile and whom I talk about with all my other friends on Facebook, Facebook will construct an empty "profile" (not a Facebook profile, but more of an identity, like a character sketch) and fill it with the things I talk about with my friends in proximity to John's name. That way, when John joins Facebook and adds us as friends, Facebook can say, "Oh! I recognize that guy!" and attach all its known information to the Facebook profile which then begins to freely give data away.

It's not that this practice is outright malicious- a few reports have shown that suicidal users begin to see advertisements for self-help and toll-free suicide prevention hotlines- but it cannot be said that this isn't a somewhat creepy process. All our messages are read and analyzed by a computer system, and even if there are no humans who can read the messages from the system, the fact that they are being kept and analyzed makes me uncomfortable. I don't want personal discussions to be taped to my Internet data-profile; as already mentioned, even if Facebook, Twitter, Amazon and others say that my data is securely stored, it does not mean that a data breach is impossible.

A released list of those trying to cheat on their significant others is one thing--but what about the credit cards saved in online stores, the private photographs stored on Web-based data storage services or Social Security numbers registered to State or Federal tax systems? As more and more of the world's information is moved online, we must develop better security technologies and educate ourselves more on keeping our data ours.

## OPINIONS ON INTERNET PRIVACY



Randall Munroe/XKCD: <https://xkcd.com/1269/>

## Sass attack

by Cheyenne Koth

*Sass Attack was created by David Sass in 2008. Although David has graduated, our staff has continued the column.*

The concept I'm about to highlight is rather simple: if you want to drag around a twenty pound rolling death trap, at least be considerate about it.

In my first three weeks of my junior year, and my feet have been run over by three to four rolling backpacks. That's about one per week, readers, and a bit too much, if you ask me. This is disregarding the other times I have been assaulted by these thundering wheeled menaces in past years.

Now, I understand if your backpack is a bit too heavy for your back, students, and I support you trying to lessen the pain that several textbooks and binders might cause you, but please, at least make an attempt to not run over the toes of your upperclassmen.

The hallways and the breezeways are much like roadways, rolling friends, there's a give and take, a certain unspoken etiquette in the expanses of the SOA's halls. Rule #7, after 'no spitting on the floor' and before 'look before you open your locker' is 'don't run people over with your backpacks'. Think of yourself as a truck, young readers, and your rolling backpack as a trailer that you have to drag around. You don't haphazardly change lanes without first checking said lane for other drivers, do you? Of course not. It should be the same in the hallways.

Now, a word to the upperclassmen- be careful out there. While the owners of the backpacks may certainly respect, or ever fear you, their rolling death traps certainly do not.



## Editorial: Happy birthday, SOA!

Browsing the *Applause* on-line archive, one will find early references to the "guinea pigs," who entered sixth and seventh grade in 1995 as the first student body of the Charleston County School of the Arts. In the May 2001 issue, however, which commemorates the first graduating class, SOA's founder and first principal, Rose Maree Myers, chose a different epithet for these grown up guinea pigs: "Six years and just look at you, our pioneers!"

In August, SOA turned twenty, but she has maintained the youthful enthusiasm for learning and discovering –the pioneering spirit—that distinguished her from the start.

Just what sort of trails did those pioneers, most of whom are now raising children of their own, blaze for us?

SOA was the first secondary school in Charleston County to fully integrate arts education with academic studies, giving students the freedom to practice their art 100 minutes a day (later 90), five days a week, for seven years, more than twice the time spent on any academic area of study.

Despite the success of Ashley River Creative Arts Elementary, whose arts integrated curriculum quickly became a model for schools around the world, SOA had its doubters and detractors. Surely the school would pale academically in comparison with "normal" schools.

Yet in 2014 the State Board of Education recognized SOA as the #1 high school in South Carolina, right alongside our neighbor Academic Magnet. Our middle school is peerless, and the twenty years worth of productions, performances, art work, and creative writing, forged in the combined imaginations of SOA students and their teachers, continues to receive the wide-spread national recognition it deserves.

And how many middle or high students can boast that their English teacher is an esteemed slam poet, their creative writing instructor a prolific novelist, and their physical education teacher a nationally ranked marathon runner? And this list goes on.

But aside from these scholastic and artistic inroads, those pioneers initiated a culture of kindness, tolerance, and open-mindedness that is the natural result of an artistic community. We care about each other. We respect each other. We are proud of the accomplishments of our fellow artists and scholars.

SOA has grown over the years. Our enrollment is higher; our faculty size has increased; our facilities- which once included a refurbished auto mechanics shop as a theater- are state-of-the-art. But we have not outgrown those traits that defined us from the beginning. And we will not lose touch with the vision that has allowed our talent to create our future.

Mrs. Myers' closing words in her "Letter to our Seniors" in the May 2001 *Applause* apply to us as much as they did to our pioneering progenitors: "Allow your passion to provide the beacon for life's choices."

*Applause* is proud to say "Happy Twentieth Birthday, SOA"! We are grateful to be part of your family.

**Do you have a strong opinion that you're just dying to share? Try writing a letter to *Applause*! We are always accepting letters to the editor for possible publication. To submit, send an email to [lazjak37@yahoo.com](mailto:lazjak37@yahoo.com) with the subject line "Letter to the Editor"**

**If I had to sum up SOA's effect on me, I would say it *made* me. It took me away from my impoverished neighborhood school and gave me a better shot. It's the reason I teach in a Title I school now- because access to quality education can change a life from a very early age, and it can give children the tools to take charge of their own lives.  
- Carissa Hanagriff Juengst, '02**

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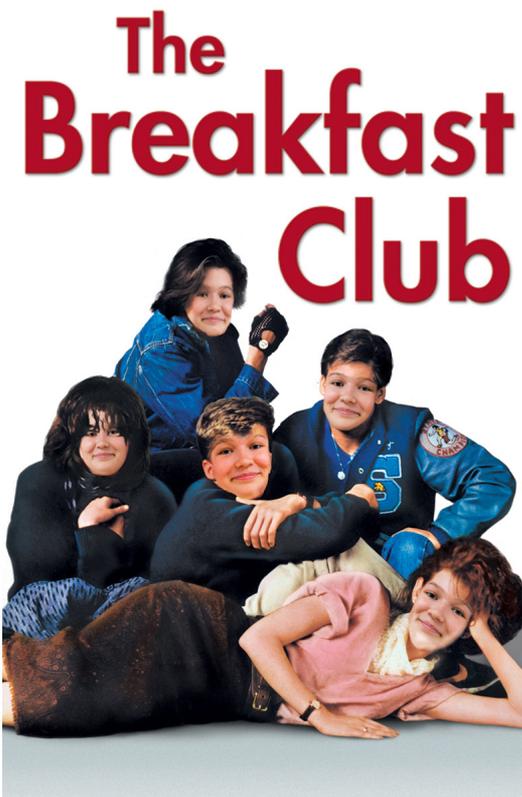
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# POINT/COUNTERPOINT

As we anticipate what the new school year will bring, our first Point-Counterpoint will debate the merits of two high school movies: Ferris Bueller's Day Off vs The Breakfast Club, two 80's classics about rebellious teenage shenanigans. Look out, High School Musical and Teen Beach Movie, these classics are here to stay.

## Cheyenne: *The Breakfast Club*

Jay Rode



*The Breakfast Club* (1985) highlights a Saturday detention session in a school library. The students that attend are all very different: the nerd, the princess, the jock, the basket case, and the criminal. The characters are dynamic and interesting, but this doesn't mean that they're perfect people, or even wholly likable. Their plights, opinions, and fun dance montages make them relatable, though, and just about every student can identify with their sassy and realist one-liners. *The Breakfast Club*, which shatters stereotypes, underscores familial turmoil, and ultimately, encourages bonding across classes, is clearly the greater classic.

Early in the movie, we find that these characters are able to teach us valuable lessons through their gritty language and harrowing life experiences. This can be seen in the unexpected bonding that occurs between the students. This group, coming from different backgrounds and holding different world views, finds themselves connecting to the others in ways that they could never have imagined before walking into Shermer High School on a Saturday morning. This movie captures the teenage persona(s) with truth, wit, and undeniable emotion. Even the authority figures are deeply flawed, despite their condescension. In fact, they're all flawed! The entire movie is based on the premise of finding and admitting to your flaws, and seeing that others are flawed as well. This lesson is shown, in the end, through Brian's final speech- we aren't what you think we are, teach!

Ferris Bueller, on the other hand, is a sociopath. He is caught flirting with confused sunbathers (who are facing away from the sun? and sitting in the shade in what I can presume is cold weather?) after having just told Sloane that he loved her. He is constantly manipulating people. Also, where did he get all the money to fund his 'day off'? Ferris and the gang end up going to a plethora of expensive places in Chicago. Did he steal it from his parents? Is he using the students of his school that are (oh so) worried about him to fund his shenanigans? In the end, it just goes to show that yes, Ferris, you CAN go too far.

## Alissa: *Ferris Bueller's Day Off*

Jay Rode

The true pinnacle of the now cliché genre of high school movies, *Ferris Bueller's Day Off* (1986) can stand up to any and all, coming out on top every time. The simple yet complex storyline and strong characters, specifically young Bueller himself, turned this movie into an instant classic. It begins on a day like any other, saving for the soon-to-be-graduate Ferris Bueller, taking his two close friends on their last adventure of the school year.

Slipping into five star restaurants, stealing the show at a grand parade, even visiting something as incredibly radical as an art museum, all the while avoiding their crazy principal Rooney in his quest to bust the unbustable, are the types of adventures that characterize this feature film. Ferris begins this fantastic day by convincing his parents that he is too sick to go to school. Just from the first scene of the movie we get an insight into his intelligence, humor, and all around worth as the main character. If that's not enough to keep watching, soon we meet Cameron, Ferris's best friend since elementary school, and the more practical of the two of them. Cameron's worry over his father's reaction to their antics (well, they did steal the man's car) keeps the viewer enraptured. Then there's Sloane, the more grounded love interest, who might be one of the only people who can actually put up with Ferris's crazy split-second decisions. If you're a fan of conflict, dear readers, then you will be happy to know that Ferris's seething older sister and his principal, Mr. Rooney, spend most of the movie trying to catch Ferris in that act, to no avail. Charlie Sheen also has his debut role as a "loser". All of these incredible characters make the movie all the more fun to watch.

Although some may claim Ferris is just a "sociopath," he shows throughout the movie that he is so much more than that. Even in spite of Ferris, the beautiful city of Chicago is just such a perfect place for this film to have been shot, and the viewer gets to see the best parts of the city. If that's not enough to prove that this is the better of the two movies, then I just don't know what possibly could.

**FERRIS'S  
BUELLER'S  
DAY OFF**

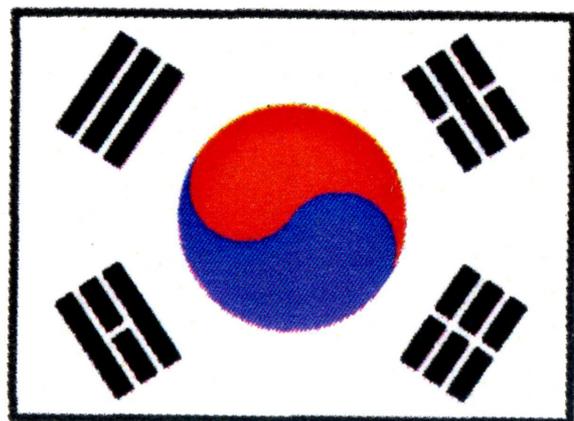


Monday, Sept. 28	Tuesday, Sept. 29	Wednesday, Sept. 30	Thursday, Oct. 1	Friday, Oct. 2
Event: <b>1542-</b> California is discovered by Portuguese navigator Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo upon his arrival at San Diego Bay.	Event: <b>1848-</b> Battle of Pákozd: Hungarian forces defeat Croats at Pákozd; the first battle of the War of Independence.	Event: <b>1659-</b> This fictional character Robinson Crusoe is shipwrecked.	Event: <b>1908-</b> The Model T is introduced for the low, low price of \$850, or over \$21000 today.	Event: <b>1959-</b> "The Twilight Zone", a TV show that mixed horror, intrigue and mystery premiered.
Event: <b>1701-</b> Divorce is legalized in Maryland.	Event: <b>1985-</b> "MacGyver", a TV show about a handsome and daring handyman starring Richard Dean Anderson, debuts on ABC-TV.	Event: <b>1888-</b> "Jack the Ripper" murders two more women, Liz Stride & Kate Eddowes, in Whitechapel, London.	Event: <b>1962-</b> Barbra Streisand signs her 1st ever recording contract with Columbia.	Event: <b>1990-</b> Germany mends the wounds caused by World War II with reunification. German Unity Day is now a national holiday.
Birth: <b>1938-</b> Ben E. King, known for his soul singing, including "Stand By Me".	Birth: <b>1988-</b> Hana Mae Lee, Korean-American movie actress, known for her roles in "Pitch Perfect."	Birth: <b>1928-</b> Elie Wiesel, Holocaust survivor and activist. He is known for nearly six books on the Holocaust and World War II.	Birth: <b>1935-</b> Julie Andrews, movie actress known for her roles in "Mary Poppins" and "The Sound of Music."	Birth: <b>1869-</b> Mahatma Ghandi. Indian passive resistance leader known for his nonviolent revolution against the caste system.
Death: <b>48 BC-</b> Pompey the Great [Gnaeus Pompeius Magnus], Roman general and politician. (b. 106 BC)	Death: <b>1997-</b> Roy Lichtenstein, pop artist, known for pieces such as "Drowning Girl" and "Hopeless", dies of pneumonia. (b. 1923)	Death: <b>2014-</b> Martin Lewis Perl, American physicist & Nobel Laureate, dies from a heart attack. (b. 1927)	Death: <b>1999-</b> Lena Zavaroni, Scottish singer and child star known for songs such as "Swinging on a Star." (b. 1963)	Death: <b>1803-</b> Samuel Adams, US revolutionary and politician, who participated in the Boston Tea Party. (b. 1722)

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## Horoscopes

by Holly Rizer

**Libra (September 23-October 22)**- Don't be afraid to do something that's a bit out of your comfort zone this week. Just don't run with scissors, you should never run with scissors.

**Scorpio (October 23-November 21)**- Don't keep all of your secrets bottled up. Well, not everyone wants to know about your secret love for boy bands, but it can be nice open up to a close, trustworthy friend sometimes.

**Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)**- Stay focused this week despite potential distractions. Oh look a puppy! It's so cute and tiny! You should totally get a puppy... wait... what were we talking about?

**Capricorn (December 22-January 19)**- Stop comparing yourself to others. Your strengths and weaknesses are unique to you just as other's strengths and weaknesses are to them. Who cares if they're a professional chef? You fixed yourself some cereal this morning and that's an accomplishment, right?

**Aquarius (January 20-February 18)**- Let go of those grudges. Forgiving while not forgetting will make you happier and wiser. And let's not forget, the wiser you are the more you're like Dumbledore and who doesn't want to be a bit more like Dumbledore?

**Pisces (February 19-March 20)**- Stop and smell the roses for once. Unless you're allergic to roses, then you should seriously avoid the roses.

**Aries (March 21-April 19)**- Think carefully before you speak today to avoid a potential conflict with a friend. Save that drama for Theater class.

**Taurus (April 20-May 20)**- You will come in contact with a potential new friend this week, so be open to talking with new people. Unless that new person is actually a zombie, then you should probably run away.

**Gemini (May 21-June 20)**- If you see a Taurus talking to a zombie this week, don't forget that you don't have to be a really fast runner to survive- You just have to be faster than that Taurus.

**Cancer (June 21-July 22)**- Complimenting others more often will benefit you in the future. Go ahead, kill them with kindness. Don't actually kill them though because that's not very nice.

**Leo (July 23-August 22)**- Patience will serve you well in upcoming times as you deal with people whom you find unpleasant. Count to 7 million and try not to attack them.

**Virgo (August 23-September 22)**- Be sure not to fall asleep in class or at work this week, as it's very likely that someone will draw on your face.

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			9	5	1		2	4

## Then and Now

Applause's **Erin Molony** takes a look at how tastes have changed over time.

What is/was your favorite cartoon?



Twelfth grade Band major **Sunny Coons** loved watching *Ed, Edd n' Eddy* way back in sixth grade.



Sixth grade Strings major **Evan Thrasher** currently loves *Steven Universe*.

## Paint the town **Red and Gold**

by Nick Scapellato

### September 24-October 24 - MOJA Festival (Charleston)

The MOJA Festival celebrates African American and Caribbean arts from many generations with a modern twist. The Festival features dancing, live music, guest speakers, and runs for ten days. In the past MOJA has featured renowned visual artists such as Jonathan Green and Marion Meadows. In 2013, the Dayton Contemporary Dance Company actually performed their portion of the Festival at our own Rose Maree Myers Theater!

### September 26 and 27- South Carolina State Table Tennis Championships (Hanahan)

Think you have what it takes to be number one in the state? Well try your hand (or paddle) at the 2015 State Championships for Table Tennis! Entry fees are \$10 for boys and \$5 for girls, but the tournament boasts over \$3000 in prize money. Take a page out of Forrest Gump's book and remember: "Never take your eye off the ball."

### October 2-4- Charleston Fall Greek Fest (Charleston)

Get your fill of authentic Greek gyros, tzatziki sauce, live music, and most importantly the sense of family that is instilled whether you're Greek in heritage or not. There is a \$5 admission fee that supports the Greek Orthodox Church downtown, but upon entering you can be sure that your money has not been wasted. The Festival offers an opportunity to experience Greek culture, faith, and family at its fullest. Plus, who doesn't love good baklava?

### October 13 at 6:30pm- The Side By Side Concert with Middle and High School Band (Rose Maree Myers Theater)



Join the School of the Arts Jazz Band and Dr. Cusatis on October 4th at Thanks, Joe!, a farewell celebration for Mayor Joseph Riley. There will be music food trucks from 3:00-7:00pm at Brittlebank Park for free, and performances by Music Battery Drumline, Charlton Singleton and more at Joe Riley Park from 7:00-9:00pm for only five dollars!

# The Trivia Challenge

by Jakob Lazzaro

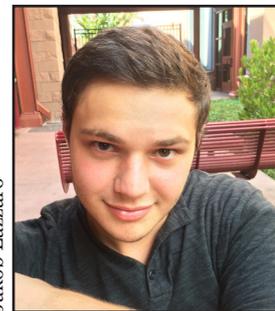
It's September- seniors frantically filing out college applications, juniors heading out for their first visits, sophomores pondering what to major in, and freshmen celebrating that they made it to high school. In the spirit of things, Applause brings you college-related trivia. For the year's first battle for trivia emperor, **Ari Levine** is pitted against **Zois Manaris** in a diploma worthy contest.

## Questions:

1. The University of al-Qarawiyyin is the oldest continuously operating university in the world. What country is it in?
2. What's the oldest university in the US?
3. What US University has the largest stadium, holding over 107,000 people?
4. True or False. A plate of fish caused the only fatal duel between two USC students.
5. True or False. A Smoot is a unit of measurement invented by MIT students as a fraternity prank.
6. Who is the current president of the College of Charleston?
7. Gatorade was invented by and named for what university?
8. What university famous for it's extreme religious and cultural conservatism is located in Greenville, South Carolina?
9. Composed in 1870, "Far Above Cayuga's Waters" is the world's oldest alma mater. What university holds the record?
10. What's the most expensive college in the United States?

### Ari Levine 12th Grade Theater

Jakob Lazzaro



4/10

1. Egypt.
2. Harvard.
3. Ohio State.
4. True.
5. True.
6. I forfeit.
7. Florida Gators.
8. Oglethorpe?
9. University of California
10. George Washington University.

### Zois Manaris 12th Grade Band

Jakob Lazzaro



4/10

1. Saudi Arabia.
2. William and Mary College.
3. University of Michigan.
4. That seems too stupid to make up; true.
5. False.
6. McConnell.
7. University of Florida.
8. North Greenville University.
9. Somewhere in Turkey.
10. NYU.

College trivia was no match for Zois and Ari. They will form a power-sharing scheme, trading the crown and scepter back and forth every day until they return next month.

## Answers

1. Morocco.
2. Harvard University, founded in 1636.
3. The University of Michigan.
4. True.
5. True, one Smoot is approximately 5.58 feet.
6. Glen McConnell.
7. The University of Florida.
8. Bob Jones University.
9. Cornell University.
10. Sarah Lawrence College, costing over 65 thousand dollars a year as of 2014.

Are you interested in competing for the title of Trivia Emperor and eternal glory in The Trivia Challenge? Email [lazjak37@yahoo.com](mailto:lazjak37@yahoo.com) with the subject line "Trivia."



"Excelling in my major."  
Elliott Cihlar, Junior  
Strings



"Meeting new people."  
Sylvia Watkins, 7th  
Grade Visual Arts



"I'm excited to produce  
exquisite works of theatrical  
arts because I'm passionate  
about my major."  
Olivia Levins, Junior  
Theater



"Making great music with  
great students." Mr. Kerr,  
high school band



"Teaching Calculus  
and having two Audio  
Engineering classes."  
Mr. Taylor, high school math

## WHAT ARE YOU MOST LOOKING FORWARD TO THIS SCHOOL YEAR?

BY NICK SCAPALETTO AND NICK HUSS



"The performances and  
all the people."  
Kennedy Cochran, 6th  
Grade Band, and Cecilia  
Ollis, 6th Grade Dance



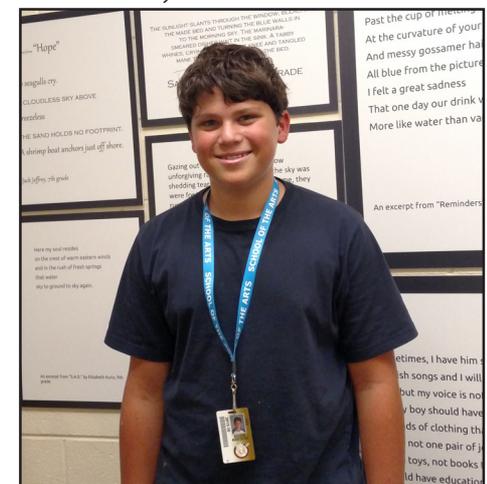
"Meeting a lot of new people."  
Adam Krasnoff, Freshmen  
Creative Writing



"Trapping hard."  
Denver Smith, Junior  
Theater



"Playfest."  
Nick Brandon, Junior  
Theater



"The last day of school."  
River Abedon, 8th Grade  
Creative Writing