

Applause

Volume 19, Number 1

School of the Arts, North Charleston, SC
soa-applause.com

September 2017



Check out SOA's summer highlights (12-13)
Meet the new *Applause* staff (10-11)
Introducing SOA's new faculty members (16-18)
SOA students and faculty share eclipse experiences (6)

DIAMOND

The Abedon Family

RUBY

Alan Brehm
Dr. Shannon Cook

AMETHYST

Dr. John Cusatis
The Brown Family
Logan Murray
The Wohlscheid Family

TOPAZ

Caroline Baker
Ann Marie Fairchild
The Griffin Family
The Bride Family
The Elliott Family
Sarah Fitzgerald
Paige Horschel
Brett Johnsen
Beth Lasley
Brandon Lyons
Heath Orvin
Susan Pace
Meghan Slowey
David Thornburg
Stephan Whaley

GARNET

Christine Bednarczyk
Miley Hallen Design
Danielle DeTiberus
Natasha Fields
Robin Grieg
Rutledge Hammes
Beth Hart
Mary Kassinger
School Nurses
Kevin Short

TURQUOISE

Robert Grant
Antoinette Green
Darcy Jackswhich
Jannie L. Mack
Shannon Mahoney
Joseph Naas
Alyssa Nestman
Nathaniel Robinson Sr.
Molly Scofield
David Southwick
Rachael Stallsmith
Kathryn Sullivan
Cameron Wescott
Cynthia Wescott



PEARL

Colleen Aponte
Brenton Burbage
Grace Courville
Giovanni Cusatis
Anabella Cusatis
Anna Cusatis
Luciano Cusatis
Guido Cusatis
Jordan Douglas
Martin Garcia
Izzy Gustafson
Kiley Hallen
Michael Morelli
Courtney Moschella
Christopher Selby
Bill Smyth
Braedyn Wasserman
Rachel West
Andrew Wise
Peyton Woodall

Letter from the Editor

Dear Readers,

Welcome. As the new editor, I will strive to make *Applause* the best that it can be. The staff and I aim to deliver the highest quality news and features faster and better than ever. To learn more about the staff of *Applause*, turn to pages 9-10. We are proud to be publishing our first issue during the first week of September.

Our September issue will catch you up on changes, events, and exciting plans for this school year. *Applause* is proud to introduce many of SOA's new faculty members, with interviews on pages 16-18. Want to see how registration, the first day, and first month art major activities turned out? Pages 4-8 have it covered. Nostalgic for summer already? Turn to pages 12-13 to check out SOA's summer highlights. From covering Graduation for the first time to CD and book reviews, *Applause* has news and content for everyone.

Our paper is proud to showcase the best of SOA, including student artwork and writing, trivia knowledge, letters to the editor, and of course, covering the stories that *you* want to see. So feel free to contact me or any member of the staff. You can find us on **Twitter** with the handle @applausesoa, on **Facebook** at "SOA Applause", and through **soa-applause.com**.

Thank you to all of our patrons and advertisers for supporting *Applause* in its endeavors, and thank you to you, our readers, for giving our publication a purpose and an audience.

Have a great year, SOA!
Patrick Wohlscheid, Editor-in-Chief



Caleb Smith

Applause

since 1999, the official student

publication of

School of the Arts

Founded in 1995 by Rose Maree Myers

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Zen Asian Fusion

Downtown

Charleston County Main

Library

James Island

James Island Public Library

Table of Contents

News: 3-8

Features: 9-19

Student Work: 20

Reviews: 21

Opinion: 22

Novelties: 23

Question of the

Month: 24

Cover by Halle Garrett

2017-2018 Registration runs smoothly

by Jessica Bride

Every summer, students are filled with joy to be invited back to school before the academic year actually begins for one, exciting day: registration. After six years at SOA, and six previous years of registration, I, along with other high school students including my fellow seniors **Alec Pourmoghadam** and **Mary Grace Hutzler**, decided to volunteer this year to help out the teachers and administrators who usually conduct the event.

What we didn't know when we signed up for Sixth Grade registration was that we would be greeted by a rising sixth grader carrying her rejection letter, still believing that she could attend. Or that we would spend ten minutes explaining to a sixth grader why she really should buy a backpack. Still, the sixth grade staff decided to ease the stress of the parents of our rising middle school students by implementing a new system: Alec and I only gave out one textbook at registration to be kept at home while the other ones would be distributed on the first day of school to go directly into lockers. This way, as the new SOA sixth graders filled their lockers with carpets, wallpaper, and chandeliers, they also avoided lugging their new textbooks from home to school and instead just walked from class to across the hall.

For high school, however, all textbooks were given out. After volunteering, Mary Grace commented, "I've never been more exhausted than I was after running back and forth grabbing textbooks in the high school building without air conditioning." On working registration all week, Alec found that "it set the mood for a great school year" and "was much better than past registrations."

Another great first day at SOA

by Caleb Smith

August 17th was the first day of school for SOA students. This year our new students and returning attendees have high hopes for themselves.

The new freshman class clasp their schedules to their faces, trying to navigate their way through the unknown high school building hallways. The middle schoolers roll their book bags in a building they'll come to love for the next four years, hoping that all of their teachers are kind. And the seniors reunite with friends from past years comparing schedules and counting down the days until graduation. Senior Creative Writer **Kate Grayson** remarked that she "got to school on time for the first time ever."

This year seems to be a promising one so far, and most students are excited for the future. There is a lot in store for you all here at SOA, we hope that it all goes smoothly and you enjoy your time as you embark on a new successful school year.

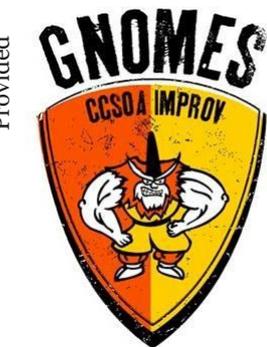
Patrick Wohlscheid



Seniors **Alec Pourmoghadam** and **Jessica Bride** distribute textbooks to sixth graders.

Fighting Gnomes get logo makeover

by Mosiah Williams



The Fighting Gnomes' logo for 17 years.

The School of the Art's Fighting Gnomes are not merely a myth—some campus legend of garden-men crusaders against a tyrannical Pegasus—but a troupe of improvisers who "fight for creative improv theatre and ambassadorship of the Charleston County School of the Arts," according to **Mr. George Younts**, SOA Theater Instructor and Head Gnome. Mr Younts founded the program at the turn of the century as an artistic outreach and extracurricular for Theater majors.

Every year since, the Gnomes travel to schools throughout the low country—sometimes upstate on overnight outreaches—performing short and long form improv, introducing fundamental techniques, building on stage presence and using creative muscles, but most importantly, sharing theatrical experience with students whom they would've never met. This

year's roster includes four rookies, three 2nd-year gnomes, two 3rd-year gnomes, and one fourth year gnome. Although most workshops are off campus, the Gnomes typically perform two to three shows on campus throughout the school year during convocation and for Gnome-Coming, a special event with milk and cookies!

While Mr. Younts is excited for another year of "yes, and-ing" and building the school's relationship with the theatre community, the Gnomes wait patiently for the Pegasus to sleep, so they may assert their place as the school's rightful mascot. And as for the logo, "he old one is 17 years old this year, so I figured it was time for a make-over," said Mr. Younts.



The Fighting Gnomes' new "pumped up" logo for 2017.

Provided

SOA Band camp starts the year off right for Band Majors

by Haley Swittenberg



Students participate in a trombone sectional class during band camp.

what has become known as the “SuperBand” at the camp. In addition, the SOA Jazz geared up for another great year of music making, led by Mr. Kerr, and guest instructor Steve Berry, a member of the Charleston Jazz Orchestra. “Band camp is one of my favorite weeks of the year,” said senior flute player **Rachel West**. “The sectional classes are always helpful in improving my technical skills.”

The highlight of the week was the annual “Flip Flop Concert,” held Thursday evening of the camp. Parents and friends got to hear small groups as well as the SOA Jazz and the SOA “SuperBand” give a remarkable performance after only four days of work. “It was one of the most productive band camps we’ve had since I’ve been here,” Kerr said. “I’m really looking forward to an exciting year of great music making from our student-musicians!”

The SOA High School Band held its annual Band Camp from July 31 to August 4 at SOA. This year, the 97 attendees worked with professional musicians from the Charleston Symphony, Charlotte Symphony, Charleston Jazz Orchestra, and the Charleston Community Band. The students received instruction from these master teachers in small sectional classes. In addition, **Mr. Kerr**, **Mrs. Reed**, and guest conductor Susan DuPuis worked with the entire band major, conducting

Hands on sneaker design experience for Fashion Majors

by Patrick Wohlscheid

Fashion and Costume Design majors had the chance to learn and gain valuable experience from professionals on Friday, August 25, as two professional footwear designers visited SOA from the Netherlands. Roderick Pieters and Eva Vermue talked and worked with the class on designing and making shoes. Speaking on the experience, Fashion and Costume Design teacher **Ms. Baker** remarked that “it was an amazing opportunity for us to have a footwear designer because it’s a very unusual impression,” and that “our students learned how to work with leather and patterns, and it was a great introduction to how to work with our 3D printer.”



Mr. Pieters leads the lesson on footwear design and creation.

Dr. Cook, Dr. Perrineau and Mr. Grant share high hopes for the new year

Applause’s own **Jessica Bride** spoke with **Dr. Cook**, **Dr. Perrineau**, and **Mr. Grant** to discuss their ideas about the upcoming year at SOA.

Jessica Bride: What are you most looking forward to this school year?



Dr. Cook: I look forward to seeing all of the wonderful ways our artists and faculty members work together to create powerful learning experiences, impressive artistic accomplishments and invest into our local and global community. Each year SOA’s students make us proud to be a part of this incredible school; I can’t wait to see what this year brings!



Mr. Grant: I am most hopeful that in this current political climate of divisiveness, SOA will continue to be a beacon of favorable acceptance of many miscellany perspectives on culture, race, ideology & lifestyle. In my opinion, the single most relevant lesson learned on our campus is “acceptance”.



Dr. Perrineau: I am eagerly looking forward to the student successes we’ll celebrate for superior performance academically and in all of our arts major areas.

The Great American Eclipse: SOA edition

by Finian Butcher

On Monday, August 21st, the Great American eclipse crossed the path of the sun in an angle that moved its shadow from Oregon to South Carolina. The eclipse could also partially be seen from other parts of America, but the path of totality went right through Charleston. Unfortunately, a storm in Summerville and North Charleston blocked out the view for many spectators in the Charleston area, but downtown and West Ashley had great views.

As thousands of people flooded the downtown area, many families began to plan the viewing of the eclipse. Representatives from NASA working with communities arranged venues for families to safely view the eclipse. Some families thought it safe to just stay home with family and friends and watch from the yard, while others went out on boats to watch from the water.

Senior **Adam Beall** watched the eclipse from a special party on a beach at IOP. It was a public event that was well attended by locals and visitors alike. Personally, I watched from a small boat in the very crowded Ashley River with my family, almost as if everyone else with a small boat decided to do the same. Unfortunately, some near Summerville and Mt. Pleasant such as Senior **Walker Menkus** and **Mr. Short** didn't get to see the ring, but it was still an exciting experience as the earth went dark. There were some other fun water experiences as well: "I watched it from Folly Beach and it was awesome. It got disturbingly dark, but like a full moon dark," said **Mr. Wells**, seventh grade Social Studies teacher. Meanwhile, **Tyler Pettapice**, a seventh grade student, "went to the pool and looked at the eclipse and had lots of fun." This eclipse was a magnificent event, but if anyone missed it, there will be another on April 8th, 2024, when the next eclipse will move from Mexico to Canada across the Midwestern United States.



Provided (McCormick Emge)

Senior Piano major **McCormick Emge** combined photos from the eclipse to create a time-lapse composite image of the eclipse progression

SOA says farewell to the Class of 2017

by Courtney Wickstrom

Mary Grace Hutzler



The culmination of four years' hard work for the Class of 2017.

As the Class of 2017 moves into college dorms and begins their 101 classes, SOA remembers the events of graduation on May 31, 2017.

Presentations kicked off with the Dance majors in a group composition entitled "There Will Be Time,"

showing through intricate movement the mixed emotions graduation held for many seniors. Theater majors got a laugh in "Elements," a piece that characterized the seniors' last performance together onstage in a superhero-esque plot. Creative Writers shared both the struggle and distinct accomplishment of publishing a book during their last year at SOA in "What Do You Even Do in Creative Writing?" A video highlighting the theses of Costume and Fashion Design majors revealed the next steps each student plans to take in pursuing their art. Strings majors played "Keep Your Head Up" by Andy Grammar in an energizing performance that shined a bit of optimism on the soon-to-be college freshmen. Visual Arts reeled a montage of memorable happenings and works of art from the year, as "Carry On" by Fun marched on in the background. Paying homage to the Blues Brothers, Band majors had the audience on their feet and clapping along to "Don't Have the Blues, Brother." Piano and Vocal majors rocked the house just as much as the final two performances, playing "Movin' Out" by Billy Joel and "Bridge over Troubled Water" by Paul Simon, respectively.

Amidst these stunning works by SOA seniors were speakers including Student Council Vice-President **Peyton Corder**, Student Council President **Kellen Gatton**, salutatorian **Cathie DiNicola**, and valedictorian **Evan Oates**. All gave touching speeches in honor of their time at School of the Arts, remembering some of their favorite moments over the years and offering guidance in the times ahead of them. Cathie DiNicola gave seniors this advice in her speech: "Remember, there are many paths to success, so if Plan A doesn't work, you have 25 more letters in the alphabet and infinite numbers to go through before you give up."

Eden Teichman was the recipient of the Rivers' Award, an award honoring one senior with outstanding work in academics, their art area, and community service involvement. Overall, the night awarded seniors for all their efforts over the past years, both through South Carolina diplomas and SOA credentials to those who earned them. Congratulations, Class of 2017! Best of luck in college.

SOA goes abroad: Summer trips to Europe

by Carson Peaden



Ms. Crawford's travel company poses for a picture in Greece.

In June, Ms. Greig and several students took a trip to the U.K. and France. Over the course of several days they visited many landmarks such as the Tower of London, Bath, the Eiffel Tower, the Louvre, and Stonehenge, a personal favorite among many. The difference in cultures between Europe and the United States especially struck Mrs. Greig who noted that they focused on conservation of resources as seen through their hotel features and meal servings. She concluded that "we as Americans seem more wasteful." For any students interested in future trips, Ms. Greig is also planning a trip to Australia, New Zealand, and Fiji in June 2019.

Over the summer, two groups of students from School of the Arts enjoyed traveling to various destinations throughout Europe. **Ms. Crawford**, who teaches high school Spanish, organized a trip to Greece, Italy, and Spain, while science teacher **Ms. Greig** organized a trip to the U.K and France.

Ms. Crawford's trip consisted of nineteen students from SOA. Ms. Crawford's twin sister, who is also a Spanish teacher, accompanied them along with several of her own students. Their first stop was Athens, Greece, where they saw the Acropolis, the Pantheon, and other historic sites. Then they took a day trip to several Greek Islands where they swam in the clear waters and hiked to the top of a hill that overlooked the city. From there, they took a ferry to Florence, Italy and saw the Duomo Cathedral. Their last stop was Barcelona where they visited the Picasso Museum, the Sagrada Familia Cathedral, and watched a Flamenco performance, which is a Spanish art-form that combines singing, dancing, and music. Amelia Cobb, a current senior, found the Greek Islands to be her favorite place. Although the trip consisted of several guided tours, she said, there were still plenty of opportunities to walk around freely and explore the cities on their own.



SOA Upperclassmen at the Royal Crescent in Bath, England.



Applause awards RMM Scholarship to Jasmine Lockwood

by Haley Swittenberg

A few weeks before heading off for her first semester at Shenandoah University to study at the world-renowned Shenandoah Conservatory, Class of 2017 band major **Jasmine Lockwood** learned that she is the latest recipient of the Rose Maree Myers Scholarship for Artistic Achievement. Jasmine is the eighth SOA graduate to receive the scholarship, which was founded in 2010 to honor SOA's founder in conjunction with the naming of the school's theater. *Applause* awards the \$1000 scholarship to a senior "whose extraordinary achievements at the School of the Arts testify to the value of an arts-integrated education." Candidates for the honor are recommended to *Applause* by the arts faculty. Last year's winner was Zachery

Gilbert, who has enjoyed an extraordinary freshman year at Berklee College of Music in Boston. According to SOA Band Director, Mr. Basil Kerr, Jasmine's unwavering ambition and fortitude allowed her to "rise to a position of leadership in her major, and became a much admired young woman by everyone at the school." After learning she had won the award via a video conference call from the *Applause* staff in early August, Jasmine commented with characteristic modesty, "It feels good to know that I have left a legacy."

SOA's Internship Program starting strong

by Malachi Jones

The new school year is in and it yields great opportunity for SOA students looking to expand their interest. Whether it's a future career aspiration or simple curiosity, students should take note of the Internship Program being led by **Mr. Smyth**. Happening right now, SOA students are heading out to job sites to mirror and learn the ways of various workplaces. Interning in areas of education, medical research, costume design, computer design, and more—over 20+ areas/fields of work are currently available to intern.

Less than a month since SOA doors opened up, 18 fall and 3 spring internships have already been secured and are taking place. *Applause* caught up with some of these young interns to hear what they have to say. “The people are eager to answer questions when you have one and they are doing so that you understand,” says **Rachel West** about her time currently at the Roper St. Francis SCRUBS Program. Through the program, young artist benefit just as much as those pursuing technical fields; using their internship to open an avenue for further growth. **Elliot Weeks**, working alongside the Charleston Symphony Orchestra this upcoming Spring, summed it up perfectly saying, “Since I'm planning on majoring in Music Performance in college, I really wanted get a good taste of a real orchestral environment. I thought it would be neat to work with a program that I've grown up watching ever since I was in first grade.” It all circles back to education for **Zoe Counts**, interning at Orange Grove Middle School, praising the opportunity for emphasizing that “a lot of teachers' responsibilities start outside of the classroom and I am hoping to learn all about that commitment.” Clearly, students are really up for task.

Joey Busher, SOA Alum and now a third year bioengineering major at Clemson, told me, “This week I met with a doctor in the bioengineering department to discuss research at Clemson. Due to my research experience at MUSC, he helped me find a project to work on doing research on cardiovascular microtissues. I just wanted to thank you (Mr. Smyth) again for all your help last year and this summer with my internship and let you know how much it has helped me. I doubt I would have this opportunity now without your help.”

With those words in mind, I, along with many other students, am ready to jump into the workplace to secure invaluable guidance like Joey did. The fall semester will see SOA all over Charleston. However, it's not too late to secure an internship for next semester. In fact, “It's gaining momentum!” says Mr. Smyth. If any student is interested in the areas listed below, or even have an idea for an internship not listed, contact Mr. Smyth and he could have you out the door and into the workplace in January through May. Get out there SOA, and good luck interns!

First Day at SOA



Provided

“May 31st, where you at?”, asked senior **Courtney Morrow** (left), pictured with Senior **Megan Vallario**.



Provided

Seniors **Sasha Audier-Johnson** (right) and **Halle Garrett** (left) coincidentally match clothes on the first day. **Jessica Bride** (center), pictured with the two, remarks that “it hasn't even hit us yet that we are seniors .”



Provided

Senior **Ayanna Gadsen** (right), pictured with senior **Damon Lockwood**, remarked on her time at SOA, saying that “Ever since I've been here, I've set a trend. Now follow in my footsteps.”

Meet Your New Applause Staff



Caleb Smith

Cora Schipa

Senior Creative Writer

I am: not paying attention
Favorite flower: Baby's Breath
Loves: dim lighting



Caleb Smith

Alec Pourmoghadam

Senior Vocalist

Senior Year Anthem: "No Scrubs"
Chick-fil-A Order: #1 without pickles
Knows: CPR and French



Caleb Smith

Caleb Smith

Senior Theater Major

Plays: rugby
Favorite Show: Captain Planet
Dream College: Parsons School Of Design



Caleb Smith

Finian Butcher

Senior Strings Major

I like: working
I have: an artillery shell collection
I like to: have fun



Caleb Smith

Taylor Kahn-Perry

Senior Creative Writer

Come talk to me about: education policy
Special talent: thriving on three hours of sleep
I am: crying and laughing at the same time



Caleb Smith

Carson Peaden

Senior Creative Writer

Favorite store: Costco
Loves: hiking
Laugh: can be heard from miles away



Caleb Smith

Courtney Wickstrom

Senior Creative Writer

Stress level: 7/10
Favorite Dr. Pepper knockoff: Mr. Pig
Favorite book: *Slaughterhouse Five*



Caleb Smith

Graham Martini

Senior Visual Artist

I rep: Bad Girls
I eat: only when my food doesn't touch
A thought: *The Matrix* is only good for the first hour



Caleb Smith

Haley Swittenberg

Senior Band Major

Favorite band: Tame Impala
Favorite movie: *Moonrise Kingdom*
Favorite class: Symphony



Caleb Smith

Maggie Robinson

Senior Creative Writer

Biggest inspiration: David Bowie
Has: a dog named Honey Bee
Super power: super strength and controlling lightning



Caleb Smith

Jessica De La Cruz

Senior Visual Artist

Absolutely hates: snoring
Loves: trying new food
Ready for: sleep



Caleb Smith

Jayla Saunders

Sophomore Dance Major

Favorite Store: Forever 21
Dream college: Howard University
In my spare time I: dance and play sports



Caleb Smith

Mosiah Williams
Senior Creative Writer
I am: a dreamer
Favorite Author:
 James Baldwin
Pet-peeve: ignorance



Caleb Smith

Mary Grace Hutzler
Senior Dance Major
Current car jam: Moana
 soundtrack
Spends free time:
 reading facebook fights
Favorite dance:
 the wobble



Caleb Smith

Jessica Bride
Senior Creative Writer
Favorite color: indigo
Favorite cheese: cheddar
Younger than: like every
 other senior



Caleb Smith

Haleigh Markham
Junior Visual Artist
Favorite band: The Gorillaz
Favorite movie: *Pulp Fiction*
Favorite author: Stephen King



Caleb Smith

Jada Orr
*Fashion and Costume Design
 Major*
Instagram: @jadacecile
Currently Reading: Baldwin,
 Marcus Garvey, DuBois, and
 more Baldwin.
**Favorite song at the
 moment:** "Sky Walker" by
 Miguel ft. Travis Scott



Caleb Smith

Bailey Abedon
Senior Creative Writer
Favorite icon: Shonda
 Rhimes
Favorite Dog Breed:
 Afghan Hound
Favorite food: eggs of all
 kinds



Caleb Smith

Malachi Jones
Senior Creative Writer
Can: dance for food
Not: photogenic
**Doesn't know how
 to:** jump a car battery



Caleb Smith

Patrick Wohlscheid
Senior Creative Writer
Favorite author: James Joyce
(Not so) endearing quality:
 stubbornness
You can find me: staring intently
 into the void of a computer screen



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Where Were They Then

Applause's **Jessica Bride** sat down with AP World History and AP Psychology teacher **Kimberly Zerbst** to discover her life before SOA.



Kimberly Zerbst visits Roman ruins near the Colosseum as a Junior in high school.

Jessica Bride: What is the first thing you can remember from your childhood?

Kimberly Zerbst: I was three and my grandfather taught me how to make a whistle out of an empty rifle cartridge. I lived in upstate New York and he took me on a walk and we found an empty cartridge and he taught me

how to do it—it was yellow. It was awesome. I can still do it.

JB: What made you want to teach?

KZ: I grew up incredibly poor. The most successful people in my life were my teachers and I wanted to be a success. I was never exposed to stockbrokers.

JB: Why History?

KZ: I've always been really interested in history, and when I was in eleventh grade I was the first person to get a 100 on the Regents Exam for U.S. History. I was the first perfect score, and it was addictive. I became addicted to the success I felt in history. It's just something I'm good at.

JB: What made you want to teach Psychology?

KZ: So the question I always ask myself is 'Why?' I like to understand the reason that things happen, so psychology was really fascinating to me because it helped to put an answer to that question. It doesn't quite get it done, but it helps.

JB: If you had a High School version of yourself in one of your classes, what would you think of her?

KZ: I think Abby Edwards is wonderful.

JB: What are some fun facts about you?

KZ: I've been a student at thirteen universities. By the fifth grade, I had read every book in my elementary school library. To the best of my knowledge, I'm the only person that's been that nerdy. I started taking college classes at Cornell in seventh grade. I had read all of Tolstoy's work by the end of fifth grade so they had to find a way to challenge me. I love documentaries, the more monotone the better. I have six kids. I was a professional potter for twenty years, that might be interesting.

JB: How did you end up with us at SOA?

KZ: I had taken an 18 month hiatus from teaching because I was so disillusioned with the entire profession. Really, I thought I had made a huge mistake. And I missed it so badly that when I got the word that Mrs. Graves needed a sub, I just dropped everything and basically begged Dr. Cook to let me do it. Once I got here to SOA, I finally found a place where I felt like I belonged. This really does just feel like home. So now they're just going to have to take my cold, dead body—I'm not leaving.



Ms. Zerbst lounges on the majestic pegasus, the mascot of School of the Arts.



AUTOMOTIVE

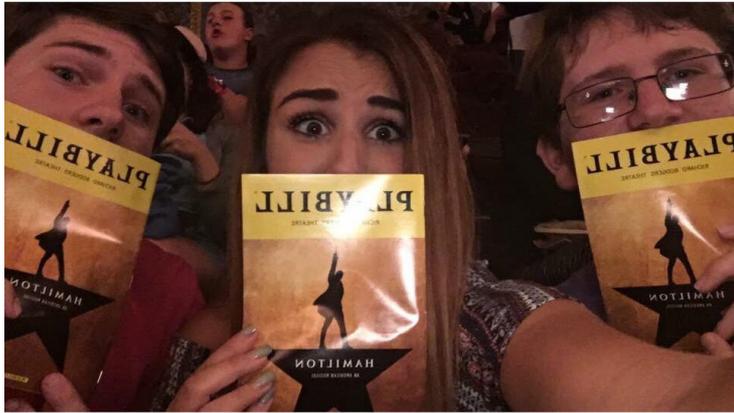
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Applause Asks, “What Did You Do Over the Summer?”



“I was able to get to see the Tony-award winning show *Hamilton* with my brother and cousin. I’m so grateful I got the privilege to see a show most people could only dream of seeing.”

-Joe Brennan, 12th grade Theater



“I went to City Meet with my swim team!”

-Sophia Leonardi, 8th grade

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7



“I spent a couple of days in Ireland and Scotland and toured some incredibly beautiful colleges.”

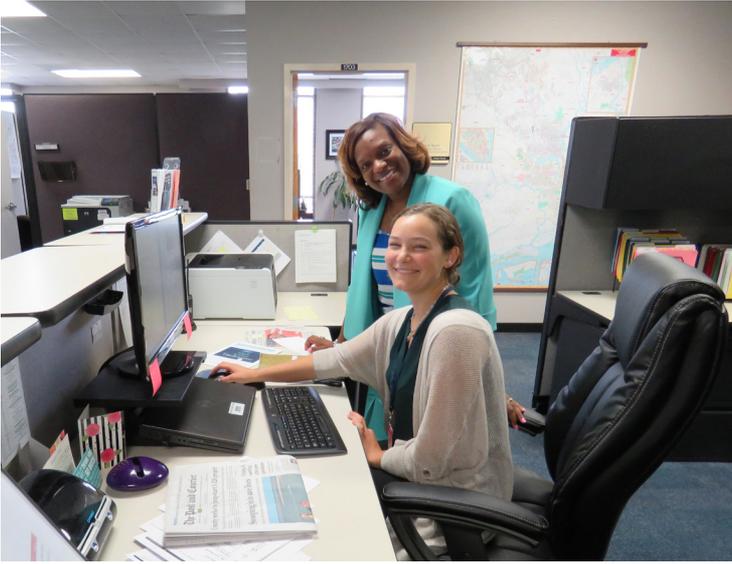
-Zoë DeLuca-Parker, 12th grade Piano



Senior Band Major Sophia Karesh and Senior Vocalist Amelia Cobb traveled Greece, Italy, and Spain on a school trip.



Senior Theater major Emma Grieg traveled across the country to Colorado, Arizona, and Nevada.



Creative Writing Senior **Taylor Kahn-Perry** interned in CCSD's Office of Strategy and Communications this summer and received class credit and compensation through the district's Work Based Learning program.



Senior Creative Writer **Elizabeth Kurtz** filming her final project at the NYU Tisch Summer High School Filmmaker's Workshop with Grant, a fellow student from California.



Eighth grader **Marin Sinclair** at the gazebo featured in *The Sound of Music* near Salzburg, Austria.



Junior Strings major **Katie Canfield** enjoys a sunny afternoon in Othón P. Blanco, Mexico.

Auditions
High School Musical
 Tuesday, September 12th, 3:30- 6:00.

Where Are They Now

Applause's **Haley Swittenberg** sat down with fashion design alumna, **Julia Dotson**, to see what she's been up to since graduating last May.



Haley Swittenberg: You graduated from SOA with the first fashion design class. Where are you attending college this fall?

Julia Dotson: Central Saint Martins in London for the Foundation Degree in Fashion and Textile Design.

HS: Are you excited to live in another country?

JD: I'm absolutely ecstatic! London has always been a

source of incredible culture and creative influences.

HS: Who or what is your biggest inspiration?

JD: The main people I can think of immediately are artists who create entire worlds from their art and those who are known for one medium, but do not have to be generalized under one specific title because they do so many different things. Björk, Louise Bourgeois, Hari Nef, Rebecca Horn, Mykki Blanco, Dilara Findikoglu, Vera Chytilova, Sasha Velour, and drag queens in general are just a few.

HS: What are some themes for your fashion design and visual artwork?

JD: I would have to say that my theme always revolves around identity politics, whether it be the gender spectrum, an exploration into my own identity, or an examination of how identity can be interpreted.

HS: What's your biggest goal for the future?

JD: I really want to master the art life, where it's just creating and viewing as much work as possible without much distraction. My dream would be to create a really great network of people to collaborate with and who can make a vision come true in one great outlet. I've always wanted to create this one really huge space where it is like an art gallery and performance space on one level and then on other levels, there would be several different studios for fine art, fashion, photography and film, etc. It would be a space where I could both make and showcase my art, and do so with other people.

HS: Do you have any advice for anyone wanting to get into fashion or design?

JD: The ability to design and intrinsic creativity are more important than skill level, so don't let your inability to make something stop you from trying. There's no such thing as being overly passionate about your work, so keep creating as much work as possible and don't let others impassive attitudes wear down your sense of enthusiasm.

Students explore art outside of their major

by Maggie Robinson

Provided



Here at SOA, every student has a major that he or she dedicates at least 90 minutes to each day. But some students are also committed to other arts outside of their major, and I'm here to track those kids down. They are too talented, and I want to know why.

Maggie Tennant, a senior, has attended School of the Arts since

her freshman year. She has played french horn for eight years, and is a band major. This year, she began to double major in both band and fashion design. Before majoring in fashion, however, Maggie was already invested in fashion and took the elective when it was offered two years ago.

When I asked Maggie how her interest in fashion began, she immediately referenced her grandmother who sewed. However, although Maggie loved sewing for years, her obsession only started after she watched Project Runway as a freshman. Two years ago, during her sophomore year, she joined the fashion elective with Mrs. Baker when it was offered. Through the class, she was able to dive deeper into the fashion world; Maggie even participated in the spring fashion show.

Describing the show, Maggie said, "Oh, that was stressful. But once I was done, I was really happy with everything I did, and people seemed to enjoy it." Maggie hopes to be accepted into the University of North Carolina's School of the Arts and major in design and production. She wants to study costume design. In fact, most of her inspiration derived from "Game of Thrones" costume designer, Michelle Carragher, and "The Hobbit's" costume designer, Ann Maskrey. (Although when I first asked who her inspiration was, she replied, "Me. I am my own inspiration. I don't have an inspiration because I don't know people's names." Same, here, Maggie.)

Maggie creates most of her own clothing. She finds old clothes at thrift and consignment stores to completely recreate them. Old-fashioned dresses have turned into funky two-pieces. Her favorite piece was a pair of beige cycling pants that she wears (although not often). Maggie has a different style from most, using bright colors and styles that some consider outdated, but nothing is out of style for her. At any given time, she's probably rocking some crazy shoes and a patterned blazer. That's just the charm of Maggie's art.

Club of the month: Female Empowerment Club

by Courtney Wickstrom

New to SOA this year is the Female Empowerment Club, sponsored by **Ms. Alea McKinley**. Starting in October, this girls' club will meet on Wednesdays from 3:45 to 5:30 to meditate, have a period of quiet contemplation, and discuss common stressors for young women. "SOA female students will learn techniques for self-understanding and boost feelings of self-worth, and they will deepen connections with others in the world around us," states Ms. McKinley. The FEC will also take on service projects to empower women outside of the club, in both the Charleston community and in Africa.

Jen Snyder, local leader of workshops and group sessions about practicing self-care, will help with the club this year as well. Snyder is known for her "sound baths," a therapeutic immersion of sounds that can include the didgeridoo, harmonium, heartbeat drum, and Tibetan singing bowls. If club members can raise the funds, Snyder will "extend two school-wide invitations for seasonal sound bath meditations for any SOA students interested."

As for the overall goal of the Female Empowerment Club, McKinley intends to do just that: empower young women here at SOA who may be feeling overwhelmed in life or struggling to find their place in the world. She goes on to say, "I want these female students to be empowered to be their best selves and to become more secure, confident, and happy individuals."

Alec's Oval Office

by Alec Pourmoghadam

Provided



Student Council representatives are elected for every class each year.

much more. This year will be a great year, but we need your help to make it great. So, make sure to always look around and listen to info for upcoming Student Council events. If you have any questions, concerns, or ideas, feel free to contact me or anyone on Student Council. So get out there, show some school spirit, join a club, and ace that class! I hope your school year is a great one and remember, Go Pegas!

Welcome back for another great year! Allow me to introduce myself. Hi! I am Alec Pourmoghadam! I am SOA's 2017-2018 Student Body President. This year Student Council is back and greater than ever! We are ready for some fun projects such as Spirit Week, Fall Food Festival, Winter Formal, and

Catching up with a former *Applause* editor

by Patrick Wohlscheid



This summer, I caught up with 2015-2016 *Applause* Editor-in-Chief Jakob Lazarro. Jakob is now a rising sophomore at the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University. As a freshman Journalism major, Jakob quickly became involved with *North by Northwestern*, a campus online news magazine. Serving as the Audio Section Editor, Jakob edits podcasts and manages the audio section reporters for NBN. He expanded the audio section throughout the year, adding several more shows in addition to the previous one program. Over the summer, Jakob is working as an Editorial Assistant for the *Charleston City Paper*, covering cultural events and the vibrant arts scene in Charleston.

Throughout the 2017-2018 school year, Jakob is tackling even more ambitious plans as a sophomore. This fall, Jakob is a designer for NBN magazine, helping to design and layout stories for the magazine. He will also be launching his own podcast, titled "Can't Let Go." In Jakob's words, "Can't Let Go" "focuses on news and stories from people's personal lives that they can't let go of during the week." During winter quarter at Northwestern, Jakob will be a part of "Medill on the Hill," reporting and learning about political journalism in Washington, D.C.

When asked about the impact that his time with *Applause* had on him, Jakob commented that "although there's a lot more we could have done, *Applause* helped me

to discover a career in Journalism and provided a springboard to other things." In a university surrounded by other former high school editors, Jakob is glad to have the design experience that *Applause* afforded him, as well as the insight into the production of a large full-color paper. Best luck to Jakob at Northwestern and all of his future journalistic pursuits.

Provided

Meet SOA's new teachers

by Taylor Kahn-Perry

Ms. Karen Duff



Born in Georgia, but raised in the midwest, Ms. Karen Duff has always had a link to Charleston through her grandmother. Once her parents and sister moved to Charleston as well, Ms. Duff found herself making the trip down South, ultimately landing at SOA.

"I thought SOA sounded amazing and was excited there was an opening to teach here," remarked Ms. Duff, who earned her Bachelor's and Master's Degree in Mathematics Education at Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah.

Before coming to SOA, Ms. Duff taught middle and high school math at Walden School of Liberal Arts in Utah. She also has experience with undergraduate students, teaching math courses at Utah Valley University and Brigham Young University, as well as serving as a lecturer for Statistics classes at Texas A&M University.

Ms. Duff sees mathematics and the arts as closely related disciplines, pointing out that "Math and Stats are used in every fine arts major here... arts students can be very strong math students because of all the connections!"

Along with teaching, Ms. Duff enjoys running, yoga, cooking, reading, researching family history, making pottery, and crocheting. "Mostly I spend time with my kids and family when I'm not working though," said Ms. Duff. "We play lots of games and eat delicious food."

SOA students enrolled in Algebra 2 or all levels of Probability & Statistics this year have the wonderful opportunity to meet Ms. Duff. Thinking of the year ahead, Ms. Duff told Applause, "I hope my students learn to enjoy math and to relate it to their passions. They will hopefully see math and statistics as things they use every day of their lives and be confident in using the skills developed in this class."

Ms. Natasha Fields



A Charleston native, **Ms. Natasha Fields** graduated from The Citadel University's Counselor Education program before working as a School Counselor at Ft. Dorchester High School for 11 years. She is "excited for the

new year and new endeavors" at SOA.

Growing up, Ms. Fields loved school. "When I was in third grade and had chicken pox I cried, because I didn't want to miss school!" she remarked. While math was her favorite subject early on, she was introduced to the field of psychology during her time at Academic Magnet High School, where she was also involved in ROTC, earning a Cadet Major rank.

School settings have always been familiar to Ms. Fields. "My mom was a teacher's assistant for special education in CCSD," she told *Applause*, "so I'd been around her in her classrooms and around students all through my life." At age 14, Ms. Fields worked her first job as an Assistant Camp Counselor for the Charleston Parks and Recreation Department, where she "learned how to relate and work with little kids."

"There are so many different things that go on in students' lives," remarked Ms. Fields. "I hope my students see that I'm genuinely caring... I genuinely want to help as many students as I can to get to where they want to be, or if they don't know where they want to be, at least show them where the resources are to help them make the best decisions possible."

Ms. Fields is looking forward to being immersed in an artistic environment here at SOA and learning more about all that SOA students have to offer. "It will be exciting to see what everyone has to share and to share what I have with you all too," she confided.

Editor's Note: See the October issue of *Applause* for part two of the new faculty features.

Ms. Mary Kassinger

Ms. Mary Kassinger is one of SOA's three new Guidance Counselors this year. For college, Ms. Kassinger attended Clemson University's Business School before returning to school to "fulfill a dream of working with students," earning a graduate degree in School Counseling from The Citadel. Before coming to SOA, Ms. Kassinger worked at Academic Magnet High School and Ashley Ridge High School.



"In my former role, I was able to convince students to stay in school (who were ready to quit and forego their high school education)," confided Ms. Kassinger. Looking back on her time as a student, Ms. Kassinger noted "the great privilege of having excellent teachers, principals, and mentors who consistently encouraged me and convinced me that I was capable!"

From a young age, Ms. Kassinger learned responsibility from working, just as many SOA students do. Her first job in the paint department at Sears at age fifteen "taught [her] a lot about multitasking, working with the public, respecting authority, and cultivating a work ethic."

As a complement to her career in education, Ms. Kassinger told *Applause*, "I love being a lifelong learner. My long-term goal is to complete my doctoral degree (which I pursue in my "free" time)."

Mr. Skylar Eadler



Mr. Skylar Eadler has taken a full time position at SOA this year as

the Student Concern Specialist. Originally from Indiana, Mr. Eadler moved to Charleston last summer upon getting married. While in Indiana, Mr. Eadler earned degrees in Health and Physical Education from Ball State University and taught P.E. for three years.

As a student himself, Mr. Eadler "liked being around [his] friends and being busy with extracurricular activities". Like many SOA students, Mr. Eadler found time to balance a myriad of activities, including drumline, baseball, tennis, and student government.

SOA students will find Mr. Eadler all around campus, perhaps making rounds to check that students are wearing their ID's. He is looking forward to interacting with students in a new way this year. "I like being in a school setting so I can help be a 'light' in someone's day," remarked Mr. Eadler. "A simple, 'Hi, what's up?' can really help someone turn a bad day to a positive one."

Ms. Alyssa Nestman



From Idaho Falls, Idaho, Ms. Alyssa Nestman moved to Charleston when her husband was hired as a weatherman. She is teaching eighth grade English. "I was attracted to SOA because I love the arts, having been involved in theatre and music throughout my life," said Ms. Nestman. Before coming to SOA, Ms. Nestman taught eighth grade ELA at Rocky Mountain Middle School in Idaho Falls. She hopes her students learn that "everyone is worth of belonging."

Ms. Nestman earned her Bachelor's Degree in Theatre and Speech Education from Brigham Young University- Idaho, where she minored in English Education. An artist herself, Ms. Nestman "learned to love teaching after directing several plays and musicals."

Looking back on her time as a student, Ms. Nestman realized that "the only real failure is giving up." For her first job, she worked as a behavioral therapist for children and adults with disabilities, where she "learned how to focus on one's abilities rather than one's disabilities."

These skills later translated into her work in the classroom. Discussing her first year teaching, Ms. Nestman told *Applause*, "I started allowing all of my students to free-write in their journals and encouraged them to highlight anything they wanted me to read; otherwise, it would be kept private." Through this exercise, Ms. Nestman was able to form a deep bond with a student whom at first seemed disengaged.

"We ended up writing back and forth throughout the year, and she began to see that I saw her for who she really was. As soon as she knew that, she began to work ten times harder than ever before, going from never turning in her work to helping others around her get their work in. I learned that trust is everything."

When she's not forging connections with her students, Ms. Nestman focuses on writing, reading, singing, and enjoying "all of the Marvel, Disney, *Lord of the Rings*, *Firefly*, *Star Wars*, and *Star Trek* movies and books." Excitedly, Ms. Nestman remarked, "If I can imagine what heaven looks like, it looks a lot like Disneyland but without all of the lines!"

Ms. Amber Honeycutt



Ms. Amber Honeycutt is teaching English 3 CP and Honors and English 4 Honors at SOA this year. “I come from a long line of educators... I’ve never wanted to do any other job!” remarked Ms. Honeycutt, when asked how she became involved in teaching.

As a child, Ms. Honeycutt learned about the value of education from her parents, who “instilled in [her] a love for learning and an appreciation of the opportunities education provides.” She also gained a hands-on education from an early age, working at her grandparent’s antique store from the age of 10. Originally from Elizabethton, Tennessee, Ms. Honeycutt earned a Bachelor’s Degree in English from Carson-Newman University and a Master’s Degree in Educational Leadership from East Tennessee State University. She taught English at Elizabethton High School for twenty years and, after moving to Folly Beach in June 2016, taught in Berkeley County prior to coming to SOA.

Her learning did not end with school, though. “Every student I’ve taught teaches me many things,” Ms. Honeycutt told *Applause*.

Like many SOA students, Ms. Honeycutt enjoys music shows and festivals. She also “[loves] collecting vinyl records of [her] favorite bands,” which include the Chris Robinson Brotherhood and the Allman Brothers Band. When she’s not at school, Ms. Honeycutt can usually be found in the ocean, admitting that “the beach is a great place to grade essays!”

Ms. Honeycutt feels humbled to have the opportunity to teach at SOA this year. In terms of classroom goals, Ms. Honeycutt’s priorities are clear: “I want [my students] to leave my classroom each day uplifted and having learned something about themselves and the world around them.”

Mr. Stephan Whaley



Mr. Stephan Whaley is excited to begin his tenth year in education as SOA’s newest 8th grade Social Studies teacher. A musician and spoken word poet himself, Mr. Whaley is looking forward to seeing “how all the students interact with each other and how artists can learn in an environment that puts their talents and their gifts first.” Before coming to SOA, Mr. Whaley taught at Burke Middle School and Northwoods Middle School. He also spent four months in Kuwait in late 2014, teaching 6th, 7th, and 8th grade Social Studies as well as helping write curriculum. He attended University of South Carolina as a Teaching Fellow and is certified to teach both English and Social Studies.

A longtime Charleston resident, Mr. Whaley “really developed a love for the arts and music” while attending Ashley River Creative Arts elementary. Mr. Whaley auditioned for Creative Writing and Piano at SOA

for its first year in existence. By the time he was accepted, he was already pursuing his artistic interests at Drayton Hall, where he became drumline captain and band captain. Reflecting on his time as a student, Mr. Whaley told *Applause*, “I was a nerd. I loved school. I loved doing well at it. I learned at an early age that school was my job.”

Mr. Whaley hopes to encourage his Social Studies students “to come up with [their] own understanding, to challenge the ideas and the stories that [they’ve] been told, and to really think about what implications for the future there are”.

He believes it is crucial for students to “have a level of objectivity and appreciate the nuances in society because history has shaped society.” He goes further to point out that, as artists, it is important to understand the gray areas within history and work towards “living in the hue”. Through teaching, Mr. Whaley has learned that “you can never ignore any cries for help.” At the end of the day, Mr. Whaley believes deeply in his work as an educator and artist: “I definitely feel good about being able to help kids.”

Remembering Mr. P

by Bailey Abedon

Mr. Garrett-Vincent Pezzeca, a beloved teacher at SOA since 1999, passed away in early August. Students remember Mr. Pezzeca's love for biology and how he brought an exciting and unique teaching style to the classroom. **Carson Peaden**, a former student of Mr. Pezzeca's, remembers how "Mr. Pezzeca always found a way to make Marine Science interesting, regardless of what we were studying that day."

Before joining SOA, Mr. Pezzeca taught at Middleton High School and taught private schools in New Jersey. He had a wide-ranging educational background, earning a BS in French literature at the University of Montreal, a BS in entomology at Rutgers and MEd in biology at The Citadel. He broadened his studies in biology more with his extensive travels to New Brunswick, Paris, and Bermuda, and lived in South Africa. He was well-versed in many languages. Aside from English, he spoke Spanish, Italian, Afrikaans, and French, which he taught for seven years at SOA.

SOA Biology teacher **Mr. Short** remembered his colleague and friend. "Mr. Pezzeca is like the mollusks that he so loved. The soft tissues may be gone, but the hard shell is forever fossilized in the hearts of his co workers and the lives of his students." Mr. P's love for science did not stop in the classroom. He enjoyed snorkeling and scuba diving to explore the marine life he taught about and also enjoyed studying terrestrial life through his gardening. Mr. Pezzeca was an avid shell collector and enjoyed photographing nature. He loved the beach, literature, watersports, and perhaps most of all, his beloved rabbits, which he would occasionally bring into class to the delight of his students.

His students and friends will miss the undeniable spirit and energy Mr. P. brought to school. On his Facebook page, Mr. Pezzeca left us with this: "In my next life I am destined to return as a hare." Mr. Pezzeca, now surely a hare, will be fondly remembered.

Students explore the wide world of shells

By Deborah Crocker

Mollusca is a two to three week course in **Mr. Pezzeca's** environmental science class focusing primarily on different families of snails and their beautiful shells. The course is taught with various textbooks, internet resources, and other materials. Of course, there's always a lecture, but the class is kept interested with creative projects and live specimens. "Students become familiar with the wide diversity of tropical and subtropical species that come to settle on our shores from the Gulf Stream," Mr. Pezzeca explains. "Students become experts at identifying the various (and sometimes elusive) shells of the Carolina coast and seem to enjoy it... Many deer hunters have now become "hunters of the slug!"



Mr. Pezzeca and seniors Jessie Sanders, Maddi Phillips, and Maddie Moore display the Queen Helmet.

From the Applause Archive, April 2010

Mr. P, a real Renaissance man

by Sara McCoy

Would you expect to find the poetic works of Baudalire, Rimbaud, and Verlaine shelved next to the scientific works of Darwin, Mendel and Pastwen? Well, you just might if you were to look at Mr. Pezzeca's personal library.

SOA's ninth and tenth grade honors biology and marine science teacher not only holds degrees in biology and entomology from the Citadel, but also a degree in French literature from Rutgers.

He was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and raised between there and Montrel, Canada. Mr.

Pezzecca has also lived in South Africa and Bermuda. "I lived in the wine growing country for two weeks with an Afrikaner family... there I discovered Cape Town" he said. In Bermuda, Mr. P. worked as a biologist using deep sea submersibles to look at the creatures on the bottom of the ocean floor. "It was really neat just to look at these cool creatures that no one had ever seen before," he says, "but it was kind of sad because they would explode. The pressure was too low for them on the boats." His favorite place he has visited is the Bay of Fundy.

Mr. Pezzeca became interested in biology when he began reading *Silent Springs* and other biology related novels. "I was reading Rachel Carson when I was young, and learning to appreciate nature."

Mr. P. finds that the arts are just amazing. "I have come to art, and art is beautiful." Mr. Pezzeca also takes great interest in activities such as photography, shell collecting, stamp collecting, drawing, biking, gardening, body surfing, and any other water sports. "I was in a band in Montreal," he said, "Les Flyees. (Crazy Fools)" in which he was the lead vocalist. Mr. Pezzeca also played a twelve string and acoustic guitar when he was in younger days. Even though he gave that up a while ago, Mr. P. still loves to sing. Mr. P. has two rabbits, Bubba and Nita. He also owns a Siamese cat named Baby, and a "personal bill shredder," or gerbil, named Rikki.

Mr. Pezzeca is very comfortable at the School of the Arts. "I appreciate the respectfulness the students have for themselves and their teachers. All students are capable of being "renaissance students."



From the Applause Archive, November 2000.

To Look Like My Mother

by Christina Lewis

I remember your eyes like juniper
and mint leaves, the eyes you said held me
when I was just a twinkle
in your mind. Narrowing at the girl

who refused to sit on my bed
because I was too dark, and brown
paint stained. The first moment I remember
looking up at you,

your hair brushed like honey, curling
like the corks you collected from wine
bottles. Just long enough to shield my young
face from the girls who whispered
behind their porcelain fingers, and your friends

who asked in the supermarket
if I came from a mission trip in Guatemala.
I look up at your skin, rosy from the camellias
that blossomed under your cheeks.

Stretched over your bones the color
of rice my grandfather harvested with hands
like mine, fifteen thousand miles away from us.
You were white in the places

it mattered. I wanted to take magic
marker to my irises and scribble
ink that matched pine needles
and Atlantic sea foam, to twist

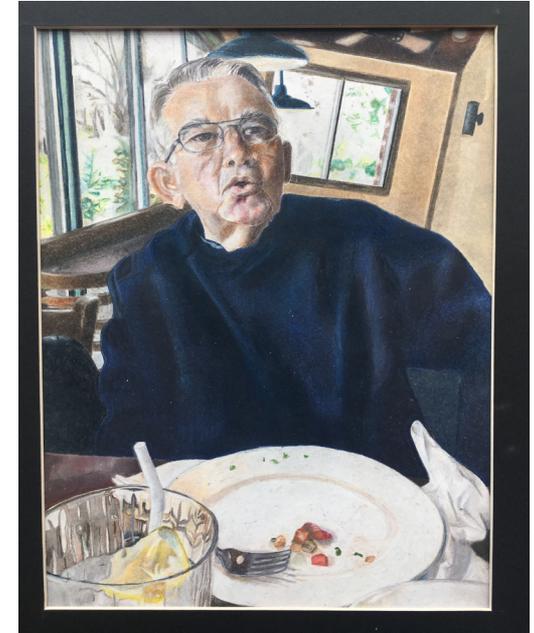
my hair like the bottle caps that sealed glass
Coke bottles too expensive to buy in India
I wanted to look like you and that girl, to snatch
the pale foundation from your bathroom counter

and rub it into the creases of my eyelids and the folds
of my knees that tanned too easily, never turning
cherry. I wanted to burn like you. Longed for the sun
to touch me, unafraid.

Editor's Note: The above poem was recently selected
for inclusion in the prestigious anthology Best Teen
Writing 2017. See the October issue of Applause for a
full feature.



Teagan Prichard, Senior.
Graphite on paper.



Ansley Holcombe, Junior.
Colored pencil on paper.



Sasha Gregorieff, Senior.
Ink on paper.

Contemporary album: *HEAVN* by Jamila Woods

by Maggie Robinson



HEAVN shows the dynamic range of R&B and how powerful it can be. Jamila Woods has a softer tone to her music, making it easy to listen to. But it isn't just background music—the lyrics will hit you hard if you let them.

Jamila Woods isn't afraid to speak up about topics like self-love and black-acceptance. Her song "Blk Girl Soldier" addresses issues that specifically plague black women, but also encourages them to be "freedom fighters" like Rosa Parks, Ella Baker, Sojourner Truth, and Audre Lord (all of whom she specifically mentions in the song, among others).

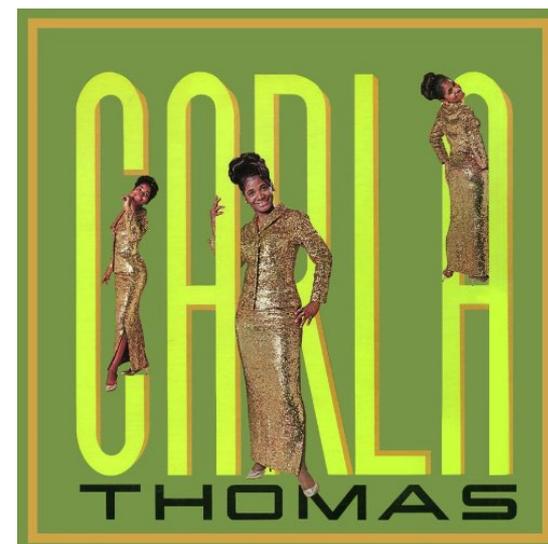
HEAVN is hard to get enough of. Jamila's powerful stance deserves attention, and it's a surprise to not see it breaking the internet. There is a message inside of her lush music for everyone, and it's Jamila's turn to get her voice out there. With a mixture of acoustic, electronic, lyrical, and jazz-inspired sounds, there is a big chance of her growing in the musical world. So go on and listen to *HEAVN*. Let it change you.

Classic album: *Carla* by Carla Thomas

by Maggie Robinson

Carla Thomas had another rise to popularity (if a small one) when her single "B-A-B-Y" made its appearance in the newly released movie *Baby Driver*. Her entire album *Carla* shares a similar sound with the single: soul. Full of soul. It's a sad fact to see the genre on the downfall, because it's an easy listen and relaxing. I find myself listening to artists like Carla Thomas when I'm cleaning my room or doing homework because, truthfully, it's the perfect music to calm down.

Carla is different from other soul artists, though. Thomas doesn't seem to have the blues as often as other artists (minus two songs on the album). And she didn't seem to make it as big as earlier soul artists such as Aretha Franklin and Ella Fitzgerald; Carla Thomas never won any awards. But despite her unpopularity, her music has defined her the beginning of Memphis soul. The album as a whole wraps itself together well, each song weaving its way into the next. Even though soul may not be your preferred genre and may remind you a bit of your grandparents, sometimes it can be just the thing to calm you during a busy school year. Carla is no exception.

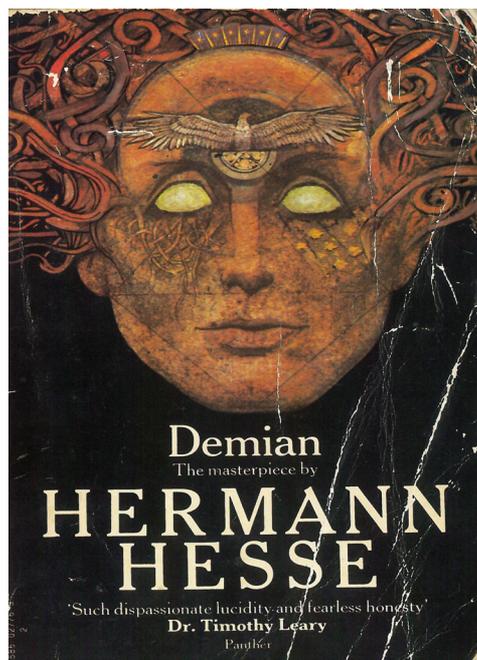


Classic book: *Demian* by Hermann Hesse

by Maggie Robinson

First published in 1919, Hesse's *Demian* is a novel written from the perspective of a man named Emil Sinclair. Throughout the story, he reflects back on episodes in his life where his worldview began to change. The situations Emil finds himself in are sometimes bland, but Hesse brings the experiences to life with his descriptive language. Emil Sinclair's journey of self-realization gets more and more surreal, but he is always connected to his childhood friend (and the one who kickstarted his journey), Max Demian.

Demian is not just a classic. It is one of the most beautifully written pieces of literature out there. I thought that it was going to be difficult to get through, but I read it in just a couple of days because of how intrigued I was with the story. *Demian* is ahead of its time with its theories, treatment of relationships, and overall psychology, which was fathered by Carl Jung. The novel paved way for more liberal literature around the world and continues to inspire authors. Reading it changed my entire mood into something introspective, which is what I needed during the busy school year. So, pick up this book and give it a try.



Editorial: students given a voice in Charleston County

Despite being designed to serve students, schools systems across the country rarely include youth voices in policy decisions, an unfortunate fact. This summer, however, Charleston County School District was the exception, hosting a public listening session for students to voice their concerns about their experiences in school. Twenty-two students from a variety of schools in the district, including three students from SOA, served as student panelists with an audience of the Superintendent of Schools Gerrita Postlewait, Director of High School Learning Community Kim Wilson, and other members of CCSD Leadership. The student listening session was part of CCSD's ongoing effort to reestablish transparency in the community as it drafts its new strategic plan and was a necessary but overdue step to ensure that the district does, in fact, serve its students. "We would not be here if not for all of you," moderator Joe Williams admitted to the student panelists.

The students brought passion and intellect to the discussion, forcing difficult conversations about bullying, LGBT youth inclusion and safety, student-teacher relationships, assessment methods, and mental health. As the school year unfolds, CCSD must continue these student-driven discussions. Strong district leadership requires a thorough understanding of the learning communities within Charleston; thus, the pursuit of authentic and transparent student opinion must be a district priority. CCSD cannot possibly seek to improve the student experience without first inviting students to the decision-making table.

Sass Attack

by Alec Pourmoghadam



Editor's Note: "Sass Attack" is a monthly column in which Applause writer **Alec Pourmoghadam** will present his unique take on the annoyances and idiosyncracies of daily life.

Picture this: I'm driving down Highway 17 jamming out to Hilary Duff's classic "Wake Up," when suddenly I have to slam on my brakes. You may ask, "Why did Alec slam on his brakes?"

Was I about to run a red light? Nope. Was I about to hit a squirrel? Nope. Did I see a sale on a 3-wick candle at Bath and Body Works? Sadly, nope. Did a red lifted Ford truck swoop out of the turning lane and into my lane going 70 miles per hour? Correct! If you looked up *idiotic* in the dictionary, the definition would be "most Charleston drivers." Most Charleston drivers can be identified by their usage of little to no blinkers, cutting in and out of lanes, parking in the middle of two spots, and not moving when the light turns green. Everyone who has a South Carolina driver's license had to take the same test, so tell me why so many still don't know how to drive correctly? I have lived in Charleston for nearly ten years and not a single day has gone by where my safety has not been at risk in a car due to one or more horrible drivers. If you have a question about how to drive and what not to do while driving, go to your local DMV and buy a *South Carolina Driver's Manual*. It's only \$14, what a steal! Look guys, we all have places to be, but as Dan Eldon once said, "It's about the journey, not the destination." Driving is a huge deal, not only for your safety but for the safety of everyone driving around you. So please just learn how to drive correctly.

September Spotify Playlist

In the mood for some new music? Head to **@cusatisoa** on Spotify to hear the staff's favorite monthly jams.



"Me and Julio Down by the Schoolyard"- Paul Simon
 "Another Brick in the Wall Pt. 2"- Pink Floyd
 "I Ain't Got the Time"- Tyler the Creator
 "Ain't No Love in the Heart of the City"- Bobby Blue Band
 "So Good at Being in Trouble"- Unknown Mortal Orchestra
 "Muse"- Uprising
 "Bodak Yellow"- Cardi B
 "Phantom Limb"- The Shins
 "Ain't I Right"- Marty Robbins
 "No Scrubs"- TLC
 "Back to Black"- Amy Winehouse
 "Sick Love"- Red Hot Chili Peppers



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September Events at SOA

6th Grade Orchestra "Fly on the Wall Performance" September 7th, 6:30pm, Fine Arts Building, Room 1410

Acting/singing auditions for Disney's *High School Musical*, 3:50pm-6pm, Black Box
Call-backs and make-ups for Disney's *High School Musical*, 3:50pm-6pm, Black Box

Middle & High School Orchestra Side-by-Side Concert – September 19th, 6:30pm, RMMT

Middle School Band Concert – September 21st, 6:30pm, RMMT

Dance-a-thon – September 22nd, 7pm-11pm, SOA Café

Zuill Bailey with the USC Symphony Orchestra, September 25th, 7:30pm, RMMT

High School Band Concert: "Come on Down! The Gameshow Concert" – September 28th, 6:30pm, RMMT

College Visits to SOA

- 9/5- Middlebury College
University of Chicago
- 9/6- Bates College
- 9/12-Pomona College
University of Wisconsin
- 9/13-Catawba College
Mercer University
Queens University
- 9/14-Art Institute of Charleston
- 9/21-Wofford College
- 9/25-Maryland Institute College of Art
- 9/28-Milwaukee Institute of Art
University of South Carolina
- 9/29-Lafayette College
New York University
- 10/2- Brandeis University
American University
- 10/13-Colby College
Trident Technical College
- 10/16-Winthrop University
Clemson University
- 10/17-Birmingham Southern College
- 10/18-Sewanee: The University of the South
- 11/7- Salve Regina University

The Trivia Challenge

by Cora Schipa

We're starting the year off with some twin trivia, and who better to test that knowledge than twins themselves? For this month's *Applause* we rounded up two senior dance majors, and of course, identical twins, Glynn and Alden King.

Questions:

1. What is the record for most pairs of twins born to one mother?
2. True or False. A set of twins can have different fathers.
3. A diet of _____ can increase a mother's likelihood of having twins.
4. True or False. Twins can be born years apart.
5. In which state are the most twins born?
6. Is an individual more likely to have twins if they are taller, or shorter?
7. What is the average birth weight for a twin?
8. True or False. Identical twins have the same fingerprints.
9. If one set of identical twins has children with another set of identical twins, what would the children be classified as genetically?
10. What is the most reliable way to tell twins apart?

Glynn King 12th Grade Dance

1. Four.
2. True.
3. Salmon?
4. False.
5. Ohio because they have a town called Twinsburg.
6. Short.
7. Six pounds.
8. False!
9. Siblings.
10. Umbilical cord?



Cora Schipa

3/10

Alden King 12th Grade Dance

1. Five.
2. True.
3. Vegetables?
4. False.
5. Texas?
6. Tall.
7. Seven pounds.
8. False!
9. Cousins.
10. Birthmarks.



Cora Schipa

3/10

And in the most twin-related irony possible, we have a tie. The twins will have to carefully balance their shared powers as the Co-Emperors of the Trivia Challenge until the next issue, where they will clash again to finally determine, once and for all, who the true Trivia ruler is.

Are you interested in competing in an upcoming *Applause* Trivia Challenge? If so, email pjwohl2000@gmail.com with the subject line "Trivia".

Answers

1. Sixteen.
2. True.
3. Dairy.
4. True.
5. Massachusetts
6. Taller.
7. Five pounds,
8. False.
9. Siblings.
10. Belly Button.



“Learning new things and making new experiences.”
-Ameline Stewart, 10th grade



“Mr. Orvin’s class.”
- Lilly Tipton, 9th grade



“Peace and love.”
-Officer Snipes, Resource Officer



“Early ins and late outs.”
- Walker Menkus, 12th grade Strings

What are you most looking forward to about this school year?

by Finian Butcher and Haley Swittenberg



“Playing my french horn.”
- Johnathon Sessions, 6th grade



“Meeting new people.”
- Alex LaPlant, 7th grade



“When it ends.”
- McHenry Jackson, 11th grade



“Making great music with my students”
-Dr. Selby, Strings teacher



“Seeing old friends again”
- Julian Ford, 8th grade



“Developing the interest and intrigue of students towards science and the world around them.”
- Mrs. Luzier, Chemistry teacher