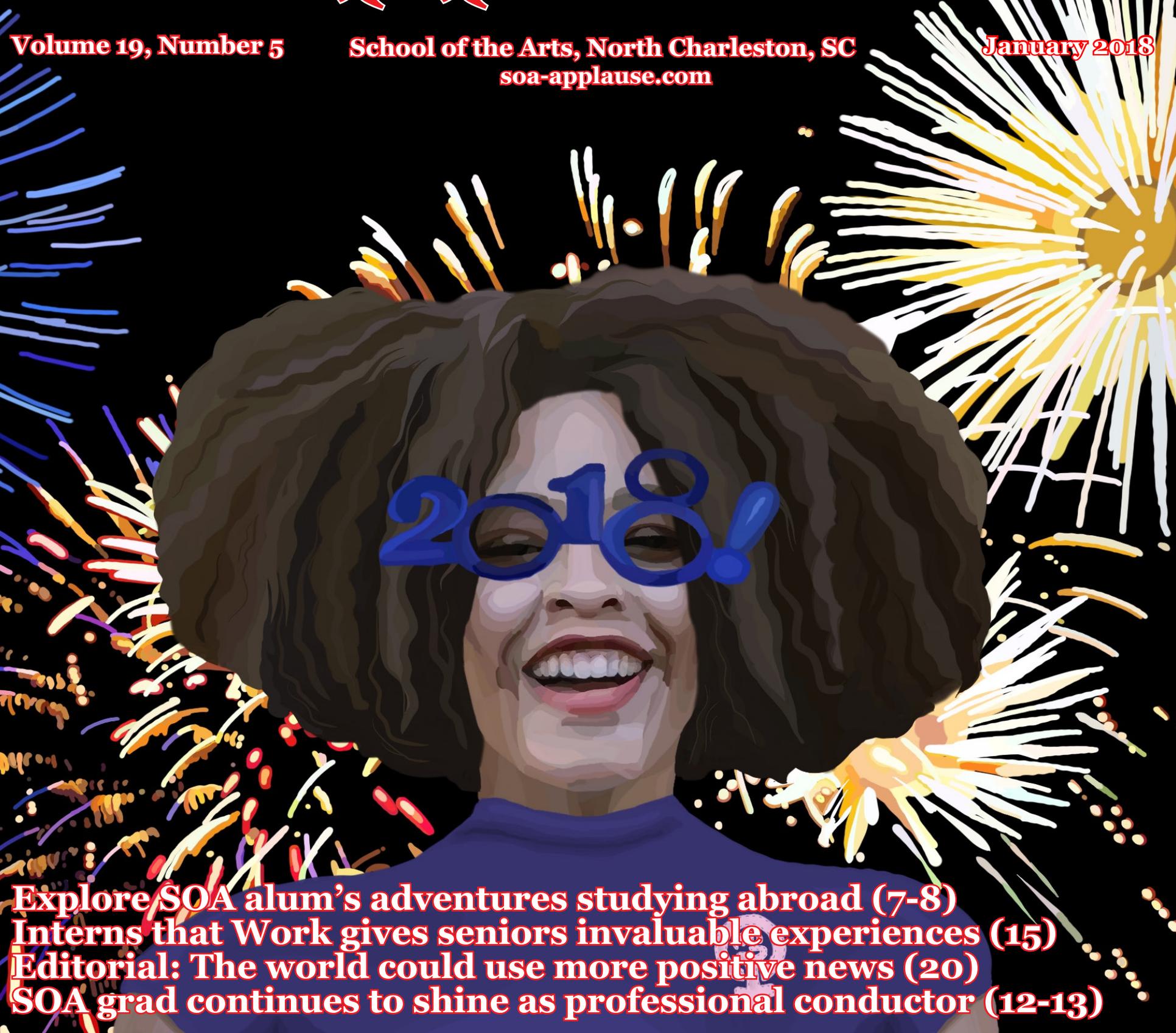


Applause

Volume 19, Number 5

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

January 2018



Explore SOA alum's adventures studying abroad (7-8)
Interns that Work gives seniors invaluable experiences (15)
Editorial: The world could use more positive news (20)
SOA grad continues to shine as professional conductor (12-13)

RUBY

The Abedon Family
 Alan Brehm
 Dr. Shannon Cook

AMETHYST

The Brown Family
 The Cusatis Family
 Logan Murray
 The Wohlscheid Family

TOPAZ

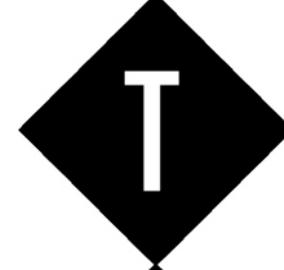
Caroline Baker
 Debra Benson
 The Bride Family
 Susanne Drennan
 The Elliott Family
 Ann Marie Fairchild
 Sarah Fitzgerald
 The Gillard Family
 The Griffin Family
 Paige Horschel
 Brett Johnsen
 Beth Lasley
 Brandon Lyons
 Heath Orvin
 Susan Pace
 Meghan Slowey
 David Thornburg

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 Jackswhich
 Jannie L. Mack
 Shannon Mahoney
 Joseph Naas
 Alyssa Nestman
 Katherine Owensby
 Nathaniel Robinson Sr.
 Molly Scofield
 David Southwick
 Rachael Stallsmith
 Kathryn Sullivan
 Cameron Wescott
 Cynthia Wescott

**PEARL**

Addison Adams
 Colleen Aponte
 Elizabeth Atkins
 Leilah Baird
 Lauren Bas
 Ivy Bradly
 Ashley Bryan
 Brenton Burbage
 Elle Cooper
 Jordan Douglas
 Simone Foster
 Ella Foy
 Martin Garcia
 Gracie Gordon
 Izzy Gustafson
 Kiley Hallen
 Laci Heinrich
 Lexie Jones
 Maddie Kelley
 Erica Kremer
 Hayes Martini
 Burton McCulley
 Sutton Meyer
 Michael Morelli
 Courtney Moschella
 Samantha Moultrie
 Ellisyn Poland
 Michal Segle
 Henry Segler
 Christopher Selby
 Bill Smyth
 Luna Steedly
 Tara Steward
 Kathy Traylor
 Ava Trolley
 Braedyn Wasserman
 Rachel West
 Eyamba Williams
 Andrew Wise
 Peyton Woodall
 Lola Woodall

Letter from the Editor

Dear Readers,

Happy New Year! Personally, I can't seem to figure out whether 2017 sped by too quickly or dragged on and on. Either way, it's a new year, and quite hard to believe that January is already almost over. Second semester is a time of rebirth and renewal, so take advantage of it. College applications are finished, midterms are over, and the Charleston "Snowmageddon" is becoming a distant memory.

Applause is proud to welcome the new year and take on 2018 beginning with our January issue. This issue focuses on the impressive artistic and academic achievements of our students and faculty. From an SOA alumni making waves in the conducting world and faculty achievements to prestigious study abroad programs, we are excited to show you the strong impact that students and alumni are making in the community and world.

For our next several issues, *Applause* has big plans. Our February paper celebrates Black History Month, while the March issue will focus on SOA's annual fashion show, showcasing the extraordinary talents of our Fashion and Design majors. I can't believe we are only a couple months away from the end of the school year, and our 64 page Graduation issue, and we are excited to see what the coming months have in store. Be sure to check out soa-applause.com for our 19 year archive, as well as even more features on SOA students and alumni.

Until next month, SOA,

Patrick Wohlscheid, Editor-in-Chief

Courtney Wickstrom



Applause

since 1999, the official student

publication of

School of the Arts

Founded in 1995 by Rose Maree Myers

Editor-in-Chief:

Patrick Wohlscheid

Web Editor:

Jada Orr

News Editor:

Taylor Kahn-Perry

Feature Editor:

Courtney Wickstrom

Sports Editor:

Julian Griffin

Business Manager: **Circulation Manager:**

Haley Swittenberg

Finian Butcher

Staff Writers:

Bailey Abedon

Caleb Smith

Malachi Jones

Haleigh Markham

Maggie Robinson

Jayla Sanders

Jessica Bride

Mosiah Williams

Carson Peaden

Graham Martini

Cora Schipa

Alec Pourmoghadam

Mary Grace Hutzler

Jessica De La Cruz

John Cusatis, Ph.D., Adviser
Charleston County School of the Arts
5109-B West Enterprise St.
North Charleston, SC 29405

soa-applause.com

Sign of the Month

Kanard Simmons teaches us how to say "Happy New Year!"



"Happy"

1. Pat your chest.



"New"

2. Bring your right hand under and up through your left.



"Year"

3. Bring your fists around and together.

PC: Caleb Smith

Table of Contents

News: 3-6

Features: 7-15, 21

Reviews: 16-17

Student Work: 18

Opinion: 19-21

Novelties: 22-23

Question of the Month: 24

Cover by Halle Garrett

Seventh grade English classes make a difference with service learning project

by Jessica De La Cruz

Each year, Seventh grade ELA teacher **Ms. Horschel** conducts a service project that includes a field trip to the Water Mission headquarters just 2 miles from School of the Arts. She has her students read *A Long Walk to Water*, based on the tough life of a young Sudanese refugee, Salva Dut. Ms. Horschel describes the book as the “anchor” of the project.



7th grade students participate in activities at the Water Missions Headquarters.

For the project, students can either work alone or in groups to raise money, awareness, and/or volunteer for one of two organizations: Water Mission Headquarters, a non profit, clean water charity or Water for Sudan, a non profit organization that takes water to the people of South Sudan, headquartered in Rochester, NY.

The students have two months to complete at least 9 hours of service towards their project. On the field trip, Ms. Horschel and her students walk to the Water Mission Headquarters carrying an empty gallon bucket, and after a tour of the place, the students walked back to school with the bucket filled with water signifying how Nya from the book had to walk long distances to retrieve that resource.

At the end of the project, the money raised by students is collected and counted. Last year, students raised over \$10,000, and when they thought that couldn't be topped,

the 7th graders this year raised more than \$15,000, a strong testament to the dedication and passion for service of the 7th grade class. Ms. Horschel hopes that through this project her students will take this experience and remember for the rest of their lives how much of an impact the little things have on people all around the world, and that “everyone's contributions are important”.

SOA Sports Update

by Julian Griffin

Applause's **Julian Griffin** sat down with **Lakeisha Gamble**, who plays basketball for Burke High School, to see how her season is going so far.

Julian Griffin: How has the season gone so far?

Lakeisha Gamble: So far, we've been doing great!

JG: What is your team's record?

LG: We're currently 5-0 for the region.

JG: Are you going to make the playoffs this year?

LG: I think we're doing pretty well seeing as though we've had a lot of breaks in the middle of our season due to weather issues and what not. That being said, I still think we have a lot to catch up on to get back to where we were last season as a team. And we still have 5 games left for region before we find out about playoffs, but hopefully. It'd be great if we could get home court advantage for all three rounds.

JG: When does the season end?

LG: Depending on how far we make it during playoffs and whether or not we make it to state, it end in about a month or so.

JG: How do you feel you did personally, and did you meet your personal goals for this season?

LG: I think I'm doing okay on a personal level, but I always feel like there's something extra that I could be doing whether its on defense or offense. My biggest fear of the season is plateauing and I haven't done it yet, so I feel pretty accomplished to an extent. There's always room for improvement and the season isn't over, so I wouldn't say that I've met my goal quite yet. I'll let you know after region is over and playoffs start!



Lakeisha Gamble.



HVAC

RESIDENTAL & COMMERCIAL
AIR CONDITION REPAIR

NATE ROBINSON

843-614-1802

“Here to serve You!”

Ms. Zerbst earns National Board Certification

by Taylor Kahn-Perry

Julian Griffin



Students and teachers who know **Mrs. Zerbst**, SOA's AP World History and Psychology teacher, are familiar with her high-energy, ambitious attitude when it comes to strengthening her teaching. So when Mrs. Zerbst earned her National Board Certification this January, few were surprised that she conquered the difficult process.

"You have to prove that you are strong in your content, that you improve the profession by teaching other educators, that you understand 'how' to teach students, and that you can approach learning and teaching on an individual level - not just seeing students as a big group," said Mrs. Zerbst. "National Board Certification was the last in a series of teaching goals I had created when I first began teaching a decade ago."

As a part of her certification, Mrs. Zerbst had to videotape lessons and collect student reflections on such lessons regularly. "Students who were in my classes last year were so kind and patient," said Mrs. Zerbst. "They let me try new things and gave me fantastic feedback about what was working and what wasn't."

Outside of class, she worked an upwards of 80 hours a week organizing, writing, and documenting a 300-page report detailing her work over the course of several months. To culminate the long process of National Board Certification, Mrs. Zerbst was required to take a final test, which ended up covering government and economics, topics she "hadn't even thought about since undergrad."

Through this feedback and intensive process, Mrs. Zerbst not only earned her National Board Certification, but she also had an important realization: "None of my students need me to learn a single iota of knowledge - what students need from me is guidance, encouragement, support, and structure." With this shift in perspective, Mrs. Zerbst acknowledged that she's "learning to facilitate learning rather than being the all knowing wizard who is the purveyor of knowledge."

Reflecting over the past few months, Mrs. Zerbst thanks "**Mrs. Crawford, Mrs. McKinley, Mr. Clark** and all the other colleagues without whom I could not have gotten through this grueling process. They cheered me on, edited my papers, provided technical support, and gave me support in a million ways."

While Mrs. Zerbst certainly accomplished her professional goal of becoming a National Board Certified teacher, her "ultimate goal is to give herself away for the sake of her students." The SOA community can expect Mrs. Zerbst to continue striving to "leave here each day having used up all my kindness, my knowledge, my organization, my drive, and my patience in making my students the best version of themselves."

Dr. Selby makes his mark on music education

by Finian Butcher

Dr. Christopher Selby is not only the director of SOA's accomplished symphony orchestra, but also the author of three books, *Habits of a Successful Strings Musician*, *Habits of a Successful Orchestra Director*, and *Habits of a Successful Midlevel Strings Musician*, which have sold more than 40,000 copies. The books are part of the "Habits" series, which originated with *Habits of a Successful Musician*, *Middle School Musician*, *Choir Director*, *Band Director*.

Dr. Selby has written the orchestra and strings editions for this series. Strings major **Erica Kremer** believes "Dr. Selby's books have revolutionized strings education even outside of our school." Kremer adds, "there has never been a textbook that has compiled everything necessary for developing a competent orchestra."

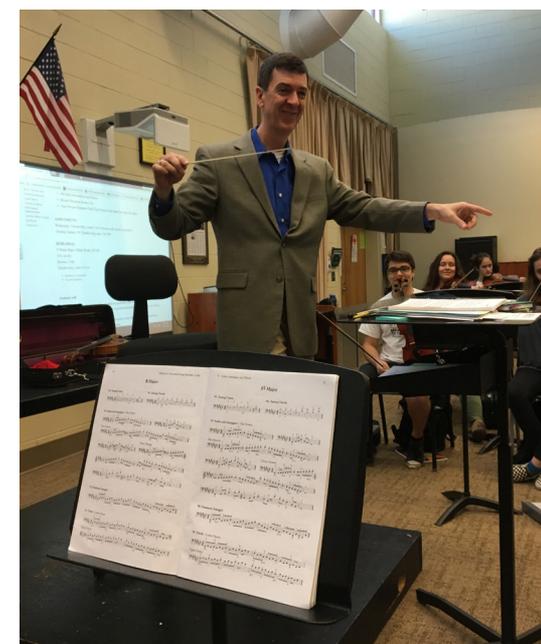
Because of their popularity and wide circulation, Dr. Selby's three books are spurring change in strings education

in the American school system.

Dr. Selby detected a gap in materials for strings education. "Lots of people struggled with finding a textbook that would work due to disorganization and a lack of material." He was continuously frustrated with the existing curriculum of high school music education. There are lots of technique and method books for beginners, as well as a few second level books, but these are difficult to use for upper level orchestras.

Dr. Selby spent five years researching notable scale and method books, as well as the work of Czech violinist Otakar Sevcik and the methods of George Bornoff to finally find a good strings curriculum. Dr. Selby then wrote his first book, and in the process, realized how vital this new work could be to school symphonies all over the world.

After the first book, *Habits of a Successful Strings Musician*, Dr. Selby finished the next book in two years, and the third in only one; each book filling a vital void in the Strings classroom. Dr. Selby has since presented his books at important music conventions in over eleven states, as well as traveled to Ontario and the ASTA, Midwest, and NAFME national strings conferences. Dr. Selby is preparing a second edition of his first book, and plans to write two more.



Provided

Dr. Selby uses his expertise and passion to educate others, both through his teaching and writing.

Mozart's Requiem Concert brings together artists from different communities

by Haley Swittenberg

On January 16th, the SOA Vocal and Strings Department teamed up to tackle Mozart's Requiem. This musical spectacular was performed at the Gaillard Auditorium in downtown Charleston. The concert featured SOA students, the Charleston Symphony Orchestra professional musicians, and choral students from different schools around Charleston County. "It was great to experience singing with people from other schools, and being able to branch out" says senior vocalist **Alec Pourmoghadam**.

The production lasted about an hour and a half and highlighted Mozart's writing for solo quarter, mixed choir, and full orchestra. Strings teacher **Dr. Christopher Selby** praised his students with great success saying "Our SOA Orchestra students performed exceptionally well. They sounded professional and took care of problems the way professionals would." The Vocal and Strings departments hope to continue this as a tradition and work with the Charleston Symphony Orchestra again in the future.

AP Art History class takes on New York City

by Bailey Abedon



The seniors on the New York trip were able to experience the much of the art taught in AP Art

Ms. Cimballa's AP Art History class weathered against the cold and took on the Big Apple this year.

25 of us landed in NYC last month, and were greeted with temperatures below freezing. After the initial shock of the cold, and the hour long drive from the airport to

our hotel, our first stop was at Macy's, the center of department stores and consumerism. There, we found ourselves lost in corporate America and the true meaning of Christmas. Some of us in fact, literally got lost. A group of five: **Amber Schipa, Cora Schipa, Caleb Johnson, River Abedon, Hallie Stephenson**, and myself, could not find the exit. Cora Schipa calls it a "commercialized loophole." After we wandered through Gucci, Prada, Chanel for a good 45 minutes, we spotted the exit, as well as a seething Cimballa. We were far too relieved to mind the scolding.

The best thing we could ask for after an ordeal like that was art, and art we received. In the Broadway musical, *Anastasia*, we stepped into the time of Imperial Russia, and the aftermath of the overthrow of the Romanovs. The intricate costumes, and the beyond talented cast was riveting and emotional. The performance was truly spectacular, and I was singing the songs for the rest of the trip.

The next day, we took on the museums: The Natural History first, where we got up close and personal with the ancient bones of a T-Rex, and learned about the formation of a black hole. But we had no time to linger in the city that never sleeps. After a short time at the Natural History museum, we moved on to the Metropolitan, where we would be for a good six hours. Even after such a long span of time, there was no way we could look at everything. We posed next to naked figures, entered Egyptian tombs, and marveled at the detail of Da Vinci.

When left the Met to discover it had started to snow outside. As mere mortals of the South, we were amazed and ecstatic. But as we walked onward to the MOMA, we started to get cold. Like, really cold. The pain was real, but there was no denying the beauty of the city during winter. Lights were strung around buildings and songs rang out from the haziness of the snow. It was all so entrancing, that it was not hard to forget about the pain.

Eventually, we made it to the MOMA. By this time it is safe to we were all exhausted, depleted of energy, and hungry. We were sinking back into a primal state. But we couldn't help but get lost in paintings like *Christina's World* and *Starry, Starry Night*. The art we saw generated within us a new creative energy and excitement. We ended our night in Rockefeller Center, where we scattered for food. After forty minutes of searching for the right restaurant, I can honestly say pasta has never tasted so good.

Ultimately, we learned a lot from the trip. We saw priceless paintings,

anatomically-correct sculptures, ancient vases, and imperial fashion. Through art, we were transported to different worlds and cultures, and learned so much. But even aside from the art, we learned something else beautiful. We learned the city, and the people that make it what it is. Sure, it is not always pretty, but one can't deny it's kind of fantastic. New York, we love you.

SOA, Lowcountry rings in new year

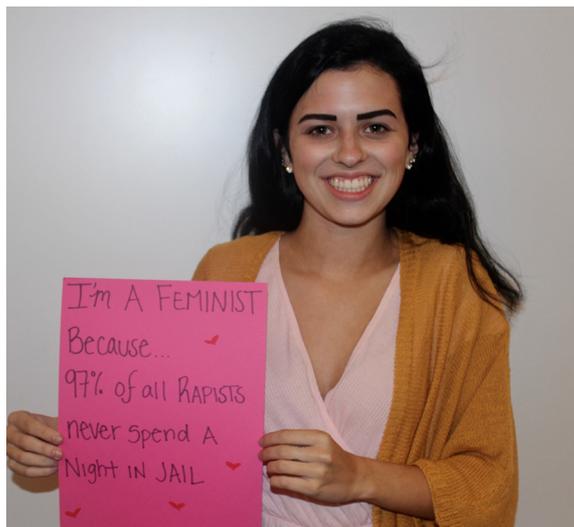
by Haley Swittenberg

As midnight struck from Folly Beach to Summerville, Charleston rang in the 2018 New Year with style. The South Carolina Aquarium held its annual Synder Grand Ball, featuring live music, food, and fish. The Tides Hotel on Folly Beach held an end of the year bash on the pier featuring fireworks, a dance competition, and the 2018 Flip Flop Drop. The Charleston Wonderland celebration at the Memminger Auditorium downtown showcased cirque performances, a fire and ice show, and one of Charleston's largest ball drops. Marion Square held a family friendly "Ring in 2018" party which included a musical performance by SOA teacher **Dr. John Cusatis**.

SOA students held similar festivities with many celebrations, in and out of Charleston. Senior Piano major **Zoë DeLuca-Parker** spent this New Year's in Naples, Italy. "It was a wild ride from start to finish," says Zoë. She spent the evening with her family before watching the traditional Italian fireworks display, stretching from midnight to 1am. She spent the rest of the night dancing with her friends until the morning, when they followed tradition once more and bought fresh bread at the bakery for breakfast. Senior Creative Writing major **Kate Grayson** celebrated in Miami with her grandparents. "Miami is always an incredible place to be" says Kate, "I'm so glad I got to spend New Year's Eve in one of my favorite places ever." As we say goodbye to 2017 and head into 2018, *Applause* wishes you a Happy New Year!

Club of the Month: FEM Club

by Carson Peaden



President Grace Courville and other FEM Club members made signs to broaden awareness of issues in the fight for gender equality.

FEM Club is back! Led by President **Grace Courville** and Vice President **Alec Pourmoghadam**, the club focuses on modern feminism and how their members can play a role in it. Meetings are held every B-day Tuesday in the Creative Writing room during lunch. The club discusses current issues in the media and then allows members to bring up new topics for discussion.

Regarding upcoming projects, FEM Club is paired with My Sisters House, which is a nonprofit in the Tri-County Area that provides resources to victims of domestic abuse. Currently, the leaders of FEM Club are brainstorming ideas for fundraising.

Grace Courville believes it is important to form your own voice and

that FEM Club provides a platform to do so. "Our goal as a club is to get together as feminists and come up with different ways that we can advance equality for women and what needs to be done in order to achieve that," she states, "and we strive to empower our members and prove to the rest of the society that we, as feminists, have voices too."

SOA welcomes new attendance clerk

Applause's **Alec Pourmoghadam** sat down with SOA's newest attendance clerk, **Ms. Danyelle Altman**, to discover how she got to SOA.

Alec Pourmoghadam: What is your background?

Danyelle Altman: I have 25 years of Administrative Assistant work in various industries such as utilities, engineering, commodities, brokerage, and shipping. My husband and I have a small carpentry and repairs business so I'm also learning the world of construction. I've been a stay at home mom to my three girls for the past five years.

AP: How did you end up at SOA?

DA: I am actually a temporary employee for Ms. Brooks while she is out on FMLA (Family and Medical Leave Act).

AP: How does SOA compare to previous schools you've worked at?

DA: This school is a lot bigger than my girls small charter school I substituted at years prior.

AP: How do you like SOA so far?

DA: I really enjoy it and actually wish when I went to school (ages ago) I had the opportunity to attend one similar!

AP: What would you say is the best

part of your job?

DA: Not too sure so far, still learning ... a LOT .. quickly.



Ms. Altman is learning lots on the job in SOA's unique environment.

Studying abroad an exciting option for many seniors

by Jessica Bride

Holding a booklet titled *Welcome USA!*, I stood in the admissions building at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland and was reminded that I was in another country where I could potentially live and study in for college. With my mother from Scotland, I grew up with studying abroad for college as a option that my parents expected me to pursue, at least for one year.

However, studying abroad is actually a viable option for most American students. To prove this, I decided to talk with SOA alumni who have studied abroad for college.

I spoke with Abby Edwards of the Class of 2017 about her experience studying abroad.

Continued on Page 10



AUTOMOTIVE

RESIDENTIAL

COMMERICAL

"WE HOLD THE KEY TO YOUR PEACE OF MIND."

843-572-2220

I spoke with **Abby Edwards** of the Class of 2017 about her experience studying abroad. She is studying in France as a part of dual degree program between Columbia University and Sciences Po (Institut d'études politiques de Paris), meaning that she will spend her first two years in France and the last two at Columbia and finish with a Bachelor's degree from both institutions.

Abby appreciated the lower tuition of European universities, among other factors: "the major factors that influenced me in applying to European schools was the simple application process and low fees, the high rankings for my subjects, the length of degree program (3 years in England), overall cost, as well as general cultural experience." She also found European schools better for if a student has good AP scores but not SAT/ACT scores.

The obvious differences of studying abroad that Abby experienced was completing the Visa process, living in her own apartment because of the lack of dorms, and obtaining a french cell phone number and bank account. But being in France and meeting people from around the world like her best friends from South Africa, Finland, London, etc. have instilled in her a love for studying abroad. She appreciates feeling academically challenged at school but is amazed that her learning experiences aren't confined to the classroom as she learns the French language and more

about the country she's studying in.

Studying in Europe also makes it easy for her to travel to other countries such as Belgium where she recently met up with fellow SOA alumni **Claire Conway**. Flights and train tickets are cheaper, allowing Edwards to also have visited Luxembourg, London, Strasbourg, and Bulgaria. She currently has plans to visit Scotland, the Alps, the Amalfi coast, Switzerland, and the South of France before the start of the next school year. Over the upcoming summer she will start her internship in Germany, working in the education department of the former concentration camp, Buchenwald.



Abby Edwards finds that the cultural immersion of study abroad programs to be extremely rewarding.

Edwards noted that homesickness is a big concern for students when considering study abroad. However, "if you are independent, intellectually curious, cost conscious, decently mature, and know what you want to study,

European schools might be a good option for you. It won't be the traditional American college experience, but for many people it can be much more rewarding."

Arts Coordinator balances the many needs of SOA's majors

Applause writer **Haleigh Markham** sat down with **Ms. Leah King**, SOA's Arts Coordinator, to learn more about her life and position at SOA.

Jump, Jive & Wail a few times and really enjoyed it. Mr. Kerr mentioned that SOA's Fine Arts faculty was in need of administrative support and that he thought I would be a good fit. The position was actually a two man job when it first was created. I learned that the position was approved, and a short time later I applied for job. I was hired in January of 2015, so I have been here 3 years-but actually almost 4 full school years. Mr. Hammes's wife was my partner in crime (the other arts support position) until 2016, when she became a stay at home mom. It was also during that time that the District decided to eliminate the second support staff position, so I have been the lone art support for two full school years now. (Wow, that was a lot of explaining. Sorry.)



Ms. King (center), with her children Walker (right) and Emory (left).

HM: You have a lot of job responsibilities, what would you consider to be your most important?

LK: They are all important, but if I had to pick a few of the most important, I guess I would have to say planning and coordinating the arts field trips, managing the fine arts events, and making sure I keep the academic teachers up to date on the fine arts events and activities. It is really important that the lines of communication between the academic teachers and the arts major teachers are always clear and open. Between the 9 fine arts majors, they take an average of 60 trips and/or in-school pull-outs a year.

Haleigh Markham: How did you come to work here at SOA?

Leah King: Well, it's kind of a long story. I actually wasn't even looking for a job at the time. I had been teaching preschool for about 6 years and did quite a bit of volunteer work for SOA and the MS/HS bands over the years. I had been the event coordinator for

Continued on Page 9



Carolina One
Real Estate

Schatmeyer Team
Carolina One Real Estate
Kristin and Simon Schatmeyer
simon.schatmeyer@carolinaone.com
(843) 697-7347

"Relocation Specialists, Full-Service Real Estate Team for Buyers and Sellers all over the Tri-County Area"

You have no idea the amount of paperwork involved with each one of those trips. We have over 95 events on campus each school year, and I have to make sure the campus has power, security, cleaning services and the necessary set up for each of those events. Additionally, I help Mike with the RMMT booking paperwork for those events in our theater. I also assist when I can with clerical support in the administration building, and of course I also assist during auditions and registration. I do about a million other things, but those are the main ones. It's fast paced and I love it. It makes the day go by super fast. Plus, I get to hang out with some pretty cool kids and have a front row seat to some pretty amazing SOA events.

HM: What are some of the challenges you face with your job?

LK: There are a lot of challenges with this position actually. The main challenge is trying to keep twenty two different bosses happy. I have to make sure I balance and manage each major equally, which is often very hard. There are times during the year that there is a lot of activity going on with the music majors, so those times of the year I tend to do more for band, piano, vocal and strings. Then, there are other times of the year, like Scholastic for example, when creative writing and visual arts demand more of my time. I try really hard to make sure each fine arts teacher is taken care of and that their workload isn't too overwhelming. If they are stressed out, then I haven't done my job properly. My main purpose is to keep them in the classroom in front of the students teaching, instead of getting bogged down with paperwork. I hope I have done a good job of that so far. They are a great group of individuals to work with.

HM: You have two kids that attend SOA, correct? What is it like and what have you learned working at the school your children attend?

LK: I do! My son, Walker, is a Senior this year and is a Band major. He has been at SOA since 6th grade. My daughter, Emory, started here last year as a 6th grader, and she is a Creative Writing Major. They both love SOA! I can say that my children have grown tremendously, both as students and as artists, since being here. They know how lucky they are to go to this school. I also consider myself very lucky to have the privilege to work where

my kids attend school. It's nice seeing their faces around campus off and on during the day. I'm really going to miss seeing my boy here next year. I have already shed a few tears over it and we still have a few months to go before graduation! I'm sure it will be an adjustment for Emmy too, not having her big brother around.

HM: Do you have a background in the arts?

LK: I have always enjoyed writing poetry and short stories. I guess that's where Emmy gets her writing skills from. I used to write poetry all the time when I was a teenager. I wish there would have been a school like SOA back when I was younger because I totally would have been a creative writing major OR a vocal major! Mr. Rogers is going to kill me, because it will make him feel old...but I was actually a vocal student of his way back in the late '90s at Middleton High School. I guess Walker gets his passion for music from me too. I have always enjoyed singing, but as I have gotten older I don't sing much anymore. I'm nervous in front of large crowds believe it or not. Singing in the shower? Now, that's a completely different story! I love singing Colbie Caillat and Nora Jones songs ...and you'd seriously be blown away by my mad rapping skills. I am a closet Eminem fan. But that's a story for another day.

HM: Where did you attend school and what did you study?

LK: It took me a while to decide what I wanted to be "when I grew up." Initially, I attended Francis Marion University in Florence, South Carolina as a journalism major. I transferred to The College of Charleston for my second year and changed majors to Early Childhood Education. Then I decided to get married (I married my high school sweetheart, Brian).

After I got married, I completed my Associate's Degree in Public Service from Trident Tech and was a Paralegal for about 13 years before switching gears to teach school. I feel like the experience I have working in the courtroom and then in the classroom actually plays a huge role in my job today. Being a Paralegal taught me how to be serious when I need to get things done and how to properly manage my time, and being a preschool teacher taught me how to handle whiney people. Ha! I am totally kidding. Or am I?

HM: What are some of your other interests outside of work?

LK: Oh man! I have a lot! I love, love, love going to the beach and gardening. I enjoy binge-watching documentaries and series on Netflix. I'm currently



Mr. Lyons' math classes donated over 1200 lbs. of non-perishable food items for the Lowcountry Food Bank.

watching Orange Is the New Black. I'm hooked on that show. My daughter plays travel hockey, so the family spends a lot of time on the road for those games. Walker's band is always playing somewhere on the weekends, and I really enjoy seeing them play. Really, I love doing anything involving my family and friends, even if it's just grilling out on the back deck and then playing card games or something low-key. I can play a mean game of Uno.

soa-applause.com

Where Were They Then?

Applause's **Alec Pourmoghadam** sat down with high school science teacher **Mr. Kevin Short** to discover his life before SOA.

Alec Pourmoghadam: Where did you grow up and how did growing up there help shape you?

Kevin Short: I grew up in Cheraw, South Carolina, a small town in the PeeDee region of the state. Being from a small town, I appreciate the sense of community that I sense at SOA. I also think growing up in a town compared to a city allowed me to explore the outdoors more, which helped shape my college and career interests.

AP: What are your best memories of your childhood?

KS: Summers were always the best. Swimming, riding bikes, taking vacations, playing outside from the time I woke up until the time it was dark. Fireflies (lightning bugs) were the cue that it was time to go home. Who doesn't love summer?

AP: What dreams and goals did you have for your life while you were in high school?

KS: I wanted to be a genetic engineer. Hoey, dreams do come true.

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

KS: I declared my major as Biological Sciences and received a Bachelor's of Science.

AP: What drew you to science/science education?

KS: I have always loved science, even as early as the third and fourth grade. I did not know I would like teaching until I got a job as an environmental education instructor at an outdoor camp. I realized I truly enjoyed sharing knowledge about science and nature with the kids coming to the camp.

AP: What are your future goals/dreams?

KS: I am currently working on my second Masters degree. It is in Interdisciplinary

STEM Education. In the near future I hope to complete that degree, continue to strengthen the AP program at SOA, and maybe offer AP Environmental.

Provided



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

KS: Look around in your next class. Do you see that person turning in their paper first before everyone else? Yep, that's me as a teenager.

AP: If you attended SOA, what would your major be?

KS: I would definitely be a Creative Writing major.

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

KS: I was once a lab manager for a genetics/biotechnology lab and I was surrounded by pine tree embryos all day. I can also hold my own in a karaoke competition.

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

KS: I was a science teacher at North Charleston High School for two years before I worked here. The opportunity opened up here and looked like a perfect fit for me. I interviewed the same day that the job was posted. The rest is history.

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

KS: I like playing the part of the straight-laced science teacher to all of the artistically-gifted SOA students. We have found a unique balance of the two extremes in my class, and I have learned that that balance is important to maintain.

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

KS: I would be writing books. I think it would be awesome to put some of my thoughts and ideas down on paper for others to share.

AP: What advice would you give your younger self?

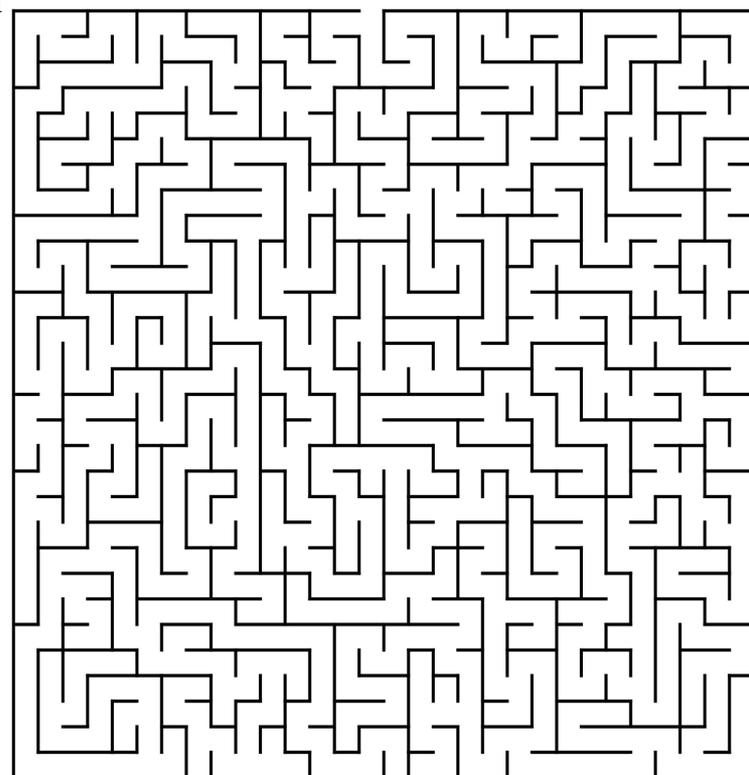
KS: No one will ever ask you your GPA in a job interview.

AP: If you could tell your daughter one thing to remember for life, what would it be?

KS: No one ever said "I wish I had worked more" while on their deathbed. Instead, they regret their missed opportunities. It is important to work hard, but not to miss the opportunities to love, share, and have fun.



Help Mr. Short find his next Master's Degree



Where Are They Now?

Applause's **Patrick Wohlscheid** caught up with *Class of 2014* alumni **Miles Counts** to see what he's been up to since graduation.



Provided

Patrick Wohlscheid: *Where do you attend college, and what do you study?*

Miles Counts: I study American History and Literature at Harvard University. I am also pursuing a secondary field (our bougie way of declaring a minor) in African-American Studies. I spend most of my time writing and thinking about black histories of intimacy, black literary aesthetics, racial capitalism in the 20th century, and the ideological and cultural boundaries of the American South.

PW: *What are your plans/aspirations for after graduation?*

MC: Funny enough, I don't have any immediate plans after my graduation! At some point in the near future I want to continue my academic career. Ideally, I would apply for doctoral candidacy in either American history or African-American studies. However, I need a couple of years to decompress, and to figure some things out. If I could find a job where I could conduct historical research and work on my writing and teaching skills, I would take it in a heartbeat. This type of ambiguity

can be stressful, especially at this point in the year, but it is actually very liberating to be without a set path. For the first time in my life I feel like I have a bit of room to breathe and make the moves I want to make.

PW: *What activities and extracurriculars do you participate in outside of class?*

MC: I help students with their academic writing as a tutor at the college's writing center. I also serve as an academic and personal advisor to first-year students. As a Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellow, I work within a cohort of other students of color who are interested in pursuing a career in the academy. This is one of my biggest time commitments, and I love working with and learning from my friends and colleagues across different fields.

PW: *Are there any lessons you've learned from SOA that you utilize today?*

MC: SOA was the first place where I had to be vulnerable with my personal work. Working and studying within a community of artists can be intimidating, but it can also provide you with the sort of criticism that allows your work to improve. Because of my SOA education, I entered college willing to take more scholastic risks, and I felt more comfortable sharing my personal interests, writing, and ideas.

PW: *Has your background as a Creative Writing major at SOA helped or shaped you in any way during college? If so, how?*

MC: While my capital C "creative" writing is on the back burner, I use a lot of what I've learned in the creative writing program in my academic writing and thinking. Because of my experiences in the program, I learned how to draft and revise more effectively, I became more attentive to language and its deployment, and I gained a patience with my own writing that has been invaluable for longer pieces.

PW: *How have you learned to balance rigorous academics and*

extracurriculars with your personal life?

MC: I just take it one day at a time. As a student in the humanities, I tend to have a fairly irregular working schedule. Some days I'm just reading and taking notes. Other days I'm writing or doing some type of clerical task. After being in this environment for about three and a half years I think I've found a healthy, or at least workable, rhythm. I always make time for my wonderful friends and roommates, and I try to reward myself at the end of the day with something I enjoy: usually a NBA game or a movie.

PW: *As a senior about to leave college, what advice would you give to SOA's high school seniors about to enter college?*

MC: You shouldn't feel as though you need to know exactly what you want to get out of your college experience, academically or socially. I had the luxury of going to a school where you can't declare a major until sophomore fall. I used that time to explore different academic fields, to work out what exactly my academic interests were, and to delve into my studies without too much stress about my future career(s). Now, this freedom to explore usually requires some sort of economic privilege. I am lucky to have had access to an extremely generous financial aid package. If a four-year college plan is untenable to you because of your economic situation, I would advise you to spend extra time planning so that you can meet your requirements as fast as possible. That way you can get out on time and experience all of the classes and extracurricular organizations that hew closely to your passions.

SOA graduate soars to new heights as up-and-coming conductor

by Malachi Jones

It's December 2017, and close to 200 people sit in the Walt Disney Concert Hall awaiting the prestigious Los Angeles Philharmonic's performance of "Bernstein 100" anniversary concert. Dedicated to the works of legendary composer Leonard Bernstein, the pieces are guaranteed to be beautiful yet challenging. So by much deserved circumstance, Jonathon Heyward, SOA class of 2010, stands to the podium and conducts the Los Angeles Philharmonic. His quick gestures control the sound at will, and his composure exhibits pure confidence and mastering of the pieces—though he has had only two days to prepare. In the *Los Angeles Times*, reviewer Rick Schultz raves that Heyward's conducting is "positively Bernsteinian." Jonathon Heyward's path since SOA has led him to many stages across the world to conduct orchestral music.

Though he was a Strings major who focused on the cello, Jonathon credits much of his young career to his time at School of the Arts. He specifically praises Ms. Sarah Fitzgerald because "she allowed me so much more experience than I think any other high schooler would have been allowed—to conduct an orchestra."

Jonathon arrived at SOA as a sixth grader who had just started cello the year before. Originally waitlisted, he found out much later that he was accepted into the Strings department. "It was an absolute dream come true for me because I found an outlet," Jonathon said, "I found something that I was so passionate about, and the doors are very much open at School of the Arts." Since mastering the cello his first interest, Jonathon's first exposure to conducting would come by coincidence. He was in seventh grade and a substitute strings teacher couldn't conduct the rehearsal, so student

volunteers were chosen. Eagerly, he took up the baton and immediately grew fascinated with the work. He was captivated by the score. He says, "If it wasn't for Ms. Mears being sick that day, I don't know if I ever would have gotten into conducting or been interested in it."

However, with the help of Ms.



Heyward.

Fitzgerald, Jonathon hit his stride in high school. As a freshman, he showed immediate interest of wanting to conduct. Ms. Fitzgerald saw no reason why he shouldn't, believing "every student has the right to any and all opportunities to explore their passion." From there, Jonathon

spent most of his spare time in afterschool practices studying scores, rehearsing movements, and performing concertos. He took it a step further, getting permission from Charleston Symphony Orchestra's late maestro David Stahl to study his technique. Symphony and senior thesis concerto concerts were extracurriculars and not yet classes, so it was all through self-driven effort that Jonathon honed his talents. Conducting almost every week and a piece every show, SOA gave him a distinctive advantage when graduating. During his time at Boston Conservatory, Jonathon's comfort at the podium was clear. "To have that experience of just standing in front of an orchestra—some of my colleagues in college have not had nearly as much experience...you know, all these people, from Mrs. Mears to Mrs. Fitzgerald, are the people who really have gotten me to where I am."

His time at Boston Conservatory was spent studying cello, orchestral and operatic conducting. While there, he witnessed his first opera, Mozart's *Don*

Giovanni, and became hooked. Following the show, Jonathon sent a short email to the music director offering any assistance he could provide. As a result, he secured a position as assistant conductor for the conservatory's opera department. This approach of stepping out—as he had done in middle school—benefited him again and again in his blooming career. Jonathon has always seen conducting competitions as avenues for practice. "You don't have the time to practice in front of an orchestra like you would as a person practicing their instrument."

In 2013, he became the youngest semifinalist at Blue Danube International Opera Conducting Competition in Bulgaria. Just two years after that, now in London studying at the Royal Academy of Music, he's won the Besançon International Competition for Young Conductors in France. Jonathon spent three months training and at the young age of 23 secured the victory. "It was a huge break for sure in my career, and I realized then and there that I could really make a career out of conducting essentially." In the aftermath of this achievement, Jonathon went on to graduate from the Royal Academy of Music and is in his second year of a two-year appointment as The Hallé Orchestra assistant conductor. It's a position he's humbled himself in, as he values the experience he gains more than the prestige.

Jonathon's rise to conducting can be considered unconventional. As a teenager, he briefly received private training for cello from Timothy O'Malley, a core cellist of Chamber Music Charleston, but that was all. And while he grew up with the musical influences of Frank Sinatra as well as jazz and



Heyward has honed his conducting skills since early middle school.

Continued on Page 13

rock, he admits that no one in his family was a musician and “classical music was a very different route for sure.” It’s these extraordinary circumstances that fuel his support for public schools. “It’s where everything began,” he affirms, “and more importantly it all began in the Charleston County School District, which is why I really think it’s incredibly important to keep up the public school system and the arts.” As a Dudamel Fellow and music director of the Hallé Youth Orchestra, Jonathon feels privileged to assist the next generation of orchestral musicians. When he’s stateside he performs educational outreach in Los Angeles with concerts and instruction for the children. “I think it’s incredible to give back and say ‘you have the capability of doing this,’” he says.

But what led him to that grand stage at Walt Disney Concert Hall? According to Jonathon, he hadn’t found out until two days before that he would stand before the Los Angeles Philharmonic. The scheduled conductor, Miguel Harth-Bedoya, had fallen ill and Jonathon was the philharmonic’s first call. He took the responsibility and executed beyond measure. “Effortlessly” balanced “his roles as a natural showman and sensitive collaborator in service to the music,” the *Los Angeles Times* reviewer would remark the morning after the concert. However, Jonathon admits that it’s still daunting to take the stage and prove not only to himself, but to the audience that he can translate a story of music. By all accounts, his translation is phenomenal.

As Jonathon and I continued to discuss Bernstein and his legacy, we raised the topic of “artful learning.” As at SOA, artful learning is an education model proposed by Bernstein that believes the arts effectively incorporated into academics can result in a bolstering of both. “It’s a proven fact...It’s a no-brainer.” Jonathon insists, “It’s not just an extracurricular.” He believes art is an integral part of any education. One that everyone

deserves to be exposed to. For him and many SOA alumni, it’s changed lives.

Jonathon continues to travel internationally, furthering his career at the Halle and practicing daily. When I spoke to Jonathon, he was riding in a “cabbie” headed back to his London home. That morning, he had been in rehearsal with his orchestra, a common habit of this soon-to-be maestro. “Rehearsal is where most of the work is done.” For him, that phrase reigns true on a deep level. Jonathon possesses a humility that is unassuming yet driven, and this will carry him far into all the opportunities that lie before him. As Ms. Fitzgerald put it best, “I am so proud of Jonathon. He is a rising star in the music world yet he is humble, generous, and loving to all.”



At 25, SOA alumni Jonathon Heyward conducted the Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra,

Photo Credits: Provided

Editor’s Note: For more articles and information on Jonathon Heyward, visit soa-applause.com

SOA student musicians chase passions outside the classroom

Many students at SOA speak the language of music. Fewer practice outside of the classroom, and rarely follow the craft as a profession after graduation. For Senior Band major **Alex Brouwer**, however, music is more than a hobby or career. It’s a way of being and communicating. Applause’s **Mosiah Williams** sat down with him and in part with his band mate, Junior Vocal major **Zachary Shirley**, to gain insight into the life of a student musician and what drives their passion.

Mosiah Williams: How did you get into music?

Alex Brouwer: When I first started playing drums, I was around nine years old. It didn’t start out that way though; I was actually an aspiring guitarist. To expand my influence, my dad introduced me to Led Zeppelin around third or fourth grade. It was from then on I knew I had an internal desire to be a drummer, because no matter how I tried, I couldn’t pull my eyes away from Bonham and his admirable style of musicianship. Shortly after, I was able to pull together some money and bought a drum set off a family friend. I began lessons only a mere several months later and I have been playing ever since.

Continued on Page 14



Seniors **Brianna Samonte** (far left), **Jessica Leiker** (left), and **Elliott Weeks** (right) participate in the wrapping parties held by the National Honor Society for the Angel Tree service project. Angel Tree was a tremendous success, with this year having the largest number of children sponsored.

Provided

Zachary Shirley: Personally I'm really into psychedelic music—whether it be new or old. I started writing and recording my own music about two years ago and I've been doing it since.

MW: How did you two meet?

AB: When I first met Zach we were trying to put together a band with several other students when I came to SOA at the start of last year. However, we were later informed we weren't allowed to use the bandroom for rehearsals during lunch. With our tails between our legs, we packed

up our instruments not having played a single note. It wasn't until the summer the bassist of Zach's current group told me their band wanted me to play as a temporary replacement for their drummer. I agreed and played the show. Despite the fact that it was a non profit festival hosted at a Montessori school, it was a night to remember. I was able to make friends and play with each of the members easily and well and truly felt we had a common interest in sound and style. When they told me a few days after that they wanted me to continue performing with them, I was overjoyed.

ZS: I never really knew Alex, but I knew he was a good drummer. My friend Brendan and I wanted to start a band with him on drums... and shaboom, it just happened.

MW: What are you currently working on?

AB: I think Zach and my main priority is getting what we have written recorded, and playing as many shows as possible for the next couple of months towards the end of the school year. Our lineup has not been the utmost consistent from the start but I

Mosiah Williams



Zachary (left) and Alex (right) fully immerse themselves in their artistic passions with music.

will be a perfect one to really work hard and see how far what we have worked towards can take us. Of course, my "dream" for this group is for it to one day be paying my bills and for it to go on for as long as possible, but whether it is or isn't in the cards, I would still like to pursue further education and/or work in the music business. I'm personally sure I could find my comfort in either outcome.

ZS: Currently Alex, **Cameron Wescott**, a Wando student named Todd Hollowell, and I are starting a new project.

MW: Why do you play?

AB: I suppose I play music for both myself and others and neither overrides the other. Music has been the centerpiece of my life for as long as I care to remember, even prior to being a musician. It has been my crutch in harder times in life and has been the extra boost in all others. People like to laugh and call it corny when music is deemed "the legal high" but in all honesty there isn't too many other ways to describe the feeling when you connect with others and yourself when you are playing what YOU really want to. It's only something those who do it really understand. I also believe playing music is

believe now that it's not as much of an issue. We can start on the aspect of exposure and putting ourselves out there. We have and will be doing shows with acts consisting of some SOA students and alumni such as Manchild and Fusion Jonez. He and I are friends with the members and even play with them from time to time on the exterior of our desired musical projects.

ZS: I've been working on an EP that I plan to release this year.

MW: What future projects are you most excited about?

AB: Given our contentment with this group and my plans to stay in town after high school I think the future is looking good. This next year will be a perfect one to really work hard and see how far what we have worked towards can take us. Of course, my "dream" for this group is for it to one day be paying my bills and for it to go on for as long as possible, but whether it is or isn't in the cards, I would still like to pursue further education and/or work in the music business. I'm personally sure I could find my comfort in either outcome.

ZS: Currently Alex, **Cameron Wescott**, a Wando student named Todd Hollowell, and I are starting a new project.

MW: Why do you play?

AB: I suppose I play music for both myself and others and neither overrides the other. Music has been the centerpiece of my life for as long as I care to remember, even prior to being a musician. It has been my crutch in harder times in life and has been the extra boost in all others. People like to laugh and call it corny when music is deemed "the legal high" but in all honesty there isn't too many other ways to describe the feeling when you connect with others and yourself when you are playing what YOU really want to. It's only something those who do it really understand. I also believe playing music is

a way of serving the society or even the world. The majority of people listen to music, and contributing that to those around you and promoting that kind of joy is a wonderful thing that I'd even go as far as to call a privilege.

ZS: I play because that is my passion, and it's the only I feel like I'm actually good at.

New Year's Clothing Drive!

Show some love this season and donate to help orphans in need!

All donations made will benefit Lowcountry Orphan Relief, a non-profit organization centered in North Charleston. A school-wide Clothing Drive will be held starting on Monday, January 29th, and donations will close on Friday, February 23rd. Prizes will be given to the top three students who donate the most items.

Potential prizes include: a \$10 iTunes gift card, a variety candy basket, and movie theater popcorn. Donations should be made in cardboard boxes and or disposable bags with the student's name and grade clearly labeled. Winners will be announced on Monday, February 26th on the announcements, and can claim their prize at the front office.

Donations accepted are:

- All types/styles of gently used clothing, including shirts, pants, shorts, shoes, belts, etc.
- New, unused toiletries, including toothbrushes, toothpaste, floss, deodorant, shampoo, etc.
- New, unused school supplies, including paper, pencils, binders, erasers, etc.

-All donations should be placed in Mr. Moore's room, Room 4106, in the Fine Arts Building-

soa-applause.com

Interns That Work program has an impact on many seniors

by Haley Swittenberg

As second semester begins here at SOA, the clock is ticking for seniors. Many have started receiving acceptances and some have even already committed to colleges. But with college comes the dreaded question: What's your major? It can be overwhelming and stressful to decide what path you want to take or whether college is even right for you. Maybe you know what you want to do, but don't know where to begin your journey into the working world.

Mr. Bill Smyth, a now retired SOA teacher, saw the taxing process taking its toll and decided to help students by beginning an internship program. Since 2014 Smyth has helped over 95 students get out into the community to receive work experience in their field of interest. "Internships are extremely important because they introduce students to the business, medical, and cultural art centers in Charleston," says Smyth. "Students work alongside mentors and explore possibilities for their own futures. This is an excellent way for students to figure out what they might want to major in when they go to college and what they might want to do after college."

Many 2018 seniors are currently enrolled in the program and are already reaping the benefits. Senior Creative Writer **Taylor Kahn-Perry** spent the summer downtown at the Office Strategy and Communication for Charleston County School District. She learned that her major in high school can also be beneficial to her major in college. "I am interested in studying government and education policy," says Taylor. "I was able to realize how my writing abilities could fit into my interest in education and how my words could help bring about change."

Senior Band major **Rachel West** participated first semester in the SCRUBS program at the Bon Secours St. Francis Hospital in West Ashley. Rachel "enjoyed learning from the nurses" and the program inspired Rachel to cement her desires to become a medical professional.

Mr. Smyth hopes the program will continue to grow as time progresses and that

more people can benefit from this unique experience. If you wish to participate in the Interns That Work program as a senior, contact Mr. Bill Smyth at bill_smyth@charleston.k12.sc.us or speak to a guidance counselor.

SOA Junior advances to Poetry Out Loud state competition

Provided

S O A
Junior Theater major **Keegan Dustin** advanced to the South Carolina Poetry Out Loud State Championship on January 21 after winning the Regional Championship at the College of Charleston. **Keegan** recited "Old Men Playing Basketball," by B.H. Fairchild and "God's Grandeur" by Gerard Manley Hopkins.



Keegan beat out stiff competition both in the school and regional competition.

Keegan was one of three regional winners; the other two being former SOA theatre major Janae Claxton of First Baptist High School and Sha' Kaila Stewart of Whale Branch Early College High School. The State Competition will be held on March 10 at the Richland County Library in Columbia.

Over the next few months, Applause will provide monthly updates on the projects and goals of SOA's PTSA. On behalf of the Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA) Board, we greatly appreciate all of the parent volunteers who contribute to our teacher appreciation events.

Did you know that SOA PTSA:

Meets monthly?

Contributes over 100 hours a month in planning, organizing, and serving the SOA community?

Pays for 100% of SOA event security?

Allocates thousands of dollars in the form of teacher grants that support academic goals?

Proudly supports SOA councils, organizations, and booster clubs?

Sponsors teacher appreciation events?

Your PTSA Board:

President: Bobby Baker
Vice President: Denise Indovina
Secretary: Christine Inabinett
Treasurer: Cris Temples
Corresponding Secretary: Best Bast
Teacher Appreciation: Monica Arevalo
Fundraising/Boxtops Coordinator: Yancy Richmond
Faculty Liaison: Stacy McKinley
Administrator Advisor: Mr. Robert Grant

To join PTSA, visit <https://soapta.membershiptoolkit.com/>

6th vs. 12th

What is/was your favorite cartoon?



"Animaniacs."
-Johnny Valasquez,
6th grade

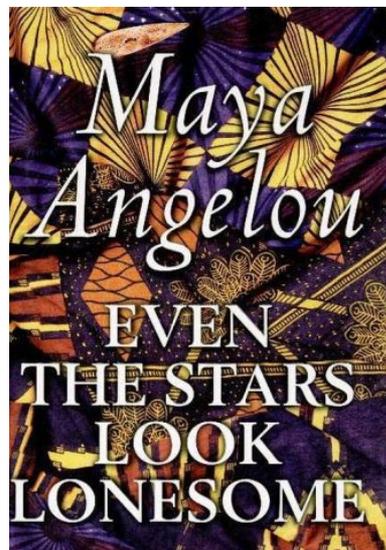
"Billy and Mandy."
-Hunter Dubose,
12th grade



PC: Graham Martini

Classic book review: *Even the Stars Look Lonesome* by Maya Angelou

by Maggie Robinson



Published in 1997, *Even the Stars Look Lonesome* is an autobiographical collection of essays. Unlike her most famous memoir, *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*, which leads up to when ends when she is 17, this chronicles her life.

Look, I know the word “essay” can be intimidating, but these are more than just academic. Angelou writes about being a woman, old age, past marriages, and race. Whether she’s writing about being a dance teacher or loving attention, it is easy to relate to, tying together all sorts of people with her words. The book is empowering, challenges stereotypes, and spreads the message of self-love.

Even the Stars Look Lonesome is the perfect book to start of the new year. As positivity seems to be an all-round goal for everyone now, these essays will be a great start to that. Easy to read, it will open

Maya Angelou’s speeches about race, gender, love, and everyday life stories. Reading her work is like having a conversation with her. In the essay “A House Can Hurt, A Home Can Heal,” Angelou explains how a house ruined her marriage, but a home in North Carolina saved her own soul. As someone who has moved around a lot, I could feel every emotion she talked about. Even in her other essays like “Godfrey Cambridge and Fame,” an essay about being famous, I could relate to; she tends to take unique aspects about her self and portray them in a way that readers can understand. Through these works, I hope you find the perfect dose of both information and positivity.

Classic album review: *All Over the Place* by The Bangles

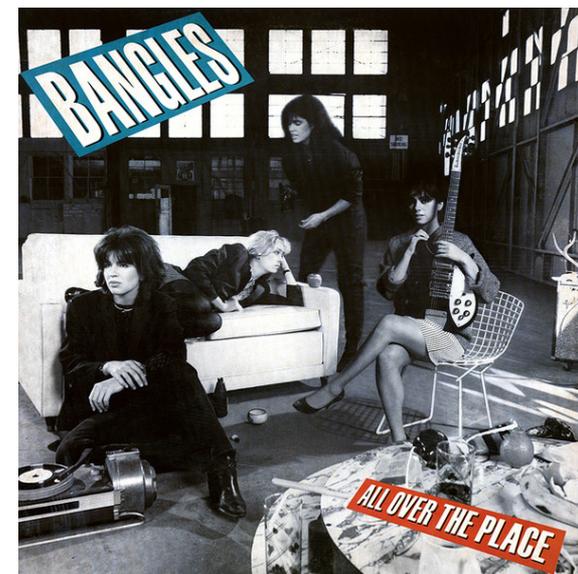
by Maggie Robinson

In many ways, The Bangles’ *All Over the Place* is both reminiscent of pre-’80s music fads and represented the way music in the 80s was heading. Their pop-rock/new wave album never made it high up on the charts or even produced a hit single, but music lovers are finally turning back to this classic album. Many charts of today now call it one of the best albums by an all-female band.

All Over the Place takes on many different sounds, most from the 1960-1970s. One theme throughout the album is beachy tones that were popular in the ‘60s thanks to the Beach Boys. However, it has a sound that reminds me of both The Beatles and The Rolling Stones. The lack of popularity in this album was probably because of the vintage sound, but it is now seen as

inventive and new. After all, The Bangles turned those dated trends into their own pop-rock sound.

Some of my favorite songs off of the album are “James,” “Restless,” and



“Silent Treatment.” “James” is one of their more beachy songs and shows off its lighthearted tune. If it was a little warmer outside, I’d be playing this song with the windows down in my car. “Restless” and “Silent Treatment” are both two of the darker songs, taking on topics of jealousy with quite heavy guitars. It definitely contrasts the more sweet-sounding songs on the track. *All Over the Place* is, quite literally, all over the place with its sounds, lyrics, and genres. It’s a bit of an acquired taste, but it is truly enjoyable if you can get into it!

Picture Credits: Google Images



Jennifer M. Lesslie, O.D.
Betsy W. Fraser, O.D.

843-747-7663
370 Remount Road Suite B,
North Charleston, SC, 29406

lesslievisioncare.com

Hip Hop music review: *SATURATION III* by BROCKHAMPTON

by Caleb Smith



from everyone who participated in this album is extremely admirable. It gave me chills, and made me realize that when it comes to making music, being yourself, staying true to your music style, and using personal experiences is the perfect recipe for producing addictive music.

BROCKHAMPTON is led by the one and only Kevin Abstract, who many people didn't know to be gay. In *SATURATION III*, he frequently talks about his past relationships and how the desensitization of his sexuality only helped him grow and prosper in his craft. In tracks like "Star" and "Junky," Abstract openly talks about his homosexuality and long journey from overcoming adversity and judgement.

Since the release of this album, the popularity of the group has grown tremendously. It's evident now that BROCKHAMPTON has an overwhelming amount of potential and will more than likely become mainstream in the coming months.

Oh my, oh my. BROCKHAMPTON did something special with this one. Their new album, entitled *SATURATION III*, is in my opinion, "godly."

Every track on this collection is a banger. The confidence in the flow style

Contemporary album review: *Middle Kids EP* by Middle Kids

by Maggie Robinson

Without even playing a show beforehand, Middle Kids released their first EP, and the feedback has been surprisingly positive. After all, it usually takes lots of coverage to release anything remotely successful. The three artists



in Middle Kids out of Australia have made a name for themselves and continue to grow in popularity.

Middle Kids EP plays out a lot like a storyline that follows the path of a relationship. The tone of the music follows that and starts off fun, travels to a folk-heavy pop song, and ends with a dark sound. "Your Love" starts the EP off with catchy hooks and guitars, but features the conflicting emotions of whether a relationship is worth it. "Doing It Right" finishes it all off with a sound that really sticks out. Contrary to the previous positive sound (despite many negative lyrics), it takes on a slow tempo, piano-heavy melody, and by far the most emotional lyrics on the EP.

The dynamic *Middle Kids EP* endures makes it a great set of songs to listen to this January; there's a song for every type of day. My favorite song off of it is "Edge of Town," which was the first one I heard. If you're into alternative music with occasional touches of folk and rock, I think you'll love Middle Kids as much as I do.

Picture Credits: Google Images



BRIAN D KURTZ PC
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT

Specializing In Small Businesses & Professionals
Accounting + Tax Planning + CFO Consulting Services

New Clients Welcome
We Offer Friendly Support

Visit Us Online At www.bkurtzcpa.com
843-971-5866

"Little One"

by **Courtney Wickstrom**

I want a daughter one day,
and I don't. Want to show her
the world in which we live,
the way sun reflects off the ocean,
the way bellies of clouds swell with rain,
mothers with children. Want to tell her,
You are all the parts of myself

I want to keep. Want to hold her,
small and soft, afraid to break her.
Want to mend all her scraped knees,
cracked seams, push back frizzy strands
of hair, tell her to never smooth them out
for anyone. I want her to do better than me

at being. I want her to always know
that she is a force of nature, powerful,
beautiful. She is something to look at
and wonder how anything could be so
strong. Burn with her flames into the wind,
spread embers wherever she goes.

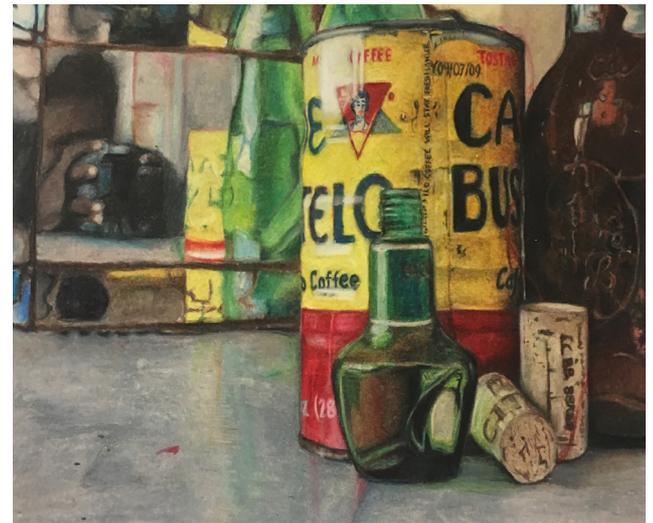
Have her take these hands of mine when
I've gone small and soft, tell her not to be afraid.
Tell her she did not ask to be here, and
for that I'm sorry. But I am selfish. Tell her
she, too, will wage the same war within
herself, whether to grow her love or not.



Maggie Tennant,
Senior.



Sasha Gregorieff,
Senior.



Enrique Boyd, Freshman.
Colored Pencil.



Elise Richardson, Senior.
Oil on Canvas.

**Submissions of creative
writing, visual art, and
fashion and design
pieces can be sent to
pjwohl2000@gmail.com**

Ask Applause

Ask Applause is a new monthly column in which SOA students, faculty, and staff write in with a request for advice about any situation or question they may have. This month, Applause writers **Caleb Smith**, **Cora Schipa**, **Graham Martini**, and **Mary Grace Hutzler** talk starting high school and self-expression.

What advice would you give to a rising ninth grader?



Cora: Start high school with friends who care about you and will be there for you, but know that people change a lot at this point in their lives, so be open to that. Don't

be too exclusive; new people bring new opportunities. Speaking of opportunities, there will be lots of them. Be careful about which ones you take, because decisions really start to matter (especially academic ones!). Think of your first year as almost a fresh start.



Caleb: When you arrive to the next stage in your life (high school), there are some things that you need to keep in mind. First, don't share all of your business. High

school can be the epitome of drama, and unfortunate events, if you don't remain to yourself like you should. Always remember that if you're succeeding and "makin' moves," to keep it to yourself, family, and your closest and more trustworthy friends. Sometimes, when people see your accomplishments, without you having to say anything, they admire it even more than if you were to keep mentioning it, because at that point people get annoyed,

and even more so envious. Another thing, don't be so quick to call everyone in school your friend. There are people who may tell you such to your face, and do the exact opposite of what they say behind your back. That also can be a main source of upcoming drama, that you must avoid in order to focus on your high school career and aspirations. I want to refrain from stating all the negatives that can be seen when embarking on your high school journey, because in reality, it's not all negatives. If you keep with a positive attitude throughout your four years, and have a friend group or even one friend that is reliable, and your grades are straight, you should be just fine. Take in these four years, because when you get to your senior year of high school, you will be ready to graduate, but at the same time you will most definitely not want to leave all the good memories behind. Make sure to build your resume and profile so that you will be able to go to any college that you want to attend. As soon as you step into school as a high schooler your GPA is now active. So always remember to remain scholarly, determined, and focused.

How do you express your eccentricity without seeming unapproachable?



Graham: This is a simple issue of feeling comfortable in your own skin. The truth is that most people are too focused on themselves and their surroundings to care how you choose to express yourself. You must be confident in yourself in order to feel comfortable in any interaction. To help boost your self-esteem try writing down the negative thoughts you have about yourself so you can decide if your feelings are valid or not. You may realize that the negative thoughts regarding yourself are emotion based and hold no truth. Most importantly, do not let the opinions and insecurities of others damage your outlook.



Mary Grace: The thing I love the most about SOA is how open and accepting our student body tends to be. I know it's a small

size, but we have kids from every end of the spectrum, so there is always a place for you somewhere if you are willing to find it. "Fitting in" here is really standing out. I feel like by showing who you are is representing SOA in the best light. We aren't like Wando or West Ashley in the sense we all have to fit a mold. I like to think that SOA tries to nurture differences and everyone should be able to express themselves in any way they want.

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.



I know this Sass Attack will mainly be directed towards seniors, but I needed to rant. College applications and acceptances are the most

stressful things I have ever done in my life. Why are college applications so expensive? I just don't get the concept of having to pay nearly one hundred dollars just to apply to spend nearly thirty thousand dollars to attend that school. I have gotten so many emails from schools saying they waived my application fee, but what many don't realize is that you still have to pay to send you scores to places. And not only are they expensive,

Sass Attack continued

but you have to basically write a new essay for every single application.

After you submit your application, you have to wait for either your acceptance or denial. That waiting period is the worst period of your life. It is terrifying to think that one letter could make or break your whole life. Some colleges operate on a rolling decision deadline where they send your decision two weeks after you have submitted your application. Some colleges have a set date for decisions to go out. But the worst by far is the wave decisions. Colleges will send out their decisions in waves. So that means you could have gotten into the college, but you could wait three months to hear the decision, where as your friends heard the decision a month before.

Overall, applying to college has been a rollercoaster ride, but as soon as you get that first acceptance letter it is all worth it. My advice for those applying to college in the future is to apply early and don't stress out too much. It's your senior year, enjoy it before it's gone.

Editorial: Positive news breeds positive results

As 2017 comes to a close, many find themselves reflecting on the events of the past twelve months. It's easy to think of the tragedies, the moments where one almost cannot believe the world could be so terrible. These stories undoubtedly capture our attention simply due to human nature. Our fear and even anger can drive us to seek out these stories. A study by the Pew Research center shows that "Disaster News" or stories about catastrophes and calamities are the most interesting to the average consumer.

Many reliable sources even intentionally publish more negative stories as they pull in readership. But as these events dominate our mindset, we can find that it's hard to feel optimistic about the state of society. The Pew Research center reported that up to 62% of adults use social media as their main way to consume news, making it hard to escape the world even when we want to.

This leaves a conflict in many minds: Do I stay informed, yet discouraged, or do I simply ignore the news?

People wish to see a change in society, yet many times after reading a negative or disheartening article, don't know what to do next. This can lead to the consumer feeling overwhelmed, anxious, and saddened. Research by psychologist Dr. Graham Davey shows that viewing negative news can cause spikes in worry and distress about personal problems as well. "Viewing negative news means that you're likely to see your own personal worries as more threatening and severe", says Davey "and when you do start worrying about them, you're more likely to find your worry difficult to control and more distressing than it would normally be."

With worries and stress, both personal and worldly building up in one's mind it can also feel like the world in general is worse than ever before. It is easy to feel like this when our phones are bombarded with notifications of potential war, poverty, terrorism, political distress, and mass death. In reality, the world is better for most than ever before. Extreme poverty, disease, death, and child abuse are at an all time low internationally. Yet these statistics are seemingly never reported or highlighted in the media. A study by Dr. Denise Baden found that most editors and reporters don't find these positive statistics to be "real news" or interesting to their readers.

Yet Dr. Baden's polls show that most readers prefer positive news stories that have been shown to increase motivation for change. The more negative stories discouraged readers and left them feeling hopeless, while more positive spins left readers more likely to voice their opinions and take action to make the world a better place.

Although negative stories have their place in the media, it is clear that the need for more positive news is dire. It is proven by the University of British Columbia that these positive narratives have an inspiring effect on the people who read them. "If more attention was devoted to recounting stories of uncommon acts of human virtue," says lead author Karl Aquino, "the media could have a quantifiable positive effect on the moral behavior of a significant group of people." It can give people great hope and inspiration to see the acts of others making a change in the world. It has been shown that positive stories increase mood levels, inspire a better perspective, restore faith in humanity, and that people show higher levels of active coping and increased engagement after reading.

Many news sources have begun featuring sections of good news in their publications to help people escape the seemingly constant stream of negativity. Websites such as Hopeful Headlines and The Good News Network exclusively devote their time to sharing positive, uplifting news from around the world.

But journalism and the news don't have to be all smiles and rainbows. Sad and negative stories will always exist and can still be reported, yet with a solution. If an earthquake occurs, news sources can still factually present the news. But an article with stories of human triumph or links to donate to the victims can help the reader feel hopeful and involved. Small adjustments like these can shift the attitudes and mindsets of large groups of people towards action. Willie Nelson once said "Once you replace negative thoughts with positive ones, you'll start having positive results." If we wish to see a difference in the world, we must start thinking of the world as a positive place that we can make even better. The media must act as more of a catalyst to encourage and promote positive thinking and change.

Provided



On January 11th, David Sass (left), former *Applause* writer and creator of the popular column *Sass Attack*, visited *Applause* and met current Editor **Patrick Wohlscheid** (right).

Coach Johnson shares his outlook on living with Leukemia

Graham Martini spoke to elite marathon runner, championship coach, and SOA PE teacher **Mr. Johnson** to discuss his struggle, prognosis, and experience with Leukemia.

Graham Martini: How did your life change after the initial diagnosis?

Brian Johnson: Now that I am out of the hospital and feeling well, I try to keep my daily activities and schedule much like it was before the diagnosis. I have been very careful to send the message to my kids that things are getting back to normal. It has been good for me as well to be back in a routine. Outside of that, I have totally changed my perspective on many things. I view life as a gift and am much more intentional when speaking to people, spending time with my family, and teaching students. I value the relationships in my life much more and do not take things for granted. I feel like I am now living on “borrowed time” and am trying to make the most of it.

GM: What recent prognosis did the doctors give you regarding your leukemia?

BJ: Right now I have been in remission since October, but am still getting treatment to prevent another relapse. I am coming to the end of the main treatment course but may get further interventions in the coming months. I get a monthly biopsy of the bone marrow from my hip to closely monitor me for any signs that the leukemia may be coming back. This will go on for another year and a half. There is a lot of anxiety around those times of the month which has taken some time to get used to.

GM: How physically demanding was the treatment process?

Caleb Smith



Johnson.

BJ: I was able to physically handle the treatment better than most people because of my initial health and fitness level. I stayed active with walking a lot during the treatment

which also helped. The chemo lowered my blood counts a lot which made my energy levels drop for a few weeks, but otherwise most of the physical effects were loss of hair and mouth sores. I am feeling back to normal now for the most part.

GM: How did you keep a positive outlook during difficult times?

BJ: I have always been an optimistic person and I try to look at the positive. Having a strong faith in God has also helped

me think past the rough parts and forward toward better days. Notes and visits from friends, family, and students both past and present also helped a lot!

GM: How did this experience make you more appreciative of your life?

BJ: I appreciate every day and look forward to each day and the opportunities that they present. I really value the time with my family now so much more than I already did. I also love coming to SOA each day with the thought that I can try to make someone else’s day or week better with a positive comment or experience in my class.

GM: How have your family and loved ones been able to handle your battle?

BJ: Honestly, it was and has been the roughest part for me, seeing my kids, wife, and extended family go through this. I have kept the thought in my mind that I can handle the treatments and all that go with them, but did not want my family to have to see me go through it all. Since, my last hospital stay in September, we have now gotten back to a more normal life. It is a “new normal” but we are moving forward and in a good place.

GM: Are you hopeful that you will return to long distance running?

BJ: I have started to do some running again at an easy/moderate effort. If I stay in remission I will start to add a little more and see how I feel. I do not have any plans to resume competitive running and all the training that goes with it anytime in the near future, but down the road if things are good may consider it. It is not the priority that it once was for me, but I enjoy being outside and getting my heart rate up and all the feelings, both physical and mental, that comes with it.

GM: Are you continuing your coaching duties? If so, how is that going?

BJ: I coached this past fall mostly via email and attended a few meets that were later in the year and the boys cross country team at AMHS had a very good season. I am not coaching anything this spring but plan to coach again next fall.

GM: Is there anything else you would like to say to the students of SOA?

BJ: I cannot express how thankful I am to the SOA community for the support that I was given. There were days in the hospital when I would get a note from someone at SOA at the perfect time to raise my spirits. I feel blessed to be a part of SOA and look forward to paying it forward to others.

Applause wishes Coach Johnson and his family the best in the coming months.

January Spotify Playlist

In the mood for some new music? Head to @cusatisoa on Spotify to hear the staff's favorite New Year's anthems.



Spotify

- “All the Stars” by Kendrick Lamar
- “Havana” by Camila Cabello
- “Where This Flower Blooms” by Tyler the Creator
- “Ain’t I Right” by Marty Robbins
- “Truckin” by the Grateful Dead
- “Wonder Woman’s Wrath” by Rupert Gregson-Williams
- “Young Dumb & Broke” by Khalid
- “Praying” by Kesha
- “Africa” by Toto

SOA Sudoku

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

January Horoscopes



Capricorn (Dec. 22- Jan.19): Get ready to be busy this month as you kick off the new year working hard. You might be starting a new project or finding a new hobby to pour more time into.



Aquarius (Jan. 20- Feb. 18): It may be a hard month, but take a step back and consider things from a different perspective. You might like what you find.



Pisces (Feb. 19- Mar. 20): You might experience some bumps in the road this month. Your grades might falter, especially in math and science, if you don't stay motivated.



Aries (Mar. 21- Apr. 19): Make sure you keep up with deadlines this month. An authority figure may ask a lot of you, but if you push through it, you'll persevere.



Taurus (Apr. 20- May 20): Be careful. A friend you really trust might stab you in the back! Remember to only put in effort towards those who would do the same for you.



Gemini (May 21- Jun. 20): Don't be too hard on yourself. Make amends where amends should be made and move forward.



Cancer (Jun 21- Jul. 22): Focus more on yourself and bettering friendships this month, rather than romantic involvements.



Leo (Jul. 23- Aug. 22): Someone new may be entering your life soon, whether it be a new pet or interesting friend. Welcome them gratefully.



Virgo (Aug. 23- Sept. 22): You may have a lot of options on the table for your future. In your heart, you'll know which choice is best for you.



Libra (Sept. 23- Oct. 22): You might think New Year's Resolutions are overrated, but if you apply yourself to your goals, you'll be pleasantly surprised.



Scorpio (Oct. 23- Nov. 21): Save up your money this month. Last month brought out the impulsive shopper in you.



Sagittarius (Nov. 22- Dec. 21): Make sure the people you care about know you love them this month. Take extra steps to strengthen those relationships.

January Events

January 21st-- SOA Jazz Band at The Charleston Jazz Festival, College of Charleston's Sottile Theater, 3PM

January 23rd -- All County Chorus Concert, RMMT, Middle School Concert: 6:00 PM
High School Concert: 7:00 PM

January 29th -- 6th Grade Theatre Shakespeare Show, 4PM, Black Box Theater

February 2nd & 3rd -- The SOA Vocal Department Presents: Music Down In My Soul, 6PM, SOA Café

February 12th-- Jazz Ensembles and Chamber Groups Concert, 6:30 PM, RMMT

February 20th -- Dance Spring Thesis Adjudications #2, 4PM, RMMT

CHASE
DEVELOPMENT LLC

BUY / SELL
SALE-LEASEBACKS
JOINT VENTURES
for
COMMERCIAL
PROPERTIES

*It's not who you know,
it's who knows you!*

Ben Chase
843.478.9594
BenChase@att.net

THE WILLIAM OLASOV CO., LLC

The Trivia Challenge

by Cora Schipa

For this month's Trivia Challenge, current champion and Junior Creative Writer **Trammell Sisson** competes with Senior Creative Writer **Mosiah Williams** in a hip hop artist trivia battle.

Questions:

1. This "Cop Killer" rapper later went on to play a detective on the television show Law & Order: Special Victims Unit?
2. Which rapper makes "bloody moves"?
3. Who made the song "Sheather", a diss track on Nicki Minaj?
4. Who teamed up with Katy Perry for her 2x platinum selling hit "E.T." from her 2010 album Teenage Dream?
5. Name the members of the Migos rap trio.
6. Only four new rap artists have gone platinum since 2006. Name one.
7. Who is the current richest rap artist?
8. Whose real name is Jahseh Dwayne Onfroy?
9. Which artist collaborated with Kendrick Lamar in his song "Loyalty"?
10. Who leads the group BROCKHAMPTON?

Mosiah Williams
12th Grade Creative
Writing



8/10

1. Ice T
2. Cardi B
3. Remy Ma
4. Kanye West
5. Quavo, Takeoff, Offset
6. Cardi B
7. Jay-Z
8. Xxxtentacion
9. Rihanna
10. Kevin Abstract

Trammell Sisson
11th Grade Creative
Writing



5/10

1. Ice T
2. Childish Gambino?
3. I don't know.
4. Kanye West
5. Quavo, Takeoff, Offset
6. J Cole
7. Drake
8. Xxxtentacion
9. Rihanna
10. I don't know.

The results are in: Trammell has been dethroned! Mosiah will take the crown as January's Trivia Champion and will compete to keep it in next month's Trivia Challenge!

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

Answers

1. Ice-T
2. Cardi B
3. Remy Ma
4. Kanye West
5. Quavo, Offset, and Takeoff
6. Drake, Nicki Minaj, Macklemore
7. Diddy
8. Xxxtentacion
9. Rihanna
10. Kevin Abstract



“To not be entirely as lazy as last year.”

-Bella Cosentino, 7th grade Creative Writing

“To go some place cool.”

-McHenry Jackson, 11th grade Band

“Save as many kids and dogs as possible.”

- Mrs. Hansford, Guidance Counselor

“To get better grades.”

-A.J. Bednarczyk, 9th grade Band



“To try to better my state of mind while doing things for others.”

-Denver Smith, 12th grade Theater

What’s your New Year’s Resolution?

by Caleb Smith and Cora Schipa

Picture Credits: Caleb Smith



“To be nicer to people.”

-Aiden Roff, 8th grade Band



“Resolution? Why change perfection?”

-Mr. Southwick, 7th grade Science teacher



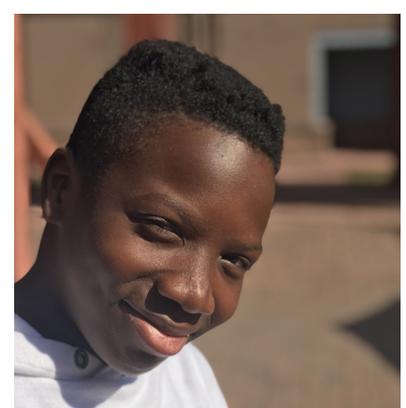
“Stack that paper and be breezy.”

-Damon Lockwood, 12th grade Dance



“To write more.”

-Ms. Hart, Creative Writing teacher



“To have more friends than I already do.”

-Ramere Kelly, 6th grade Theater