

# Applause

Volume 19, Number 2

School of the Arts, North Charleston, SC  
[soa-applause.com](http://soa-applause.com)

October 2017



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## 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  
Debra Benson  
The Bride Family  
Susanne Drennan  
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  
Cindy Branscome  
Miley Hallen Design  
Danielle DeTiberus  
Natasha Fields  
Robin Grieg  
Rutledge Hammes  
Beth Hart  
Mary Kassinger  
School Nurses  
Kevin Short

### TURQUOISE

Chevelle's Scholarship Fund  
Robert Grant  
Antoinette Green  
Darcy Jackswich  
Jannie L. Mack  
Shannon Mahoney  
Joseph Naas  
Alyssa Nestman  
Katherine Owensby  
Nathaniel Robinson Sr.  
Molly Scofield  
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Rachael Stallsmith  
Kathryn Sullivan  
Cameron Wescott  
Cynthia Wescott

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### 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  
Lexie Jones  
Maddie Kelley  
Erica Kremer  
Hayes Martini  
Michael Morelli  
Courtney Moschella  
Christopher Selby  
Bill Smyth  
Kathy Traylor  
Braedyn Wasserman  
Rachel West  
Andrew Wise  
Peyton Woodall

## Letter from the Editor

Dear Readers,

As we transition into the Fall season, which in Charleston is, albeit, not much of a season, students and families are thrust into a much busier time of year. SOA's many extracurriculars are ramping up, seniors are knee deep in college applications, classwork, and senior thesis, and the first quarter is already almost over. Time is passing quickly, whether we would like it to or not. *Applause* is here to document this, along with all the happenings at our school, in our community, and even globally.

With the passing of several prominent cultural figures, frequent natural disasters, and tragedies like the Las Vegas shooting, it remains difficult to stay positive. However, we should continue to look toward the message articulated perfectly by a line from Colum McCann's novel, *Let the Great World Spin*, (see article on pages 13). in that we should find "a cause for optimism against all the evidence." There is a need for optimism in the world, and we should be the ones to fill it. *Applause* is excited to showcase the best of SOA and our community.

We are excited to share in your optimism and excitement, and hope to bring the best coverage of events like Charleston Pride and Jump, Jive, & Wail, and showcase the students dedication and high standard of achievement in the arts. From book and music reviews to editorials tackling tough topics like cultural appropriation and climate change, *Applause* has it covered.

*Applause* is a paper by and for the student body at SOA, so feel free to contact myself 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.

Unitl next month, SOA,

Patrick Wohlscheid, Editor-in-Chief

# Applause

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publication of

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### Downtown

Charleston County Main  
Library

### James Island

James Island Public Library

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**Cover by Halle Garrett**

## SOA preps for Jump, Jive, & Wail

by Haley Swittenberg



The SOA Jazz Band is ready for another successful Jump, Jive, & Wail.

With October just getting underway, students and the community alike are preparing for SOA's annual homecoming dance, Jump, Jive, & Wail. But while everyone starts shopping for a dress or practicing their swing moves, the SOA Jazz Band has been hard at work perfecting their skills. Practicing every Wednesday after school for hours and tirelessly working during class, SOA Jazz is getting ready to put on their best show yet.

Working with band teacher **Mr. Kerr** and renowned Charleston Jazz member Steve Berry, students receive the highest caliber of instruction. With better instruction comes more complicated music, and SOA Jazz is ready to step up to the plate.

The first set starts with classics like "In the Mood," "Sweet Georgia Brown," and "Beach Music Medley." Meanwhile, the dance contest will crown two couples with the best moves.

SOA Jazz is trying something new this year, kicking off the second set with a more Latin flavor. Featuring samba and the mambo, this fast-paced set will be sure to turn heads.

From dressing as a hot dog to Mario to the Blues Brothers, the third set begins with the musicians changing into their costume of choice. Jump, Jive, & Wail will be wrapped up with songs both new and old. Stevie Wonder, Bruno Mars, and Earth, Wind, and Fire songs are just a few of the tunes concluding the dance.

Before the night is over, a best-dressed male and female are picked, so get your best outfits ready! As always, the highly anticipated student singers will be performing throughout the night. SOA students and alumni will be joining the lineup for a night of music, dancing, and fun.

Jump, Jive, & Wail 2017 is October 21st at 7 PM in the Visitor's Center Bus Shed downtown. Tickets can be purchased online or from any SOA band major. See you there, and get ready to Jump, Jive, & Wail!

## Creative Writing upperclassmen find inspiration at Lake Logan Writing Retreat

by Carson Peaden



The Seniors' trip to Lake Logan was bittersweet, serving as a reminder of their last milestones with SOA Creative Writing.

This past September the junior and senior Creative Writers took their annual retreat to Lake Logan in Canton, North Carolina. While the main point of the trip was to help the seniors with their upcoming theses, it also allowed the students to take a break from school.

Shortly after arriving, the creative writers began to workshop.

During this time, the seniors shared excerpts from their books and received feedback from their peers.

It also allowed the juniors to gather ideas for their own thesis that they will be writing in the fall of next year. Of course, breaks were given from working to enjoy the mountains. Later that night, everyone sat around the bonfire, roasted s'mores, and played a game of manhunt, a tradition started many years ago by previous seniors.

On the second day, everyone hiked to the top of the mountain, where they ate lunch and viewed a scenic overlook of the lake. Although the hike was a couple miles, a handful of students ahead of the group took the wrong path at a fork and ended up hiking two miles in the wrong direction. **Bailey Abedon**, a senior, recalled the difficulties of getting separated from her other classmates. "We were frustrated, hungry, and when we finally reached the meeting spot, were greeted with mockery by our peers and teachers. My feet still hurt." However, she found that it was a good bonding experience for those lost.

The final night involved a talent show where everyone witnessed slam poetry readings, artistic drawings, and even the roasts of both the junior and senior classes.

The last day, the juniors discussed possible topics for their thesis. Next year, they will accompany the current sophomores to Lake Logan, but for the Class of 2018, it was their final trip together. Seven years ago, thesis felt like a faraway thing. Now, they are almost halfway through their books, which will be published in the upcoming spring.



The Creative Writing Classes of 2018 and 2019 shared ideas and workshopped pieces from the Seniors' theses.

# Pride brings out the best in Charleston

by Cora Schipa

Saturday, September 23 marked the eighth Charleston Pride Parade and the end of a long week of events celebrating members of the LGBTQ+ community.

If you haven't had a chance to experience it, you should make plans to go next year; it's a beautiful event with confetti and glitter in the air, drag queens in vibrant attire, people of all genders, races, and ages decked out in pride, roller derby women in colorful tutus, fun music blasting from speakers, and, of course, rainbows everywhere you look.

But the real beauty of the event isn't in its visual appeal: being a part of the parade, whether you're watching from a balcony or dancing on a float, is invigorating and fosters a sense of support and love rare to find at any other point in the year.

Charleston Pride holds deep importance to our community, especially in the political climate, as it works for the continuing effort for equality of treatment in causes not just relating to sexuality—many participants stood for social justice issues concerning gender roles, racism, transgender rights, and immigration. Various religious institutions, representatives of law enforcement and government, companies and schools showed their support.

Students of the School of the Arts have taken a presence in the pride parade since it started in 2010: **Nadja McGlone**, a senior Fashion major, has been attending the past five years and sums it up as “so much fun.” This year she was part of the Rocky Horror Picture Show float with seniors **Betty Manaris**, **Bailey Abedon** and **Sasha Gregorieff** as well as SOA alumnus Harrison Dahabi.



SOA was not only represented in the crowds at Pride, but in the parade itself.

Nadja was invited to become part of the cast (which shows the first Friday of every month at midnight in The Terrace Theater) and join the float for 2018 Pride.

Sophomore Creative Writer **River Abedon**, joined by SOA students **Carson Stehling**, **Maya Green**, **Lilli Heinrich**, **Molly Weaver**, **Lou Collins**, and **Ashlyn Kievit**, represented the organization “We Are Family”. He agreed that Pride was “amazing and empowering” and that “it was great to see the city come together to support our LGBT friends.”

For Senior Dance major **Sarah Catherine Gillard**, the event “is more than just putting on rainbow clothes and makeup. I wave the flag with pride in myself and my community.” When she first starting attending pride festivals, she hadn't come to terms with her sexuality. Gay marriage was still illegal in 34 states. The next year that number was down to 13. As a gay teenager, personally experiencing the Supreme Court ruling on legalizing same sex marriage was “surreal.”

She represents many attitudes towards the event perfectly by saying “I won't stop until every sexuality and gender feels love from their community. Even then I'll keep dancing and cheering and dressing up to celebrate how far we've come.”



The sophomores represented “We Are Family” at Pride, a charity that provides support and advocacy opportunities for LGBTQ+ youth.

# SOA Haunted House plans to impress

by Jayla Sanders

SOA, are you ready for the annual haunted house? Taking place on October 27th-30th in the Rose Maree Myers Theater, the Haunted House will be a night of frights for students and families.

Speaking to the scariness of last year's haunted house, one student went through the house nine times, simply for the thrill of the spooky and scary things inside. What a record to beat.

When asked about the purpose of the Haunted House, Mr. Christensen replied that the haunted house “raises money for the school to buy new equipment such as microphones, lights, different types of sets, and other equipment that the school needs.”

So come out and support SOA this Halloween season! The entry fee for the haunted house is nine dollars, and each re-entry is two dollars.

Make sure to save the date, and enjoy a thriller night at SOA.

## SOA SPIRIT WEEK 2017 - 2018

**MONDAY:** WACKY TACKY DAY

WHETHER ITS DENIM OR PLAID OR NEON, WEAR A SUPER WACKY TACKY OUTFIT

**TUESDAY:** DECADE DAY

FROM THE 20s TO TODAY, DUST OFF YOUR SCRUNCHIES & LEATHER JACKETS AND GET READY TO GO BACK IN TIME.

**WEDNESDAY:** CHARACTER DAY

WHETHER IT BE PENNYWISE OR THE CARE BEARS OR ANYONE IN BETWEEN, COME TO SCHOOL DRESSED AS YOUR FAVORITE CHARACTER.

**THURSDAY:** SPOOKY DAY

FROM PUMPKINS TO ZOMBIES, WEAR ANYTHING THAT WILL REPRESENT THE FALL/HALLOWEEN SEASON.

**FRIDAY:** PRIDE DAY

WHETHER YOU SHOW LGBTQIA+ PRIDE, SOA PRIDE, OR COLLEGE PRIDE, WEAR SOMETHING THAT SHOWS WHAT YOU HAVE DONE IN

## SOA poets earn national recognition

by Patrick Wohlscheid

Two SOA sophomore Creative Writers have been chosen to have their poetry included in the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards' anthology, *The Best Teen Writing of 2017*.

Each year, creative writers from 7th-12th grade submit their works to the Scholastic Art and Writing competition, a prestigious contest that honors young writers on a regional and national level. If a student is awarded a gold key regionally, their piece will go on to be judged nationally. Then, a select number of nationally recognized pieces are published in the *Best Teen Writing* anthology annually.

Sophomore Creative Writers **Christina Lewis** and **Alex Clifford** are two of these such writers. Christina's poem "To Look Like My Mother," and Alex's poem "Marilyn Monroe" will be published in *The Best Teen Writing of 2017*. Their work will be on display at the US Department of Education in the exhibit Art.Write.Now.DC. "Marilyn Monroe" was also chosen for inclusion in *2017 Rattle Young Poet's Anthology*.

Congratulations to Christina, Alex, their poetry teacher Mrs. DeTiberus, and the SOA Creative Writing Department on their recognition at the national level.

## South Carolina Juniors to chose between ACT, SAT this spring

by Taylor Kahn-Perry

Outcome	Cohort	2016	2017
Percent Tested	South Carolina	100	100
	Nation	64	60
Number Tested	South Carolina	51,098	50,936
	Nation	2,090,342	2,030,038
Average English Score	South Carolina	17.3	17.5
	Nation	20.1	20.3
Average Reading Score	South Carolina	19	19.1
	Nation	21.3	21.4
Average Math Score	South Carolina	18.5	18.6
	Nation	20.6	20.7
Average Science Score	South Carolina	18.6	18.9
	Nation	20.8	21
Average Composite Score	South Carolina	18.5	18.7
	Nation	20.8	21

Current SOA Seniors may recall the four months they spent waiting for their scores from the state-mandated ACT testing last spring. While the wait time was an anomaly, the statewide testing was not.

Since the 2015-16 school year, every Junior in South Carolina has been required to take the ACT at school, per the requirement of a 2014 law signed by former Governor Nikki Haley. The statewide test has been administered with funds allocated by the General Assembly, freeing students from paying for the test directly.

With one hundred percent of Juniors participating statewide in 2016, South Carolina students averaged a Composite ACT score of 18.7 as compared to the national average of 19.8,

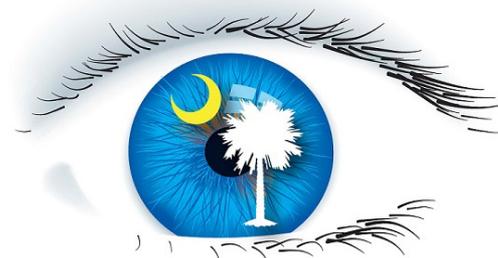
based on the sixty percent of Juniors nationwide who tested. The 2017 state scores saw an increase from the 2016 average Composite ACT score of 18.5.

"While we have made progress over the past year, we have significant ground to cover in order to meet our goal that every student graduates prepared for success,"

South Carolina Superintendent of Education Molly Spearman said upon reviewing the data.

This spring, Juniors will have the option to take either the ACT or SAT.

Beginning in the 2017-18 school year, Act 94, passed and signed into law in South Carolina's past legislative session, will require schools to offer a choice between both tests to the Juniors. The state law also ensures that Seniors interested in taking or retaking these assessments may do so free of out-of-pocket cost.



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## Where Were They Then ?

Applause's **Alec Pourmoghadam** sat down with middle and high school vocal teacher, **Heather Hammond-Caffarel**, to discover her life before SOA.



Heather Hammond Caffarel rocked the local Sears Photography Studio with her favorite outfit.

**Alec Pourmoghadam:** What was your earliest memory?  
**Heather Hammond-Caffarel:** My earliest memory was playing in my grandma's backyard. Very simple and fun, but very near and dear to my heart.

**AP: When you were going into college, what major did you declare?**

**HHC:** I spent my freshman year of college as a Biology major and then changed to music education. I had always loved music and I felt that there was a higher calling out there for me.

**AP: What drew you to music/music education?**

**HHC:** I used to put on concerts and make music videos when I was a child. I sang in church frequently and was in my high school chorus and show choir. When I reached college, I realized I needed music in my life every day.

**AP: What are your future goals/dreams?**

**HHC:** I would love to be able to travel the world and see all of the amazing sights that this world has to offer. I would also love to raise my children to their fullest potential, so they can do anything in life.

**AP: If one high school student could represent you as a teenager, who would it be and why?**

**HHC:** Amelia Cobb reminds me a lot of myself when I was a teenager. I was a perfectionist in my art and academically. I was typically quiet in class and cheerful. Her devotion to music, academics, clubs, and her faith give me hope for the world.

**AP: What are some fun facts about you that most people wouldn't know?**

**HHC:** I grew up on a farm. I love riding ATV's and horses! You know what they say, "You can take the girl out of the country, but you can't take the country out of the girl!"

**AP: How did you end up with us at SOA?**

**HHC:** I started at SOA in my 6th year of teaching. After obtaining two graduate degrees, I taught choir at a small town high school in Horry County, SC. The program became very successful after building it from the ground up. I was interested in finding a larger, more established vocal program to teach in, and I saw the job opening at SOA. And from that point on, I knew I wanted to teach at this amazing school.

**AP: What lessons have you learned at SOA, and how has SOA impacted your life?**

**HHC:** Teaching at SOA has been a dream job and an amazing experience! I love working with students from 6th to 12th grade and witnessing their musical and personal growth during their 7 years of study. I have had to push myself as a teacher and musician in order to continue to challenge my students and provide them with what they need inside and outside of the classroom. I take my career very seriously, and it has impacted every part of my life.

**AP: If you weren't teaching music, what would you be teaching or doing as a job?**

**HHC:** After I completed my first master's degree, I applied and was accepted to MUSC for Speech-Language Pathology. If I wasn't teaching at SOA, I would either want to be a speech pathologist or a music therapist.

**AP: What advice would you give your younger self?**

**HHC:** I would tell my younger self to be patient! God has great plans for you and you will go so far in life once you unlock your full potential.

**AP: If you could tell your children, Sadie and Sullivan,**

**one thing to remember in life, what would it be?**



**HHC:** I hope my children are firmly grounded in their faith and feel loved and supported. I would tell them to trust in God and love others! Also, I want them to treat others with love and respect!

Heather Hammond Caffarel with her husband Chris and children Sadie and Sullivan.

## Where Are They Now?

Applause's **Haley Swittenberg** sat down with SOA alumna Savannah Miller to see what she's been up to since graduation and what's she's doing for environmental protection.



**Haley Swittenberg:** Can you describe Exposure Labs and offer more insight into why you're visiting School of the Arts?

**Savannah Miller:** Exposure Labs is a film production company that creates films and campaigns to make a difference. As demonstrated in Chasing Ice and our latest, Sundance award-winning Chasing Coral, we believe in the tremendous potential of storytelling to mobilize new audiences around local climate solutions. At our finest, we're a scrappy small team of storytellers and strategists excited to wake up the world to this story hidden under the waves. To be honest, it's high school Savannah's dream come true. This being said, I am ecstatic to bring my entire film and impact teams to SOA to screen Chasing Coral and share the spotlight. After the credits roll, creative writing students will take the stage, along with the work of visual artists projected behind, to recite poetry inspired by the film's mission and message. Artistic expression is a critical tool in communicating science better.

**HS:** You were a creative writing major when you attended SOA. How did you make the transition to environmental concerns?

**SM:** I love stories and I love people. As an SOA student, I never knew this would evolve into a career in environmental advocacy. However, I got a taste of both as I executed my senior thesis, Before the Tide Turned, which was the first approach to creative nonfiction in the department. I captured the voices of long-term Mount Pleasant residents and realized the correlation between unhappiness and explosive development in that formerly small, coastal town. Seeing how environmental degradation and urban development impacted my community, I wanted to understand more about the science behind these stories.

**HS:** Who are your biggest inspirations and why?

**SM:** John Muir once said, "The clearest way into the universe is through a forest wilderness." It's true. The natural world provides us food, shelter, fuel, and we are consistently finding new cures for cancer, architectural designs, and the latest superfoods. They've got eons of years over us, so we better listen in.

**HS:** How are the things you learned at SOA still benefiting/helping you today?

**SM:** Seriously, every bit of my SOA experience has benefited my work today. The Creative Writing program did more than teach me how to construct a villanelle. It taught me to be unafraid of public speaking, learn how to offer and receive constructive criticism, and most importantly, it taught me the importance of pursuing my passions. I dare you all to do the same!

**HS:** You've visited Africa, Antarctica, the Amazon, Paris, and the UN. What was your most introspective experience among these places?

**SM:** Wow, tough question! First and foremost, I had an incredible mother who taught me to never say no. By following this rule, I was able to manage my way into some of the world's most precious biodiversity hotspots, and find the university money pots and scholarships to finance my way there. Each experience built upon the next. Antarctica was my most recent adventure, and served as a culmination of all of these experiences. And through it all, I've come out with two understandings: 1) climate change is happening, and 2) we are incredibly apt to solving it. Sometimes, as Richard says in Chasing Coral, we just need a little shove.

**HS:** Any advice to those looking to get into the field of environmental studies and protection?

**SM:** I would advise students - especially those in the humanities - to not be daunted by the hard sciences surrounding environmental studies. You'd be surprised by how much the sciences, storytelling, and history intersect. One does not need to have a PhD to engage in environmental advocacy. In fact, the scientific field needs creatives now more than ever! As you explore your options, please stay curious, always ask why, and share some screen time with green time.



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## Fusion Jonez hits it big in the Charleston music scene

by Haley Swittenberg



School of the Arts students are able to use their talents for their enjoyment not only at school, but in the community.

It started out simple, with just a few friends jamming out during lunch. It soon turned into an established band with a name for themselves throughout the Charleston music scene. Fusion Jonez was founded by band majors **Walker King**, **Asher Dibernardo**, and **Jeremy Holenko** before the 2017 spring showcase.

The trio gathered a group of fellow band and piano majors including **Tanner Kirk**, **Jalin Williams**, **McCormick Emge**, and **Greg Heyward** to try and create a new type of fusion and funk sound. They booked their first professional show headlining the Music Farm, a local concert venue, in May. The band expanded their abilities, adding more members and instruments over the summer. The boys started writing and recording original songs to play at their numerous gigs.

Fusion Jonez has been spotted playing shows all around Charleston from the Awendaw Green to even being featured on Lowcountry Live as a Local Music Spotlight band. They'll be headlining at Southside 17 on October 6th, The Coastal Carolina Fair on November 4th, The Sand Dollar Social Club on December 3rd, and Pack the House night at the Stingrays in January.

Fusion Jonez is also nominated for Best Up-And-Coming Band, Best Soul/R&B Act, Best Jam Band, Best Guitarist, and Best Drummer in the *Charleston City Paper* Music Awards.

"Music is all about having fun and doing what you love," said Walker King, "I believe our vibe definitely makes people feel how we are feeling on stage." You can find Fusion Jonez on Facebook, Bandsintown, and on Instagram @fusionjonezsc.

## Renowned cellist works with SOA Strings Majors

by Haley Swittenberg

*After a USC Symphony concert and SOA Strings master class, Applause's **Haley Swittenberg** sat down with world renowned cellist Zuill Bailey for an interview on his life, music, and his one-of-a-kind cello.*

**Haley Swittenberg:** *You've done many commendable things in your career from playing with and directing countless ensembles to even winning a Grammy. What would you say has been the highlight of your career?*

**Zuill Bailey:** Realizing dreams--you know, be careful what wish for you might just get it. The fact that I get to pinch myself everyday to remind myself that I play the cello for my living is a dream that I've always wanted since age 4 and that's my greatest accomplishment is basically just living a dream.

**HS:** *You play on a rare 1693 Matteo Gofriller cello. How did you acquire this instrument, and how has it changed the way you play?*

**ZB:** It's a constant inspiration. It's one of the great instruments that kinda leads me through my musical life. I've had it for 20 years through the generous help of an incredible sponsor, and I hope to play it for many more years to come.

**HS:** *You've played with many groups as an ensemble member or soloist. Which do you prefer more and why?*

**ZB:** The fact is, the cello is a unique instrument that can do both and should do both because we have a very limited repertoire of music and to play the greatest music, sometimes we have to play with others. There's only one or few great composers that wrote for just solo cello so I always need a pianist or violinist or a group of people, so I'd say both.

**HS:** *You're a professor of cello at the University of Texas. What's the most important thing your students have taught you?*

**ZB:** To question everything. Our conversations are wonderful. We question everything. It's always a process and we're always using building blocks. It's basically wherever we are at whatever stage, we are going to be greater tomorrow because of what we learned today.

**HS:** *Who are your biggest inspirations and why?*

**ZB:** Probably my parents and how they raised me and kind of instilled such core values.

**HS:** *Any advice for a high school student or young adult who is wanting to become a professional musician?*

**ZB:** It's the greatest profession and if you can incorporate music into your life as a profession or just around your profession, it'll be quite a gift.



Zuill Bailey played alongside and gave tips and critiques to four SOA cellists.

## Exploring the arts

by Maggie Robinson

*Here at SOA, every student devotes at least 90 minutes a day to their art major. Some students are also invested in arts outside of their major, and I'm here to track those kids down. They are just too talented, and I want to know why.*

Although he only transferred from Summerville High School a couple of weeks ago, Keegan Dustin has already immersed himself in SOA's community. He was involved in theater at his previous school and is now continuing it as his major. However, he doesn't just love theater; Keegan joined a photography class in ninth grade and can't get enough of it.

Keegan's biggest inspiration was his photography teacher, Mr. Dillinger, at Summerville High School, because he "wanted the best for his kids and really tried to get them into their arts." One of the reasons why Keegan switched to SOA was because Dillinger quit teaching.

One of the unique aspects of Keegan's photography is that he shoots with both digital and film. Although it was a hard choice to make, he admitted to preferring black and white film because "you get to be in the dark room, work with something you've created, and spend time in making it look good." In his opinion, Keegan notices that his best photographs tend to be taken in the spur of the moment instead of his planned out ones.

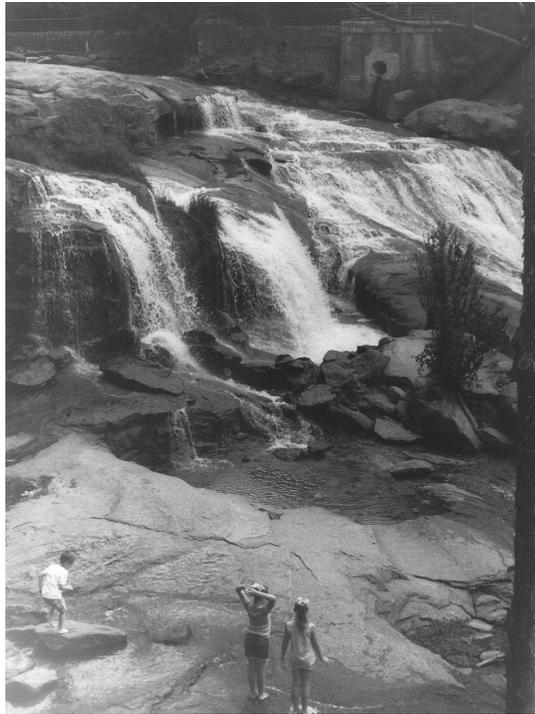
In the future, Keegan plans on continuing photography, at least as a side job. He doesn't want to shoot "weddings or stupid stuff like that," but instead work for a magazine.

While he figures out college and his future job, Keegan does know he will continue growing in his photography skills.

Even though he has only been at SOA for a couple of weeks, Keegan has felt that his art (both theatre and photography) has already improved. His last school did not have many students involved in art, and all of the funds went to athletics (which is obviously the total opposite at SOA).

Meeting artistic kids like him has already begun to push his limits and will hopefully develop his photography to higher levels; he said that "the people here are an inspiration" to him.

Truthfully, Keegan himself is also an inspiration to the students around him.



Keegan Dustin's photography, as seen above, serves as another outlet for artistic expression

## iPhone X leaves the tech world divided

by Caleb Smith



The iPhone X drastically diverges from all of its predecessors.

The iPhone X is definitely an iPhone unlike others. It is one that you will most likely want to wait to hear the reviews for. With all the new developments for the Apple device, the new model can seem a little overwhelming at

a first look.

The new iPhone is expected

to have a glass back, facial recognition for security purposes, and an "infinity screen," alongside with other new updates to the device. Besides the actual cell phone, Apple has improved the all around experience for Apple users, introducing a new wireless charging system.

Some say that Apple is biting off of Samsung's way of doing things, but Apple users don't seem to have a problem with the "new and improved," innovative change. After the keynote and announcement of the new, \$1000, iPhone X, several people arose with a plethora of questions pertaining to the new model.

Some include the question of whether the facial recognition is more effective than Touch ID, or if the glass back of the phone is more sustainable than the aluminum backside of previous iPhone models.

Either way, the iPhone X, according to developers, definitely has the potential to become the "phone of the future."



### SOA'S FIFTH ANNUAL FALL FOOD FESTIVAL

Date: Friday, October 13, 2017  
Time: All Lunches (11:35-1:50)  
Where: Breezeway

*All baked goods are each \$1  
Food Truck Item Prices will vary*

*All monetary proceeds will go to We Are Family Charleston.*

*Sponsored by SOA's Student Council 2017-2018*



# Meet SOA's New Teachers, Part Two

## Ms. Leslie Jones



**Ms. Leslie Jones** will be teaching 7th grade dance at SOA this year. She first visited Charleston with two friends, where she fell in love with the city. She has a Bachelor's Degree in Dance from the University of Central

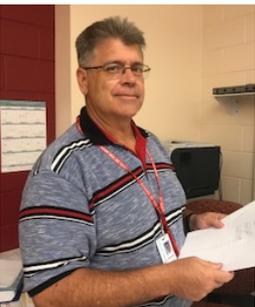
Oklahoma and a Master's Degree in Dance from Texas Woman's University.

Ever since she was young, she wanted to be a dance teacher. "I love sharing knowledge with other like-minded dancers and artists, and I believe the physicality of dance is something everyone can learn from - learning about culture, history, anatomy, and self-expression," Ms. Jones told *Applause*.

Aside from working at SOA, Ms. Jones is an adjunct dance professor at the College of Charleston and a dance teacher at Dance Moves of Charleston and Ballet Academy of Charleston.

When she's not working, Ms. Jones enjoys practicing yoga and spending time with her two year old son, Beau.

## Dr. John Paul Schuster



**Dr. Schuster** will be teaching Geometry and Honors Geometry at SOA this year, where he hopes to teach his students "that learning can be enjoyable especially when it is challenging-- don't avoid the struggle."

Before coming to SOA, Dr. Schuster taught in Louisville, Kentucky for thirty-seven years. Most recently, he taught Advanced Precalculus and MST Precalculus at DuPont Manual High School.

He earned his Bachelor's degree from Union College in Mathematics with minors in Secondary Education and New Testament Greek.

At The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, he earned a MDiv with a concentration in pastoral care and counseling and PhD in New Testament studies with dual concentration in Hellenistic Greek and Hellenistic backgrounds to the New Testament.

by Taylor Kahn-Perry

"I tutored a blind student in college Algebra. He still calls me every year on my birthday," Dr. Schuster told *Applause*. This anecdote is just one example of Dr. Schuster's passion for teaching; over the past ten years, he has enjoyed teaching pastors in Ecuador.

Quoting a mathematics curriculum called College Preparatory Mathematics, Dr. Schuster wants his students to realize that "struggling in mathematics is like sweating in athletics - it means you're in the game."

## Ms. Molly Scofield



Originally from Washington state, **Ms. Scofield** headed to the east coast through Teach for America, landing in Charleston. Last year, she taught at James

Island Middle School.

At University of Mississippi, she "tutored students in college and really loved it", so she decided "to pursue [education] as a career." She earned her Bachelor's degree from Ole Miss in Education before earning a Master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction at Johns Hopkins.

From her earliest jobs, Ms. Scofield learned that "most of the time people are giving their best and sometimes everyone is entitled to a bad day." Reflecting on her time as a student, she particularly remembers her third grade teacher who "always pushed [her] to follow [her] thought patterns even if they were different from other students'."

When she's not teaching, Ms. Scofield can be found spending time outdoors or reminiscing on time spent as a child listening to Peter, Paul and Mary.

As a student, she "struggled with reading but always felt like a creative writer." Ultimately, her interest in writing helped her to become an English teacher. Students in eighth grade may have Ms. Scofield for English this year.

## Ms. Rebecca Mortensen



**Ms. Mortensen**, SOA's newest Biology and Marine Science teacher, is excited to help her students learn "that

biology is fun and interesting and not as difficult as it seems."

Originally from Michigan, Ms. Mortensen earned her Bachelor's degree in Biology from Alma College in Michigan. She came to College of Charleston to earn her Master's degree in Marine Biology.

Prior to teaching at SOA, Ms. Mortensen "worked in the Hollings Marine Laboratory in the South Carolina Algal Ecology Laboratory that was a cooperative research lab with the University of South Carolina and the SC Department of Natural Resources Marine Resources Research Institute."

As a student, Ms. Mortensen "loved teachers who made learning fun and didn't take themselves too seriously." From her first jobs working on corn detasseling and in a greenhouse, she came to appreciate the value of hard work.

As is fitting for a biology teacher, Ms. Mortensen loves animals and has had pets "from large freshwater aquariums filled with fish and invertebrates, to a tiny terrarium housing poison dart frogs." Outside of science, she finds inspiration in books.

While teaching, Ms. Mortensen loves "seeing that epiphany moment where this complex topic suddenly makes sense" and wants her students to "never be afraid to approach me with questions or concerns."

## Ms. Ciara Greco



Originally from upstate New York, **Ms. Ciara Greco** attended the University of Albany for undergrad, where she studied Sociology with a minor in History. During her time in college, she “job shadowed a

School Counselor for a project and fell in love with the career.” She went on to earn her Master’s Degree in Professional School Counseling from Sage Graduate School.

As a high school student herself, Ms. Greco was able to major in art. Ms. Greco is excited to be here at SOA, “working with students who are passionate about not only their education... but their creative side as well.” Before coming to SOA, Ms. Greco worked at Dutch Fork High School and Wando High School for two years.

Reflecting on her own artistic interests, Ms. Greco told *Applause*, “music has always meant a lot to me.” She particularly enjoys the band Brand New, as well as a range of artists including Jay-Z, Regina Spektor, and Kendrick Lamar. “I consider myself a rap connoisseur,” Ms. Greco admitted. She also enjoys the movie *Hocus Pocus*.

When she’s not teaching, Ms. Greco is usually running or spending time at the beach with her husband, three-year-old daughter Penelope and six-month-old daughter Camilla. Discussing her family, Ms. Greco remarked, “We are animal lovers and have a dog child, Sidney, and two cats, Samson and Clementine.”

High school students with last names beginning with G through M will get the chance to work with Ms. Greco this year.

## Club feature: Sailing Club

by Courtney Wickstrom

**McCormick Emge** and **Frances Hart** are heading SOA’s own Sailing Club this year, as co-captains of the competitive team. Both practiced and novice sailors take to the water in order to sail both for enjoyment and competitively in regattas over the course of the year. Students are split into Junior Varsity and Varsity sailing teams, depending on their amount of experience.

Hart explains, “The goal of the team is to strengthen our sailing skills, learn strategies about competitive racing, understand weather, wind, current, and tide, and to have fun on the water.”

Meetings every Friday from 4:30 to 7:30 are taking place now at Charleston Community Sailing, on 17 Lockwood Drive. Anyone is encouraged to join, and more details can be given by either of the co-captains. “We want students to take away with them a passion for sailing and a love of the water,” Hart continues. “We hope to see you there!”

## SOA students start strong with fall sports

by Julian Griffin

As summer comes to an end, and Autumn sets in, Fall sports season begins! That means it’s time to pull out your team colors and cheer for your home school! This Fall, three SOA seniors will be playing for West Ashley High School. Band major **Emma Kerr** and vocal major **Jonathan Stone** are on the swim team, while theater major **Emma Greig** plays volleyball.

“Tryouts were kinda rough honestly” Emma Greig says, especially “when you haven’t played in almost four months.” Early practice was very difficult, Emma explained. “We did a ton of weight lifting and conditioning to get in shape.” But now, “practice is pretty easy. I get lucky,” she says, “I get to miss running the mile every Friday so that’s nice.” Although Emma’s season started off with a roughly, they are now fourth in the region, which earns them a spot in the playoffs.

“I actually have a theatre performance coming up,” she says, “and I have a region volleyball game the same day and time, so I don’t know what I’m going to do because I’m a starting player.”

According to Jonathan Stone, “as long as you didn’t drown,” you made the West Ashley Swim Team. Team Captain Emma Kerr says practices are pretty difficult. “We work on stamina mostly and speeds so we do a lot of long challenging sets,” she said. “It is hard to balance arts and sports,” she adds, “but Coach Brad at West Ashley is one of the few coaches who understands our school. He allows us to swim but lets us miss a few practices every now and then for rehearsals or concerts.”

Although he swims in whatever event he’s needed for, he prefers the 50 and 100m freestyle.. Jonathan will be traveling to the state championship, where he has qualified for four events. The meet will be held on October 13 at the University of South Carolina.



Seniors **Emma Kerr** (far left) and **Jonathan Stone** (center) do a fantastic job of balancing academics, athletics, and the arts.



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## Summer reading comes to life

### Three acclaimed authors join AP students to discuss their books

by Malachi Jones and Jessica Bride

Walking through Barnes and Noble on a summer afternoon, one is bound to encounter a table full of summer reading selections that English teachers throughout CCSD have assigned to their students: John Steinbeck, George Orwell, Zora Neale Hurston, Harper Lee, and F. Scott Fitzgerald are bound to be among the classic paperbacks. All great books, whose authors are no longer with us.

"I intentionally chose three living authors," said **Dr. John Cusatis**, regarding the summer reading list he assigned to his AP English Literature students. "I also picked books that are both popular and literary."

The AP summer list was comprised of two novels, Colum McCann's *Let the Great World Spin* (2009) and Adam Johnson's *The Orphan Master's Son* (2012), and one collection of poetry, Billy Collins' *Aimless Love* (2011). McCann's novel won the National Book Award; Johnson's was awarded the Pulitzer Prize, and Collins wrote many of the poems in *Aimless Love*, including the classic 9/11 tribute "The Names," while serving two terms as United States Poet Laureate.

All three books were New York Times Best Sellers.

"Man. That is one hip reading list," commented Collins in an e-mail response to Dr. Cusatis. "Not like my schooling where nothing you wanted to read on your own would be taught." Collins was the first to accept the invitation to join the class to discuss his book. McCann and Johnson subsequently agreed. And during the first full week of the new school year, AP students enjoyed speaking with all three authors via telephone conference call.

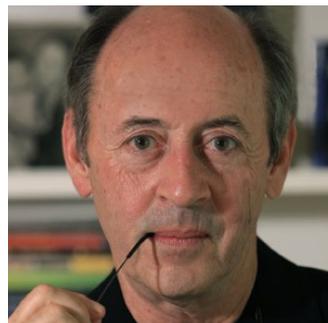
Collins spoke to the class from his home in central Florida. "You can call me Billy," he began, before commenting how "lucky" the students were for "getting all these literary big shots" to speak with them. Collins explained to students that while some poets do not like to talk about their poems, he doesn't mind it a bit. "Where would you like to start?" he asked. "Litany," was the unanimous response. Collins obliged, reading his frequently anthologized parody of a classic love poem that effusively flatters its female subject. "In a number of my poems I poke fun at some of the conventions and the habits of poetry and poets," he began before reading the poem, which includes such lines as "And you are certainly not the pine-scented air. / There is no way you are the pine-scented air."

Shakespeare is "a little more serious than I am," Collins admitted.

"Just think of me as a jukebox," Collins joked, "Put in a dollar and I'll read a poem." He proceeded to treat the class to readings of five more poems including a newly penned and yet unpublished poem titled "Me First," which treats, not without humor, a subject with which much of his newest work is concerned: mortality. Collins, who has been called "the most popular poet in America," by *The Wall Street Journal*, read one of his many humorously irreverent attacks on contemporary poetry, "The Trouble with Poetry," in which he reflects that "the trouble with poetry is / that it encourages the writing of more poetry, / more guppies crowding the fish tank." A critic of poems that are difficult for the sake of difficulty, Collins introduced the poem by commenting, "You know how the government pays farmers not to grow crops? They should do the same thing to poets to shut them up for a year or something."

In an e-mail following the discussion, Collins commented to Dr. Cusatis, "You and your students are fortunate to have the stimulation of each other's company. I really enjoyed our time. As the questions continued to be smartly curious, I was wishing I was with you, but then I would have had to put a shirt on."

Adam Johnson, who teaches creative writing at Stanford, was equally relaxed during his phone conversation with SOA students, which he conducted from his living room couch in San Francisco. Johnson began by complimenting our "beautiful city," which he visited for a week in 2012 as a guest of the College of Charleston. "I loved it a great deal. Great food, too!" In response to senior Jessica's Leiker's question regarding "thematic concerns" that pervade Johnson's fiction, the author recalled his father, a night time security guard at the Phoenix Zoo, who allowed him to visit the underground cages where the animals stayed at night. In this "underground" zoo, he explained, the animals behaved differently and instilled in him the idea that "there is a deeper world, a truer, richer world"



Billy Collins

below "the world that you're shown." He continued, "In all my work, I just try to lift the veil and find out what's really going on."

In *The Orphan Master's Son*, winner of the 2013 Pulitzer Prize, Johnson lifts the veil on a country that is a mystery to its own 23 million citizens: North Korea. Johnson shared stories from his five day trip to the despotic nation in 2007. "I wouldn't go there now, obviously," he said reflecting on the visit, which took place during the reign of Kim Jong Il, a major character in his novel. Johnson told students that citizens of Korea are prohibited from speaking to foreigners. "I was a shark in a school of fish. Everyone would swing wide of me," he explained. "I remember thinking if I could buy a coffee for just one person, ask them what their dreams were, what their lives were like, I wouldn't have to write this huge book and imagine it."

*The Orphan Master's Son* is primarily the work of Johnson's imagination, as it traces the wild adventures of Jun Do (a play on John Doe), from his days as a kidnapper,



Adam Johnson

through his time in a horrific work camp, and his incredible rise to the role of diplomat and military

commander.

Like much of Johnson's work, the novel grapples with questions of identity, which in North Korea, the novel suggests, is an elusive idea, as self-definition is hardly an available option.

"I want to thank you guys," Johnson concluded, "for caring, for deeply engaging in what it is to be human on this planet -- through literature. I'm proud of you all."

*Continued on Page 17*

## Hip Hop music review

by Caleb Smith



A\$AP Mob's newly released album, *Cozy Tapes, Vol. 2: Too Cozy*, is the second released collection we have seen from the modern Hip-Hop group since their previous, *Cozy Tapes Vol. 1: Friends*.

The first volume included well known artists such as Tyler The Creator, A\$AP Rocky, A\$AP Ferg, Juicy J, Onyx, etc.

This second volume was nothing short of introspective, intimate, raw, and as always, lyrical. This volume also includes more new upcoming artists including, Key!, Playboi Carti, Gucci Mane, Quavo, Lil Uzi Vert, and more. The collaboration aspect of this collection is enough for A\$AP Mob listeners.

Some of the favorite tracks on the collection seem to be "track 3," "Please Shut Up," "Walk On Water," and "RAF."

My personal favorite would probably be track 4, *Blowin' Minds (Skateboard)*, and not just because of the mesmerizing melodies, but also because of all the unique personalities that each artist brings and leaves at the mic.

The last track title, *Last Day of Skool (Skit)*, may have left A\$AP Mob listeners a bit confused about whether they should look forward to a volume 3 of *Cozy Tapes*, or if the anticipation is useless.

Whether there are more volumes on the way or not, A\$AP Mob has contributed a large sum to the Hip-Hop game with the last volume, and now the second of *Cozy Tapes*.

## Face It!

by Alec Pourmoghadam

*Face It!* is a monthly Applause column in which I will discuss various face masks and their effects. All face masks are purchased and used based on store employee recommendations. Disclaimer: All skin types are different, so results will vary.

For this issue of Face It, I went to the almighty LUSH Cosmetics.



**Recommended Face Mask:** Oatifix

**Price:** \$9.95

**Size:** 2.1 oz

**How to Use:** Smooth mask all over your skin. Leave on for 15 minutes then rinse off with warm water, massaging as you go.

**My experience:** Let me tell you, I definitely treated myself with this facemask. This mask made me feel like Beyonce. It was the perfect mix of a scrubbing and a smoothing sensation. And the smell was to die for. Imagine the smell of homemade oatmeal chocolate chip cookies, that is what this mask smelled like. After about 10 minutes, I decided to take off the mask. Let me just say, this mask was a struggle to get off. I went through three wipes and a cleanser to get this mask off. After I struggled with getting the mask off, I was satisfied with the results. My skin felt like a baby butt and my skin was glowing. Overall, I liked this face mask, but I would not go out of my way to get it.

**Pros:** Vegan, Cruelty-Free, Smells good, Relatively cheap

**Cons:** Small size, Not good for oily skin, Hard to get off

**Would Pair This Face Mask With:** A nice toner and watching an episode your favorite Netflix series

**Rating:** 3.5 out of 5 stars



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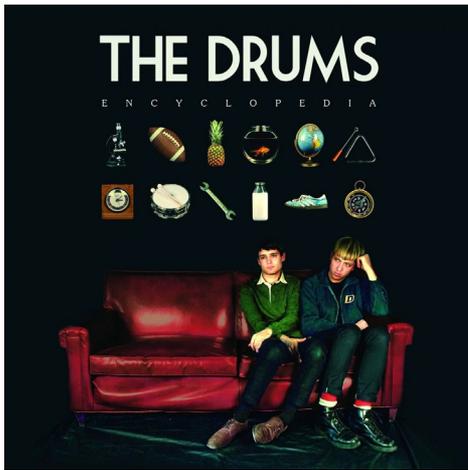
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## Contemporary album review: *Encyclopedia* by The Drums

by Maggie Robinson



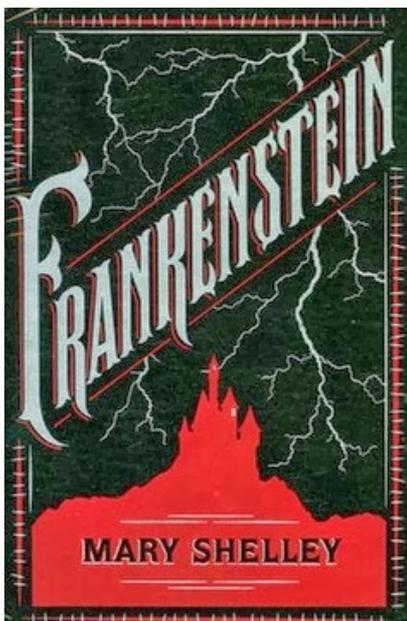
Released in 2014, *Encyclopedia* is a prominent album in the indie music scene. The overall sound consists of bechy guitars and heavy drums with a classic rock vibe. Most importantly, though, it has great potential to be featured on a Halloween playlist.

Most of the album is built upon minor and diminished chords, which give the songs some creepy feelings. It also has a strong basis on washy background noises and music box-esque tunes.

True, it may not technically be a Halloween-themed album, but *Encyclopedia* evokes those thrilling emotions you may feel late at night on October 31. An ideal Halloween playlist would include the songs "Magic Mountain," "Let Me," and "Face of God."

## Contemporary book review: *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley

by Maggie Robinson



Mary Shelley wrote *Frankenstein* when she was only eighteen as part of a competition between friends to see who could write the best horror story. She obviously won with what was supposed to only be a short story. Now, it is seen as a revolutionary science fiction story.

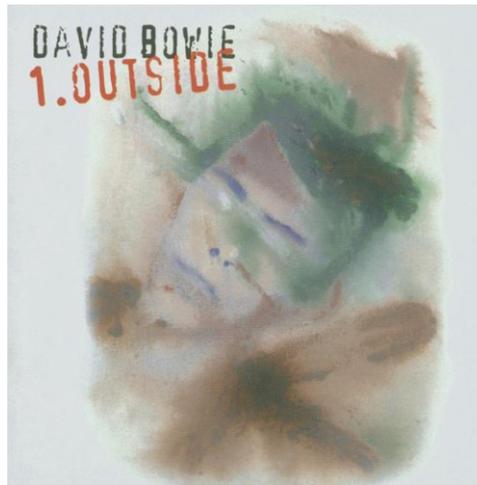
This story about a scientist who creates a monster out of salvaged body parts from the deceased has held a captivated audience for years for a reason.

Although it can be tough to begin reading at first, the story will eventually suck you into its universe. With its intriguing storyline, conflicted characters, and nerve-wracking scenes, and thrilling tone, it kept me on the edge of my seat.

Somehow, Shelley uses a monster to raise questions of what it means to be human, and provides a thought-provoking, yet thrilling story that is perfect for the Halloween season.

## Classic album review: *Outside* by David Bowie

by Maggie Robinson



Most people know David Bowie for *Let's Dance* and *Space Oddity*, but some of his most creative works can be found in his lesser known music. In Bowie's 1995 concept album *Outside*, he tells the story about a young girl's murder in a dystopian society.

*Outside* is probably one of Bowie's most intriguing albums. He wrote diaries for the album's characters, visited psychiatric hospitals, and created an entire story about the murder. It is his longest album at 75 minutes, but that doesn't make it any less worth

listening to. Bowie does an incredible job of switching back and forth between the character's points of view; for example, he sings from the murderer's perspective in "I'm Deranged" while still keeping the song enjoyable.

Overall, this concept album is one of my favorites of Bowie's work. It highlights his uniqueness and talents of taking on characters and being "out there" in the music world. The sound of the music is eerie, but still has some of Bowie's characteristics that can be heard in his other songs. A Halloween party is practically begging to have his songs "The Motel," "Outside," and "Wishful Beginnings," on its playlist.

***Editor's Note:*** *These book and music reviews are written in honor of Halloween and all things spooky, and therefore these reviews are about evil, the supernatural, and general creepiness. Enjoy the frights!*

## Marilyn Monroe

by Alex Clifford

She was origami—flesh like onion skin—  
creases etched deep then deeper, bones  
became paper, marrow like cellophane, folded  
smaller, smaller until she hid from herself.

Creases deeper now, tighter, breathe,  
she was claustrophobic buried beneath  
bottles of Redisol, until she hid from herself.  
Then dissolved like snow on hot asphalt.

She was claustrophobic, pressed between  
celluloid and drawn with lipstick, until  
she dissolved like snow sinking farther and  
farther into the filtered black and white photos.

She was shaped between fingers beautifully  
sculpted until she was the consistency of smoke,  
lighter than air, until she fell farther and farther until  
her ghost of Nembutal and champagne lay

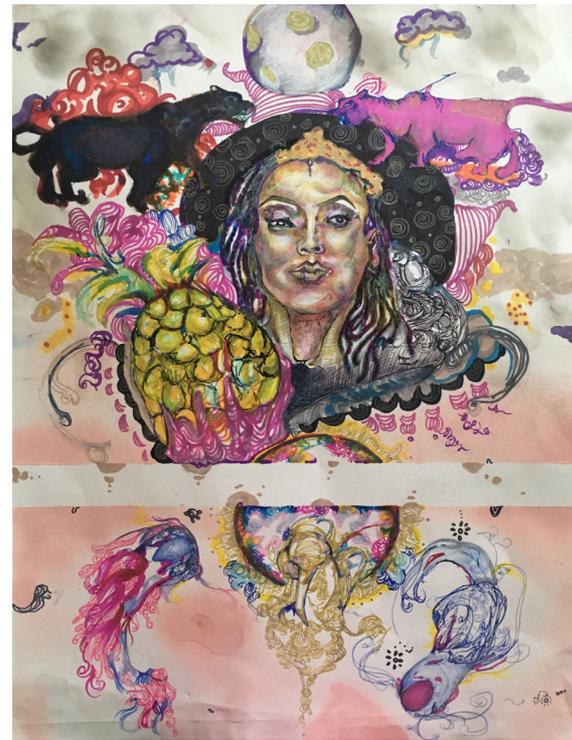
beautifully sculpted on the floor. Wilted like  
wisteria on the hardwood, blond hair fanned  
around her head. Nembutal and champagne like a ghost  
on her nightstand, illuminated by lamp light.

*It's lighter there.* Lying on the hardwood floor, she  
became paper, marrow like cellophane  
her skin illuminated by lamp light. Crumpled  
beneath the weight of her own palms

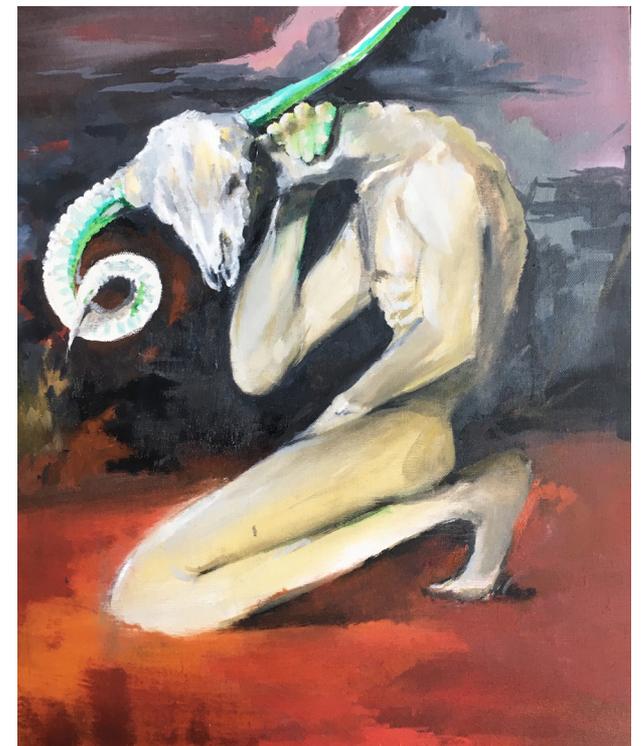
She was origami.



“The Course of a Paper Clip  
During a Hurricane”  
**Leo Horton, Junior.**  
Acrylic on paper.



**Ayanna Gadsen, Senior.**  
Mixed media on paper.



**Teagan Prichard, Senior.**  
Oil on canvas.

*Continued from page 13*



Colum McCann

Speaking to class from his home on the Upper East Side of Manhattan, Colum McCann was as cordial and casual as Collins and Johnson. “Hey guys, how are you doing?” he began. “If you hear water running,” he apologized, “that’s me making coffee.” McCann, no stranger to SOA, having delivered the Commencement Address to the Class of 2009 and serving as keynote speaker

at the dedication of the Rose Maree Myers Theater the following year, discussed his decision to use Phillipe Petite’s tightrope walk between the twin towers as the centerpiece of *Let the Great World Spin*, which *Esquire* called the “the first great 9/11 novel.”

He also talked about his international non-profit, Narrative 4, which he described as “the exchange of stories: you step into my shoes, I step into yours.” The program has had tremendous success bringing together young people from various cultures to share their stories in an effort to engender what McCann calls “radical empathy.” The program developed, he explained, out of a visit he made to Newtown, Connecticut after the Sandy Hook shootings, where he discussed healing and recovery with high schoolers, who had been assigned *Let the Great World Spin* in an effort to help them deal with the aftermath of the tragedy.

Like Johnson, McCann travels the world while researching his novels, as he often takes on the voice of people very different from himself. He said his newest novel has grown out of several recent trips to Israel and Palestine, though he resisted saying much more. He did, however, reveal his working title: “Aperiogon,” which he described as “a shape with a countably infinite numbers of sides. Isn’t that funky?” He added, “That’s what I think storytelling is, an aperiogon, a constantly evolving shape.”

In response to Jada Orr’s question regarding the effect that international recognition has had on his writing, McCann responded: “Well, I wish I could say that all of those recognitions didn’t change me at all. In fact, I hope that is the true answer. But the fact of the matter is that when you get that sort of recognition, it does put a bit of pressure on you in different ways. Some people expect you to do the same sort of thing again, and that is what I do not want to do: I don’t want to write the same book over and over again. I want to continually evolve.”

McCann offered encouragement to his listeners. Speaking to creative writer and *Applause* editor Patrick Wohlscheid, he remarked: “To write one thing that gets remembered, that is pretty incredible. To write many, many things that get remembered and still engage with people of all ages, it’s kind of wonderful. So I hope you do it, too! When you do your writing, write something memorable.”

## 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.

Say it with me, “People’s cultures are NOT costumes!” With Halloween rapidly approaching, please make sure you aren’t offending anyone’s culture with your costume. If I see one more “Savage Indian War Chief,” I might flip my lid. It is not okay for you to take an oppressed group cultural

elements and make it “on trend” this Halloween season.

Besides letting your costume have cultural appropriation in it, try to avoid letting your costume be racist! Why does a white female dress up as Wendy Williams and use black face? Great question! You would think that this would be common sense, but apparently some people don’t use their thinking noggin when planning out costumes.

We are living in a time where so many people are so proud of who they are, so what gives you the right to take their cultures and make it into a costume for one night? If you are worried that your costume is going to offend someone, I would get a new one.

So maybe instead of wearing your “Sexy Geisha” costume, you could just choose to stay home and pass out candy or drive down to Spirit Halloween and get a costume that will actually look cute and not be offensive.



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## Editorial

# Recent hurricanes echo the need for climate change legislation in Washington

Hurricane Season, which spans the months of June to November, has already proven a catastrophic force for certain parts of the world. Hurricane Harvey reached a category 4 and caused devastation in Houston and Irma broke records as the largest storm ever to enter the Atlantic, nearly wiping out the Key West and islands in the Caribbean. Maria's destruction in Puerto Rico leaves the island with massive and prolonged power outage, and her path still continues.

From this destruction, we see our country unite to offer relief to those affected victims, rebuild communities and slowly, move on.

But as the U.S. prepares for yet another string of hurricanes brewing in the Atlantic, Jose and Lee, and await any more news of the future storms that have yet to come, some begin to wonder if this 2017 hurricane season, which is perceived as uniquely extreme, is one the world should get used to.

Though climate scientists cannot point fingers at the direct cause of strength and severity of these hurricanes, the consensus in the scientific community says that global increase of carbon emissions worsens the effect of hurricanes.

**Mr. Kevin Short**, a biology teacher here at School of the Arts, had this to say about the issue. "As a scientist, we are trained to look at data and not emotion. I can unequivocally say that there are more hurricanes with greater intensity than in the past. I attribute this to a changing climate. As earth's atmosphere changes chemistry and earth's surface changes temperature, we will continue to see weather systems change in intensity both locally and globally."

Mr. Short is just one in the 97 percent of the scientific community who acknowledge the existence and effect of climate change. But despite the vast majority of scientists who agree on this issue, many of our current politicians refuse to change environmental policy that will move the country into limiting carbon emissions and place more funding into finding renewable resources. The United States is ranked second in the world in carbon dioxide emissions from the consumption of energy. Our government has made little progress into moving towards more environmentally sustainable energy.

This may be because our political parties, particularly the Republican Party, is backed and funded by huge fossil fuel companies. OpenSecrets.org cites that from 2017 to 2018, companies like Chevron Corp, Koch Industries, and Exxonmobil contributed a combined \$2,760,244 to political campaigns, the vast majority of them being Republican. Though fossil fuels companies did not fund much of Trump's campaign, millions were pumped into his inauguration. Exxon, BP and Citgo Petroleum, each donated \$500,000. Kelcy Warren, the chief executive of Energy Transfer Partners, developer of the Dakota Access pipeline, gave \$250,000.

One most only look to the president's cabinet to see the effects of those donations. The current head of the E.P.A., Scott Pruitt, is a vehement climate change denier. Our secretary of state, Rex W. Tillerson, was the former COO of Exxon Mobile. Not to mention of course Donald Trump himself, who has in the past denied existence of climate change, claiming "The concept of global warming was created by and for the Chinese in order to make U.S. manufacturing non-competitive."

These words can certainly feel discouraging for those that accept climate change for what it is. A fact. So how do we move towards a society that will foster research and funding for environmentally friendly resources? In order to move forward, we first must vote those who refuse to acknowledge the truth about climate change, out of office. Because rather than wasting time on arguing over existence, we should instead be discussing actions we can take to create a sustainable future for our planet. So that we don't have to get used to hurricane seasons like the one we have faced this year.



Art work by Graham Martini

## September Events

October 16th & 17th— High School Theater Showcase, 4pm, Black Box

October 18th— High School Orchestra's Thankful Concert, 6:30pm, RMMT

October 21st— Jump, Jive & Wail, 7:30pm, City of Charleston Visitors Center Bus Shed

October 25th-27th— 8th Grade Theater Play: Grimm's Fairytale Speculation, 10am & 6:30pm, Black Box

October 26th- November 5th— Middle and High School Visual Arts: Youth Arts Competitions, Costal Carolina Fair

October 27th— Spook-N-Blues, BBQ at 6:30pm, doors open for haunted house at 6:30pm, Piano Performance at 7pm, SOA Café

October 30th— 6th Grade Theater Showcase, 4pm, Black Box

## College Visits to SOA

10/9 Monday-  
Davidson College  
Charleston Southern University  
MIT (AMHS Lecture Hall 7pm)

10/11 Wednesday-  
Oglethorpe University  
Queens University

10/13 Friday-  
Colby College  
Trident Technical College

10/16 Monday-  
Winthrop University

10/17 Tuesday-  
Birmingham Southern University

10/18 Wednesday-  
Sewanee: The University of the South

11/1 Wednesday-  
USC College of Pharmacy

11/7 Tuesday-  
Salve Regina University

11/16 Thursday-  
University of Alabama

## The Trivia Challenge

by Cora Schipa

It's October, so what better way to celebrate the month's highlight holiday with Halloween trivia? In this issue, the twin September champions, **Glynn and Alden King**, are combining forces to do battle with Senior Visual Artist **Amber Schipa** for the Halloween crown!

### Questions

1. What other three colors, besides orange, do pumpkins also come in?
2. True or False. Seeing a spider on Halloween is considered good luck.
3. How many times has the movie Texas Chainsaw Massacre been made?
4. What is the most popular candy on Halloween?
5. What kind of dog was Cujo?
6. In which state is it illegal to dress up like a priest for Halloween?
7. Where did Halloween originate?
8. In the horror movie "Carrie", how does Carrie kill her mother?
9. True or False. Day of the Dead is the Mexican version of Halloween.
10. In "Nightmare on Elm Street", what colors are Freddy Krueger's sweater?

### Glynn and Alden King 12th Grade Dance

1. White, yellow, and green.
2. False.
3. Four.
4. Candy corn.
5. Pit bull.
6. Mississippi.
7. Germany.
8. She throws knives and scissors with her telepathic powers.
9. False.
10. White and black.

**3/10**



Cora Schipa



Cora Schipa

### Amber Schipa 12th Grade Visual Arts

1. White, purple, and yellow.
2. False.
3. Three.
4. Chocolate.
5. St. Bernard.
6. Tennessee.
7. UK.
8. Knives.
9. False.
10. Red and black.

**5/10**

In a trivia coup, Amber Schipa has bested the combined knowledge of the twins, and will return for the next issue to go against the next contestant looking to knock the Halloqueen from her throne!

### Answers

1. Blue, green, white, red, and tan.
2. True - it means the spirit of a loved one is guarding you.
3. Twice - Once in 1974 and again in 2003.
4. Chocolate candy bars.
5. St. Bernard.
6. Alabama.
7. Ireland.
8. With a knife.
9. False.
10. Red and green.

Are you interested  
in competing in an  
upcoming *Applause*  
Trivia Challenge?  
If so, email  
[pjwohl2000@gmail.com](mailto:pjwohl2000@gmail.com).



“A unicorn.”

- Olivia Niblock, 6th grade



“Mrs. Whatsit from *A Wrinkle in Time*.”

- Eli Bundy, 8th grade Band



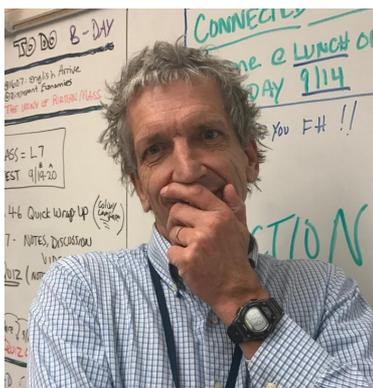
“A Gangster nun.”

-Ele Fish, 12th grade Fashion



“Wilma Flintstone and my dog Fred was Fred Flintstone.”

- Mrs. Fitz, Arts Teacher



“Lucille Ball. My costume was so good that some people wouldn't give me candy because they thought I was someone's mother.”

- Dr. Tesenair, US History teacher

## What's the best Halloween costume you've ever worn?

by Carson Peaden and Mary Grace Hutzler



“My friend and I dressed up as Squints and Wendy Peffercorn the lifeguard from *The Sandlot*.”

- Reese Marcoon, 11th grade Creative Writing



“My friend and I went as Marie Antoinette and the executioner. We were 11.”

- Mrs. Traylor, 7th grade Math



“Louise from Bob's Burgers.”

- Nadja McGlone, 12th grade Fashion



“Dead bride.”

- Brooking Eager, 8th grade Band



“Thomas the Tank Engine.”

- Jonathan Yi, 9th grade Vocal