

Applause



Volume 19, Number 3

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

November 2017

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DIAMOND

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AMETHYST

Dr. John Cusatis

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Logan Murray

The Wohlscheid Family

TOPAZ

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The Griffin Family

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Heath Orvin

Susan Pace

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GARNET

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Kathy Traylor

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Letter from the Editor

Dear Readers,

As we push further and further into the Autumn season, time is flying by even faster. The temperature has begun to drop, the hours in the day seem to have shortened, and we are only a month away from the end of the first semester.

As seniors finish their college applications, students get into the thick of their classes, and everyone starts getting into the holiday spirit, *Applause* is proud to continue giving you the best news and features that SOA has to offer. From Wordfest to the National Honor Society Blood Drive, *Applause* has your SOA events and accomplishments covered.

This issue of *Applause* introduces a new feature, Creative Writing Mentor Spotlights. This column is part of an *Applause* effort to showcase the talent of SOA's hardworking seniors, and inform our readers of the processes that these artists go through to complete their theses.

Applause is a paper by and for the student body at SOA, 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.

Until next month, SOA,

Patrick Wohlscheid, Editor-in-Chief

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Applause

since 1999, the official student publication of
School of the Arts

Founded in 1995 by Rose Maree Myers

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Cover by Halle Garrett

Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon is a show to remember

by Caleb Smith



Provided

The simplistic but intimate set allowed the actors to emphasize their characters stories

Mr. George Younts and his eighth grade theater major class recently put on their performance of The Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon.

The show was nothing short of spectacular, as all actors contributed to a wild yet cohesive performance. Eighth grade theater and Mr. Younts did a wonderful job interweaving the various tales into a fast-paced, engaging, and difficult to execute production. The cast's energy and delivery was all the more intriguing to any audience that was watching the performance. The abundant comedy and varying themes were never lost throughout the almost hour and a half runtime of the show.

One actor that stood out in particular was **Miles Kendrick**, who displayed his gift of acting through playing eight characters at once! There were also other scenes that included a small group of actors to portray a story of the Grimm Brothers' who were exceptionally strong in their character choices, body movement, and engagement with the audience.

One thing to be taken note of is that when an actor is presented with a hysterically funny play such as this one, it is easy to break character on stage. Something I admired throughout watching this production is that not one person in the show broke their character or lost focus of their objective.

The set was simple, yet could not go unnoticed. It gave the show a sort of intimate feel with any story that was acted out on stage, which is something that every performance needs when performing with the goal of having the audience's attention the whole time.

Though most at first glance would look at The Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon, and marvel at the amount of energy, work, and focus it incites, Mr. Younts and his eighth grade class took hold of the responsibility, used it to their advantage and performed a show that will be marked as one of the best eighth grade performances to come from SOA Theater.

Boone Hall Fright Night returns for a Halloween scare

by Cora Schipa

After many were upset by its temporary disappearance, Boone Hall Fright Night returned to Charleston to scare and entertain. The tickets were a bit more expensive than previous years at \$33 for the Scream Pass and \$45 for the VIP Faster to the Fear Pass, but the attractions thrilled just the same.

The Wicked Woods Haunted Hayride has time and time again proven to be a favorite, with its chainsaws, cannibals, and giant creatures emerging from the forest.

The three other attractions had a new set of themes this year, including The Crypt, which led you through different generally spooky sections, The Cemetery of Lost Souls, which featured a lengthy, fogged path through gravestones and zombies, and The Gateway, for which customers are given 3D glasses to see impressive neon clown paintings along a windy tunnel, with 'real-life' scary clowns waiting around every corner.

Fright Night was not limited to these, though: music, a palm reader, and food and drinks were also available for your enjoyment.

SOA Junior Creative Writer **Reese Marcoon** reported Fright Night to be "scarier than [she] thought it would be" as she "held onto her friend the whole time!" She concluded by adding "10/10 would recommend." **Alden King**, a Senior Dance major, had a similar experience: "it was very scary, but in a good way."

Fright Night's last night was Halloween, but hopefully this spooky tradition will continue to reappear for the years to come.

SOA Senior makes strong showing at state swim championship

by Julian Griffin

On Friday, October 13th, SOA senior vocal major Jonathan Stone competed in the South Carolina State Swimming Championship in Columbia. To prepare for the meet, Jonathan went through rigorous practice for weeks before the championship, tapering off the last week to save his energy and best effort for the competition.

"I wasn't too nervous," Jonathan said, "because I have been to state in years prior." He added, "My teammates came to cheer for me, along with friends and family." Jonathan qualified for the 50 meter freestyle, 100 meter freestyle, 200 meter medley relay, and 400 meter medley relay. "In my opinion I did pretty well in the events I swam," Jonathan said, placing 12th with 22.63 seconds in the 50 yard freestyle, and 15th with 50.47 seconds in the 100 yard freestyle.

Congratulations to Jonathan from everybody at SOA!



Jonathan swam in four different events at the State Championship at USC.

Wordfest celebrates the works of Creative Writing students

by Taylor Kahn-Perry

Readers roaming through Mt. Pleasant's Barnes and Noble on Saturday, October 28 may have stumbled across SOA Creative Writing's

Wordfest: A Celebration of Student Writing. Students from sixth through twelfth grade shared original work at the department's annual fundraiser with genres including fiction, poetry, creative nonfiction, and scripts.

The morning began early with sixth graders braving the podium at their very first Wordfest. For many sixth grade students, Wordfest is their first opportunity to share their work in public. To do so at a venue like Barnes and Noble is even more exciting.

The grades progressed hour by hour over the course of the day. Between student work, Creative Writing Booster Club volunteers encouraged onlookers to make purchases with SOA's special voucher code. They also worked hard to collect new books for the Creative Writing classroom. Funds from Wordfest go on to support the program's literary magazine and guest writer series, which has supported speakers like Richard Blanco and Nikki Finney in recent years.

Missing from the event was Creative Writing Director **Mr. Rutledge Hammes**, who just welcomed his daughter into the world. "Even without new father Mr. Hammes to keep everything in order, Wordfest ran smoothly, and parents got to hear some really great pieces from writers in every grade," said ninth grade Creative Writer **River Abedon**.

Creative Writing teachers **Mrs. Hart** and **Mrs. DeTiberus** coordinated the student performances and watched the young writers take pride in their artistic efforts.



Creative Writing Seniors are applauded at the conclusion of their last Wordfest reading.

The Coastal Carolina Fair remains a Lowcountry classic

by Mary Grace Hutzler

Whether you go for the assortment of fried foods, the thrill of the many nauseating rides, or just to people watch in the crowds of camouflage and Crocs, the annual Coastal Carolina Fair is an event everyone should experience at some point in their life. From October 26th to November 5th, the Coastal Carolina Fair took over the Ladson Fairgrounds.

The atmosphere of the fair is unique to say the least. Upon entering the gates, the air smells of cotton candy mixed with foul-smelling farm animals and you are suddenly surrounded by every redneck in the tri-county area.

For the daring souls, there are dozens of rides like Crazy Mouse, the Gravitron, MegaDrop,

The Senior Creative Writing majors ended the event with excerpts from their senior theses. "It was almost surreal, having read at Wordfest every year and knowing that this was our last," said Senior Creative Writer **Patrick Wohlscheid**. For their final project in creative writing, each senior is working hard to publish a one-hundred page book. By the time of Wordfest, they had fifty pages of writing to choose from.

"Wordfest is a long, wonderful whirlwind of a day," said Creative Writing teacher Mrs. DeTiberus. "It's incredibly emotional to see the entire arc of the Creative Writing department from 6th grade to Senior Thesis. I am so proud of our students, and am constantly inspired by their thoughtful observations and beautiful words."

and a ride very similar to the infamous Fire-Ball. This past June at the Ohio State Fair, the 18 year old ride malfunctioned, launching riders into the air, killing one and injuring several others.

During my visit to the county fair, I spoke to one of the first responders at that incident. He informed us that the cause of the malfunction was due to extreme neglect by the ride manufacturer, which, thankfully, is very rare. He then assured us the rides at the Coastal Carolina Fair are put through thorough inspections several times each day to ensure proper safety.



People of all ages come out to Ladson each year to eat their weight in funnel cakes and spin

around on the tilt-a-whirl until they puke. Clearly, it's a quality American pastime, and I recommend going next year if you missed it this time.



Middle School Assistant Principal **Mr. Grant** (right), presents a check from SOA to assist Ms. Jane Lassiter (second from left), **Mia Lassiter** (far left), and Lily Lassiter (center), whose home was destroyed recently by a fire. The Lassiters expressed their gratitude for the generous support of the whole community in the wake of this tragedy.

SOA haunted house remains a spooky staple

by Graham Martini

The SOA annual haunted house is always a creative experience for everyone involved.

The space is small but the way the haunted house is designed creates small rooms and halls that allow for jump scares followed by blood curdling screams.

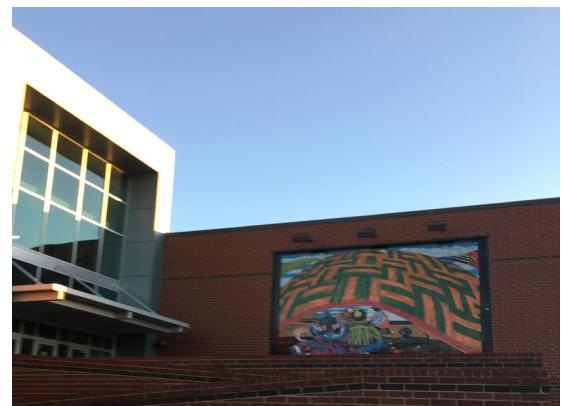
The props and scenes are all constructed by students in the stage tech class. My favorite part of this year's haunted house had to be a tunnel of spider webs that drew increasingly small so that by the end you had the crawl on hands and knees into a dark space to get through. In addition, the use of lighting was very professional and set the scene.

The intricacy of some of the rooms was incredible. There was a dining room set with a student-made painting and wallpaper hanging.

SOA has outdone itself yet again, and let's hope the trend continues to scare for years to come.

Teacher Cadet students visit local schools

by Taylor Kahn-Perry



Murals are an integral part of the Sanders-Clyde environment, celebrating the arts and depicting important civil rights history.

The last full week of October, SOA and AMHS's joint Teacher Cadet class spent first block off-campus, but students still found themselves in school. The Teacher Cadets met downtown

on two separate mornings to observe classrooms at Buist Academy for Advanced Studies and Sanders-Clyde Creative Arts School.

Teacher Cadet is a Dual Enrollment course to which students from SOA and AMHS can be accepted. Offered across South Carolina, the program is sponsored by the Center for Educator Recruitment, Retention and Advancement (CERRA) at Winthrop University in Rock Hill, SC. Teacher Cadets may pursue higher education in the teaching field through Teaching Fellows, a scholarship program available at select South Carolina universities, also sponsored by CERRA.

"Teacher Cadet has been the most beneficial decision overall I could have ever made for myself," remarked Senior Creative Writing major **Kate Grayson**, who hopes to become a teacher herself.

The Teacher Cadet course introduces the teaching field to students interested in education. Students learn about personal learning styles, inclusive teaching methods, and the history of public education in South Carolina. Teacher Cadet instructor and AMHS math teacher **Ms. Yackey** organized the visits to Buist and Sanders-Clyde to help Teacher Cadet students gain perspective of schools within CCSD. "I wanted our future teachers and leaders to see what the educational atmosphere is like at two different downtown Charleston schools," said Ms. Yackey; "I also wanted to remind high schoolers of what it was like to be in an elementary school and how tiny everything is."

The Teacher Cadets rotated through classrooms at Buist Academy, observing Kindergarten, 1st grade, and 5th grade courses. During the visit to Sanders-Clyde, the Teacher Cadets were staggered. Some observed Child Development classes, for students too young for Kindergarten, while others observed older classrooms.

Many AMHS students noticed similarities between the school climate at Buist and AMHS, while many SOA Teacher Cadets were happy to see Sanders-Clyde's emphasis on the arts. Across Sanders-Clyde's walls, murals depict important moments in history such as the Civil Rights movement. Teacher Cadets took note of the use of iPads and technology in the classroom at both schools.

"The experience was very enlightening," said senior Vocal major **Alec Pourmoghadam**. "It was very interesting to see class concepts and things we learned applied in a real life classroom."

National Honor Society Blood Drive sets new record

by Courtney Wickstrom



Patrick Wohlscheid

SOA Juniors and Seniors from NHS volunteered to work the sign in tables during the Blood Drive

September 22nd marked the first Red Cross Blood Drive through NHS of the school year. Pod leaders **Amelia Cobb** (Senior Vocalist) and **Luke Ablonczy** (Senior Strings) were in charge of organizing the event—setting up tables, signing in student donors, and ordering food for the nurses—alongside other NHS Blood Drive pod members.

When asked if she was nervous to be passed the torch from last year's leaders, Class of 2017's **Kellen Gatton** and **Jamie Jacobs**, Cobb stated, "Kellen and Jamie did such a good job last year we had some big shoes to fill."

The blood drive went extremely well, with a new record set for pints of blood donated in an SOA drive. A total of 47 pints was donated by both students and Bonds Wilson community members, beating last year's 41 pints. Cobb also gives a shout out to the student leaders of this drive through NHS: **Sarah Catherine Gillard** (Senior Dance), **Liv Provosty** (Junior Creative Writing), and **Abby Haynes** (Senior Dance), "for being amazing and helping everything go as planned."

The next blood drive is December 7th, and a sign up table will be in the cafeteria a few days beforehand. Students ages 16 and older can donate with a parent's permission, if they fit the height and weight requirements listed. Sign up to give blood and save lives!

Where Were They Then ?

Applause's **Jessica Bride** sat down with high school Statistics and Algebra teacher, **Karen Duff**, to discover her life before SOA.

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

Ms. Duff: I was 3 and I was trying to climb back up a hill after sledding down it. It was so slippery and steep to me. When I revisited that hill as an adult, it was a pretty mild slope. (That was in Knoxville, TN.)

JB: Where did you grow up? And how is it similar to or different from the Charleston area?

KD: My family moved several times when I was a child, but I mostly grew up in Shaker Heights, Ohio, outside of Cleveland. I graduated high school in Carmel, Indiana, outside of Indianapolis. Both of those locations were cold and snowy most of the year. Indiana was a big change for me in high school. Most Hoosiers went to school in Indiana and wanted to stay there forever. I was one of the few to leave the state for college.

JB: What was something from your childhood that you would never give up, such as a memory or a gift?

KD: I spent a lot of time outside as a child, and some of my favorite memories involve playing in creeks, going on hikes, and walking around lakes. The area in Cleveland has a lot of nice parks and we visited lots of them. We lived near one little lake that I would visit regularly because it was peaceful and beautiful.

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

KD: I'd think she was a good student. As a high schooler, I took many AP classes and didn't get into trouble. I dressed in t-shirts, flannel shirts and ripped jeans, but I did my work and was responsible.

JB: What are some fun facts about you?

KD: I enjoy music! I play the piano, the saxophone, and the organ. I was a gymnast when I was a child. I have six children of my own including a freshman violinist here at SOA. I did a study abroad in Israel during college, and I have studied French, Spanish and Arabic. I met my husband in Arabic class in college. I have lived in 9 states and visited 49/50. I also like to cook, read, run, geocache, crochet, and have a large variety of hobbies. I really enjoy trying new things.

JB: What made you want to teach?

KD: When I was a teenager, I didn't want to be a teacher. I came back to it after trying some other majors because I like doing different things each day and interacting with people.

JB: What drew you to math?

KD: My father is an actuary, specializing in health care. This means basically he's a statistician. Mental math games and riddles were common in my childhood. I always enjoyed math and felt confident about it.

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

KD: We were staying with my parents here in Charleston for the summer while job hunting, and I decided to apply for jobs in Charleston County. Dr. Cook called me after I started my application and after visiting with her, I thought this was a great job opportunity for me so I accepted!

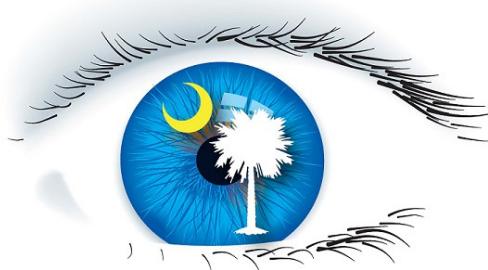
JB: What differences and similarities have you seen so far between teaching high school and teaching at Texas A&M?

KD: There are many differences. I had 4 - 8 whiteboards in the classroom, so I usually did not have to erase during class. I used computers for displays also, but we didn't use smart boards. I'm still not a big fan of the smart board honestly. Also I taught at a much faster pace there. I've had to slow down and relax here. University classes are mostly lecture, while I've tried to make my math classes more interactive here. Classes here are much more intimate - I didn't get to know my students much there unless they came to me for help outside of class. As far as similarities, students everywhere struggle with technology distractions (phones and computers during class).



Provided

Ms. Duff helps decorate the Christmas tree.



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Where Are They Now?

Applause's **Taylor Kahn-Perry** sat down with SOA alumna **Emily Kahn-Perry** to see what she's been up to since graduation.

Taylor Kahn-Perry: What was your transition like from SOA, a smaller school, to Indiana University, a large university?

Emily Kahn-Perry: I knew a large university was something I wanted after going to SOA for high school, and the best thing about it is that it doesn't feel so large most of the time. I went to IU knowing less than 10 people and on the very first day of class I saw someone that I knew. My freshman roommate was from Ohio and knew a lot of people already so I was able to meet a lot of her friends. There are so many ways to make a large university feel small by joining different organizations, so overall it was a very manageable transition.

TKP: You major in Human Development and Family Studies (HDFS) with a double minor in Psychology and Nutrition. How do you see these fields relating to one another?

EKP: I was originally a Nutrition major, but after a semester of a 5 credit chemistry class I said goodbye to the Vhem building. I was able to complete a Nutrition minor and take the classes that I was actually interested in. I realized I wanted a major where I would be learning more about people. HDFS overlaps with some Psychology classes so it made sense to complete a Psychology minor.

TKP: You studied abroad in Australia last semester. What were the highlights of this experience and how has it changed your perspective on the world around you?

EKP: It was all so amazing! Traveling anywhere out of America allows for so much personal growth and a greater appreciation of the world. Australia is such a laid back place, literally everyone is nice, and it is much less money oriented than America. Highlights included snorkeling in the Great Barrier Reef, skydiving, bungee jumping in New Zealand, and my 9 day backpacking trip in Vietnam. Advice: Travel as much as you can before you have to be a real person.

TKP: You also traveled to Berlin and Israel through the K'lal Yisrael Fellowship. What was this program and how has it influenced the careers you are considering pursuing after college?

EKP: The K'lal Yisrael Fellowship is a fellowship for Progressive Jews around the world to come together through 3 seminars (Israel, Europe, and US) and strengthen their leadership skills while developing a deeper understanding for Judaism globally. This program has helped me realize that I would like to pursue a profession within the Jewish world.

TKP: As a college senior, what is your advice for current SOA seniors going through the college admissions process?

EKP: Don't stress. Getting certain test scores, writing the perfect essay, and getting into your dream school all seem like the most important things right now. They're not. You will all get into college and you will end up where you're supposed to be. Indiana was somewhere I never ever thought I would end up and it has given me a wonderful college experience.



Provided

Taylor Kahn-Perry (left) visits her sister Emily (right) at Indiana University.

An advertisement for "Around the Clock Locksmith". The logo features a large yellow clock face with black numbers and hands, integrated into the letter "O" of the word "AROUND". The text "AROUND THE CLOCK" is written in large, bold, yellow letters with a black outline. Below that, "LOCKSMITH" is written in large, bold, yellow letters with a black outline. The background is a textured orange color.

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Creative Writing Mentor Spotlight: Barbara Hagerty and Marcus Amaker

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SOA Creative Writing's thesis mentor program is a unique and incredibly beneficial experience to students, as it helps improve their theses, skills, and readiness for the world of writing. Students are paired up with published authors, handpicked by the Creative Writing teachers and ranging from poets to screenwriters to help them in the creation of their 100-page book. This month's Applause features two prestigious thesis mentors, Barbara G.S. Hagerty and Marcus Amaker, whom senior Creative Writers Cora Schipa and Maggie Robinson have been paired with and discuss.

Cora:

My mentor, Barbara G.S. Hagerty is a native Charlestonian poet and writer who has published two chapbooks of poetry (*The Guest House* and *Motherfish*) and one full-length book of poems (*Twinzilla*). Her other publications include intriguing examinations of how women's purses represent them (*Handbags: A Peek Inside a Woman's Most Trusted Accessory and Purse Universe*), as well as articles, essays, and columns in the *LA Times*, *Atlanta Magazine*, *Charleston Magazine*, the *Post and Courier*, and many others. She has experience with nearly every genre of writing, poetry being her favorite due to its "compression and intensity." As a board member of the Poetry Society of SC, she helps bring outstanding poets from around the country to Charleston to read and teach workshops each month; she is also the co-coordinator of the Sundown Poetry Series, which is part of the Piccolo Spoleto Festival, which presents eight evenings of poetry throughout the festival. She has won fellowships in Poetry from the SC Arts Commission and the SC Academy of Authors.

Evidently, Hagerty has come a long way since she became hooked on writing at six years old after her three-sentence "essay" was published in a local newspaper. She is currently finishing up her second full-length poetry manuscript with a rough-draft title of *Abacus Days*. I am Mrs. Hagerty's third SOA student and am happy to report that her experience with the Creative Writing program has been "a total pleasure;" she describes the students she has had as "so gifted, innovative, intelligent, and inquisitive."

Hagerty.

To this date, Mrs. Hagerty and I have had only two meetings, yet I have learned so much from her! She is a perfect match for me: we have similar poetry-writing styles and she shares a lifelong dedication to the art form that makes me excited to write. She is admirably well-read, intelligent, and creative, giving me prompts and ideas and always bringing a bag of poetry books for me to look over, even giving me a book to aid my writing process. Not to mention her own works of vivid, thought-provoking poetry, which are great learning tools in themselves. Before each meeting, I've given her three poems to edit, and she has critiqued them thoughtfully so I know what to work on for those specific pieces, but also how I can improve future and other past pieces. She has encouraged me to keep writing, and the final product of my thesis will owe a lot to her help. I am very grateful for this opportunity. The mentor program here is another unique aspect of School of the Arts and one of the reasons I am happy to be a student here.

Provided

Maggie:

Marcus Amaker, my thesis mentor, is Charleston's first poet laureate, as well as a graphic designer, musician, and Last year, he was named poet laureate due to his community projects and artistic achievements. His work has been in TEDx, PBS NewsHour, A&E, the Huffington Post, and he was named one of the most influential people of this year in Charleston Business Magazine.



Amaker.

Amaker has also published seven books, his newest titled *Mantra*. He is the lead graphic designer for *No Depression*, a national music magazine, and produces much more award-winning work. Amaker is also a musician; he has created fifteen albums and is still writing more.

Amaker is not afraid to speak out about topics such as race and feminism, and has used language to express himself through all of his art forms.

As well as one of Charleston's most influential people, he is one of SOA's most influential Creative Writing mentors, having worked with several previous writers in the program.

When I asked him about why he continues to mentor even with his busy agenda as poet laureate, he responded by saying that he "gets just as much out of mentoring as the students."

Amaker puts a lot of his time towards young adults and kids to get them interested in activism and art, two things he is very passionate about. Mentoring seniors at this school is simply one way he can influence young artists like me.

With Marcus' help, I have learned a lot about my voice. Having the experience of being guided along my senior thesis with a professional writer is by far the greatest gift this school has given, and it has been an opportunity that will continue giving.

I am beyond excited to share my collection of poetry next year, and all the thanks goes to the mentor program in Creative Writing.



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Club of the Month: SOA Mock Trial

by Carson Peaden



The Mock Trial team spends competition day in the courtroom, conducting the case several times.

Originally started by former Creative Writing teacher **Sean Scapellato**, Mock Trial celebrates its fifth year as a club.

Every year, the South Carolina Bar releases a mock case. Everyone on the team is assigned a role as either an attorney or witness. For five months, they study the case, create lines of questioning, and prepare for the regional competition at the end of February.

Currently, there are two divisions of the team at SOA. The A Team consists of past members who will compete in this year's competition, whereas the B Team will simply observe and prepare to take their place next year.

While it is a fun experience, it also requires a lot of hard work and motivation. Each week mock trial meets for two hours. In addition to the weekly meetings, members often use time outside of the club to prepare for the trial. However, it is intellectually enriching and looks good on a college resume.

Co-President **Maggie Scapellato** finds mock trial to be rigorous yet rewarding. "It's an amazing and unique experience that really bolsters your love of law. Plus the whole team has become much closer as friends," she states. "If you like to argue or are interested in pursuing a career in law, this is the club for you."

If you have any questions about mock trial, please contact Maggie Scapellato or **Jessica Bride** for more information.

Visiting poet Emma Bolden shares her story

by Bailey Abedon

Poet and nonfiction writer Emma Bolden visited SOA on Friday, October 13 to read some of her work to students. Bolden's published work includes three chapbooks of poetry and one of nonfiction, as well as *Maleficae*, a book-length series of poems about the witch trials in early modern Europe. Her work has been featured in books such as *Best Small Fictions 2015* and *Best American Poetry 2015*. Among her extensive list of writing awards is a 2009 Betty Gabehart Award for Nonfiction from the Kentucky Women's Writers Conference and So to Speak's 2015 Feminist Poetry Contest.

Creative Writing teacher **Ms. Danielle Detiberus** is a long time friend of Bolden's. They first met in New York at the New School for the best American Poetry 2015 reading. Through their shared passion for writing, the friendship bloomed. "She's a very witty weird woman," says Ms. Detiberus. "She writes everything, not everyone does."

Much of Bolden's work centers on her personal struggle with endometriosis, and the body dysmorphia she experienced from it. Endometriosis is a disorder in which tissue that normally lines the inside of the uterus grows outside, and is often painful.

Following the reading, Bolden ran a workshop with the high school Creative Writing department, where she offered insight on the complex and often mysterious Lyric Essay, a nonfiction form of writing which integrates qualities of poetry and essays. "It was interesting to watch her deconstruct the lyric essay and teach us how to approach it as a writer," says 12th grade Creative Writer **Carson Peaden**.

Bolden's writing touched many different students of SOA beyond the Creative Writing classes.

GenPop Books



"She so openly talks about things that many people struggle with but are too afraid to talk about," says 12th grade vocal major **Betty Manaris**. "There's a stigma surrounding women's reproductive health and there shouldn't be."

Alec's Oval Office

by Alec Pourmoghadam

Student Council is super proud of all of the student involvement in Spirit Week and Fall Food Festival. Go Pegasi!

Up next on the student council calendar, the Winter Dance.

We are super excited to put on this awesome dance. More details will be released as we plan.

We hope to see everyone dancing their hearts out at the Winter Dance.

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Exploring the Arts

by Maggie Robinson



Here at School of the Arts, every student has a major that they dedicate at least 90 minutes to each day. Some students are also invested in 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.

Last year, **Mosiah Williams** created a group called Tribe creating rap. Mosiah is currently a creative writer, was previously in theatre, and is now making music to express himself artistically in yet another way. He wanted to be an artist ever since he was a little boy and began writing short stories in second grade. Soon after, he “realized that music is art, rap is poetry, [and] hip-hop is the conjunction of counter-culture and African American culture... rap is a part of [his] heritage.”

When Mosiah started Tribe, there were five other members. Now, Mosiah works solely with **Solomon Adams** and Chris Barnwell, who he both met here at School of the Arts. The music is strongly inspired by influences in hip hop from the East Coast, the South, and soul, as well as artists like Lauryn Hill and Lil Wayne. The first song ever recorded by them was “Heartbreak,” with help from the visual arts instructor, **Mr. Damon Howard**. Now, Chris makes beats, Solomon plays piano and raps, and Mosiah also raps. Mosiah describes his creative process as a repetitious one. He listens to one of Chris’ beat over and over, freestyles to it a few times, and then writes lyrics to what he feels should be said.

Mosiah wants his music to provoke feelings in its listeners, “not just [a] belligerent, boastful hype.” He will continue playing bass and writing music after high school, but may or may not pursue music seriously depending on what college he attends. As for now, however, Tribe plans on releasing a full album before school ends, as well as a few singles.

2015 graduate Ellison Karesh enjoys prominent role with local radio station

by Haley Swittenberg

In the May of 2014, former band major Ellison Karesh walked across the stage of the Performing Arts Center into his future. Fast forward to today where Ellison is an on-air producer at 103.5 the WEZL, sharing his love for broadcasting and radio all over Charleston.

Ellison’s journey began in high school when he would call into Z93 Jamz and guest DJ during their “Top 9@9” segment. He loved entertaining others, even creating his own alias “WhiteBoiFrezsh” and shouting out his friends every time he was featured. He began freelance DJing on his own in high school and was set to attend the University of South Carolina for broadcast journalism after graduation. He excelled at USC for two years, even providing lighting and sound for the SEC Championship winning women’s basketball team.

Ellison had previously met WEZL host Ric Rush when Rush DJed Ellison’s sister’s Bat Mitzvah. Ellison expressed his interest in radio to Rush before being invited to shadow alongside him and TJ Phillips, Rush’s morning co-host. He began volunteering for the ever popular “Party in the Park” each summer to work with the hosts as well. As time went on, it seemed Ellison was getting closer and closer to receiving a job at WEZL. He had to make the decision to either stay at USC and continue his work with the women’s team or come back to Charleston to pursue his dream. Ellison was officially hired at WEZL during the summer of 2016 as a on-air producer. He transferred to College of Charleston that fall, making sure he would finish the degree he had been working so hard for.

Today Ellison is at WEZL almost every week day either joining his fellow hosts on air as “College Boy Ellison” or producing at one of the other iHeartRadio branches in Charleston. He still DJ’s on his own, even providing the music for SOA’s Prom this year. He hopes to be invited back for Prom 2018, as long as he gets to “watch the Gamecocks play in the Final Four.” Ellison’s dream job is to become a late night show host as he loves “being up in front of people, making people laugh and interviewing really interesting people.” He encourages anyone hoping to pursue broadcasting to “have a good work ethic” and “make as many connections as you can.” You can hear Ellison five days a week on the Ric Rush show from 3-7pm on 103.5 The WEZL.



Ellison Karesh (left) with his co-host and mentor Ric Rush (right) at the Coastal Carolina Fair.

The **Applause Staff** would like to wish everyone a safe and happy Thanksgiving Break!

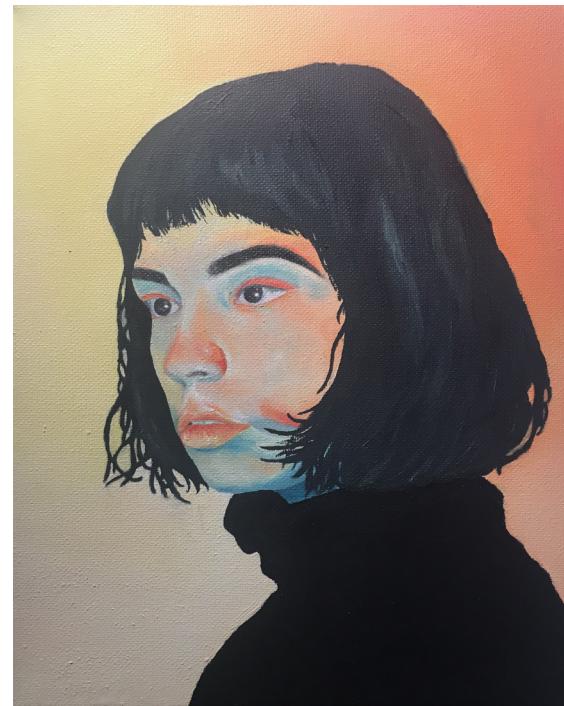
excerpt from “Homeland”
by **Logan Baker**, Freshman.

The camp tastes like
corn and chicory root,
boiled and blackened,
and strained
through, renamed coffee.
The bread like clay,
one and a half inches
wide, one and a half tall,
three long.
They are given beans
like gravel, water
to soften the rocks
in their guts.
This food twice a day,
seventeen months.

People can get used
to anything. These are months
lived numb, surviving
inside wire fences
where people disappear
overnight.

Even in liberation, they cannot
go back to Bierbrunn, but press
on,
like the fires at their heels
still burn.

He comes from a country
where mountains are white-
capped
year round. A place
where the earth is black
but no longer charred.



Elise Richardson, Senior.
Oil on canvas.



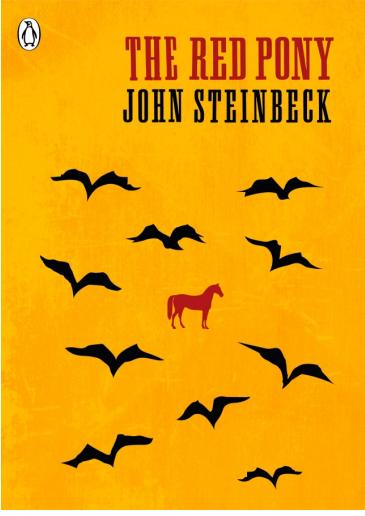
Nadja McGlone, Senior.
Hand stitched embroidery.



Skye Weiman, Sophomore.
Acrylic on canvas.

Classic book review: *The Red Pony* by John Steinbeck

by Maggie Robinson



I first read *The Red Pony* in ninth grade after my English class was assigned *Of Mice and Men*, another one of Steinbeck's novella. Since then, I have reread *The Red Pony* four times (yes, I counted).

The Red Pony was published in 1937. Ever since

then, it has been a book loved by readers and literature enthusiasts.

The novella, which is only four chapters long, is a touching coming of age story about a boy named Jody. His life is portrayed simply, but Steinbeck manages to make his life interesting. Jody's personality emphasizes his role as a growing boy in the West during the Great Depression.

The Red Pony, in short, is written beautifully; it can really move a reader. If you are looking for an enjoyable book that is not too heavy, I highly suggest this one.

Contemporary album review: *Living History* by Cole Collins

by Maggie Robinson

By far, one of my favorite albums of all time is Cole Collins' *Living History*. Collins is a young, local artist who has already made a name for himself in the Charleston (and national) music scene. He has played shows in town, including a headline at the Gaillard, and continues to have a few shows a month to share his art.

Living History is beautifully crafted with its multiple layers, full sound, and meaningful lyrics.

In the background of some songs, if you listen closely, conflicting chords to create emotions of confusion. Truthfully, Collins is a genius in music.

He produced the whole album himself in his house's recording studio, playing over a dozen instruments and singing all the vocals.

No other contemporary album I have heard has expressed so much emotion through instrumentals as *Living History* does; this piece of art is like modern-day classical music.

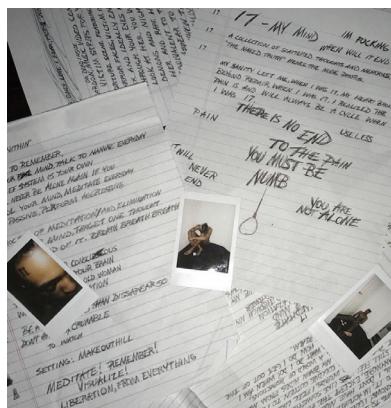
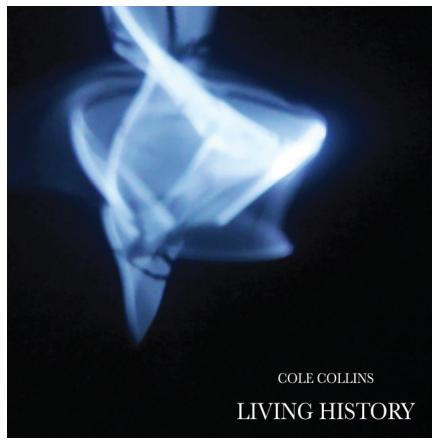
I listen to *Living History* all the time: as soon as I wake up, before tests to relax, and when I am writing my senior thesis. The songs I recommend you first listen to are "Denial & Infection," "Studious People," and "Freedom & Memory Loss."

Hip Hop review: *17* by XXXTentacion

by Caleb Smith

Well known hip-hop/rap artist XXXTentacion released his first major album, *17*, earlier this year. X is known for his versatile music style, as he has consistently shown that he can switch up not only his flow of lyrics, but also his genre of music effortlessly.

On *17*, XXXTentacion includes 11 tracks, each a different style than the next. X expressed that this album was a complete embodiment of his mind and thoughts, and that his fans would get to know him more than ever through this body of work.



On *17*, XXXTentacion opens about his past life, and on a specific track, "Jocelyn Flores," he pours his emotions out about a close friend of his who committed suicide. Aside from serious toned tracks, X also keeps in touch with his more energetic side of musical stylings as in his track with an also well known artist, Trippie Redd.

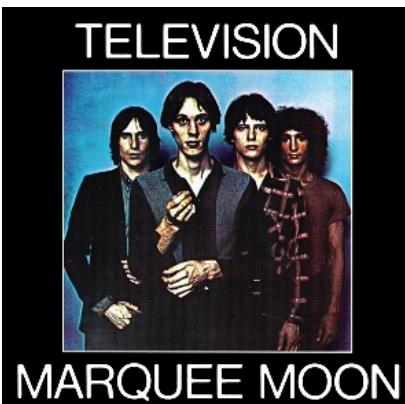
My personal favorites off the album would have to be "Jocelyn Flores," and "Dead Inside (Interlude)." Though it may be difficult to identify with most of XXXTentacion's music, one must admire his confidence, ability to change musical style, and his unapologetic outpouring of emotion.

Classic album review: *Marquee Moon* by Television

by Maggie Robinson

Released in 1977, Television's *Marquee Moon* is a timeless album that resembles many modern indie albums.

Upon first listening to it, I had no idea that it was released forty years ago.



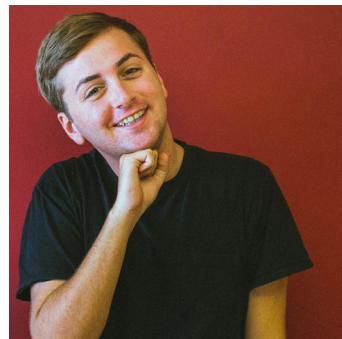
MARQUEE MOON

In a way, *Marquee Moon* recalls The Ramones and other early punk bands. Because early punk was not the hardcore music the genre is known for, the music of Television has more of a soft rock sound, making it an easy-listen. The guitars have a beachy tone with classic rock solos and riffs, which gives the overall tone a fusion of different genres.

Marquee Moon is a fantastic album for autumn. Songs off of the album that I recommend include "Venus," "Marquee Moon," and "Torn Curtain."

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 idiosyncrasies of daily life.

Now that Halloween is over, it is officially Christmas time. No arguments. It is time to

get festive.

Go get a tree and decorate it with some cute lights and ornaments while listening to Mariah Carey's iconic song "All I Want For Christmas Is You".

Yes, I do realize that Thanksgiving is a holiday, but it's just a meal. Thanksgiving is just the Walmart version of Christmas. You see family on Thanksgiving and Christmas, but during Thanksgiving you don't get gifts.

And the whole backstory behind Thanksgiving is problematic. Like wow let's celebrate white English men taking native people's land from them. "Woohoo! That's awesome," said no one ever.

I will admit the Thanksgiving dinner is delicious, but can we talk about Christmas foods? Just to name a few: Christmas cookies, roasted ham, and gingerbread lattes. And not to mention, the most iconic Southern Christmas treat, the Chick-fil-A Peppermint Chocolate Chip Milkshake. I don't care if it's 90 degrees outside or 9 degrees, you can bet I will be wear an ugly Christmas sweater and my elf hat all season long.



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"Here to serve You!"

So y'all enjoy your gravy and stuffing, I'll be living my best life, watching Elf and chowing down on figgy pudding.

Meet SOA's New Teachers, Part Three

by Taylor Kahn-Perry



A native of Spartanburg, **Ms. Rhetta Foster** came to Charleston to attend college, but was originally attracted to the area by "the magical way Pat Conroy described Charleston" combined with its "history and natural beauty."

Ms. Foster was drawn to SOA by its artistic community. Growing up, she pursued various musical interests, and today she still enjoys reading and singing. Ms. Foster believes that artists like

Neutral Milk Hotel and literary works such as *The Great Gatsby* and *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* "reveal some great truths about life and do so in beautiful, original ways."

Inspired by her "fantastic English teachers who were passionate about language," Foster earned a B.A. in English from College of Charleston and a M.A.T. (Master of Arts in Teaching) at The Citadel. "I love it when I make connections with kids who typically can't stand English class and I get them to appreciate the whole experience a bit more," said Ms. Foster.

Previously, Ms. Foster taught at Stratford High School and Allegro Charter School of Music.

When she is not teaching, Ms. Foster can be found spending time with her twin toddlers or playing in her tennis league.

Students can find Ms. Foster teaching English I and IV this year at SOA, where she hopes to "help [her students] uncover a hidden passion for language and a desire to learn about all things."

November Events

November 11th-- MS & HS Region Orchestra Concert
Saturday, 6:00 pm, Wando High School

November 15th and 16th-- Theatre Senior Thesis Performance: "All in the Timing," 6:30 pm, RMMT

November 28th-- Dance Junior Composition Show "Art In Motion," 6:30 PM, RMMT

November 30th-- Dance Senior Thesis #1, 6:30 PM, RMMT

December 5th and 6th-- MS Vocal & MS Orchestra's Holiday Spectacular, 6:30 pm, RMMT

December 7th and 8th -- HS Vocal & HS Orchestra's Holiday Spectacular, 6:30pm, RMMT

December 11th -- "Poetry Out Loud" school-wide competition, 4PM, Media Center

December 12th and 13th-- MS & HS Bands Prism Concert, 6:30 pm, RMMT

College Visits to SOA

Thursday 11/16- University of Alabama

November Horoscopes

Scorpio- Don't let nostalgia keep you stuck. Open yourself up to new opportunities, and fun interactions.

Sagittarius- Clear your schedule of draining obligations, and be careful not to overcommit. Book those spa treatments, take a break from homework, and watch Season 2 of Stranger Things.

Capricorn- Money burning a hole in your pocket? Take up a new hobby for free, like knitting or reading a good book (one that you already have, of course.)

Aquarius- There's a major lesson for you this month regarding communication. Be careful with that secret you've been keeping!

Pisces- A strong connection may emerge with someone whose background is quite different from your own.

Aries- You may have recently met someone very special, and you may soon find your relationship status changing.

Taurus- Your emotional health is important, so clean away those mental cobwebs and be mindful every once in awhile. Relax with a face mask and a new box of incense.

Gemini- Get ready for some breathtaking romantic prospects for the two of you.

Cancer- You may be inspired to feed your artistic side more, and this is the time to do so. Join a band or paint a picture.

Leo- If you've been feeling neglected by a close friend, don't spend another day analyzing it. Have a talk with them and find out if you're on the same page.

Virgo- Though your phone will be blowing up, don't walk around glued to the screen. Talking to strangers could yield surprising benefits.

Libra- By reducing stress, you can enjoy the magic of the moment. You might just notice opportunities right under your nose.

The Trivia Challenge

by Cora Schipa

For this month's trivia, Senior Visual Artists **Amber Schipa** (the reigning Trivia Empress) and **Graham Martini** compete in a close battle for the November crown! And what better to test these two art prodigies on than the knowledge of their majors?

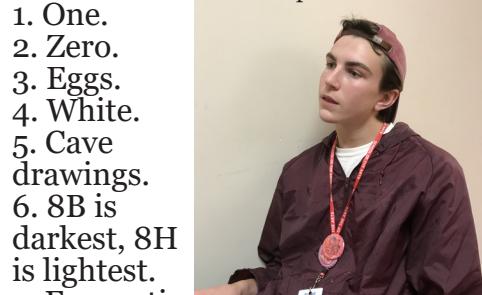
Questions

- How many years did Leonardo da Vinci spend painting the Mona Lisa's lips?
- How many paintings did Vincent Van Gogh sell in his lifetime?
- What is the main ingredient in tempera paint?
- What color can humans distinguish the most variations of?
- What are the earliest human artistic representations?
- What is the difference between an 8H and an 8B pencil?
- Which art media uses heated beeswax and added colored pigments?
- What is the term for the part of a painting that first catches ones eye?
- What are analogous colors?
- Which famous artist produced the most expensive painting ever sold (106.5 million dollars)?

Tiebreaker: What is the term for a particular gradation of color?

Graham Martini
12th Grade Visual Arts

Cora Schipa



- One.
- Zero.
- Eggs.
- White.
- Cave drawings.
- 8B is darkest, 8H is lightest.
- Encaustic.
- Focal point.
- Opposites on the color wheel.
- Picasso.

Tiebreaker: Value. **5/10**

Amber Schipa
12th Grade Visual Arts

Cora Schipa



- Eight.
- One.
- Eggs.
- Black.
- Cave drawings.
- 8H is hard and light, while 8B is soft and dark.
- Printing.
- Focal point.
- Colors without a lot of pigment.
- Picasso.

Tiebreaker: Hue. **6/10**

This trivia match proved to be a close one, but Amber claimed worthy of her second trivia crown and is once again to return for the next *Applause* issue!

Answers

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

- Twelve years.
- One.
- Eggs.
- Green.
- Soft and dark.
- 8H is hard and light, while 8B is soft and dark.
- Encaustic painting.
- Focal point.
- Color wheel.
- Colours next to each other on the color wheel.
- Picasso.
- Hue.



“Queen Latifah.”
- Mr. Moore, Visual Arts
teacher



“RuPaul.”
- Sasha Gregorieff, 12th
grade Design



“Matthew McConaughey.”
- Joey McGuinn, 11th grade
Band



“BoJack Horseman.”
- Zoë DeLuca-Parker, 12th
grade Piano



“Cardi B.”
- Paisley Hoge, 10th grade
Piano

If you had a celebrity as a parent, who would it be?

by Caleb Smith and
Graham Martini



“Kehlani.”
- Tiamoni Gardner, 12th
grade Band



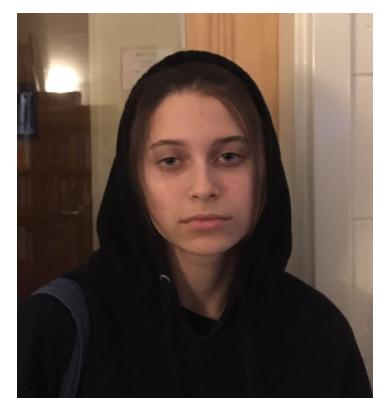
“Bob Ross.”
- Owen Turner, 12th grade
Visual Arts



“Kanye West.”
- Ellie Lyons, 8th grade
Visual Arts



“Will Smith.”
- Moses Lane, 6th grade
Theater



“Joyce from *Stranger
Things*.”
- Bailey Abedon, 12th
grade Creative Writing