

# Applause

Volume 19, Number 6

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

April 2018

## The Fashion Show Issue



**SOA grad continues to make waves in the fashion world (13-14)**  
**Learn the history behind the Fashion and Design Major (8)**  
**Meet some of the key players of the SOA Fashion Show (17-21)**  
**Students exercise free speech with National Walk Out Day (5)**

**RUBY**

The Abedon Family  
 Alan Brehm  
 Dr. Shannon Cook

**AMETHYST**

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 The Cusatis Family  
 Logan Murray  
 The Wohlscheid Family

**TOPAZ**

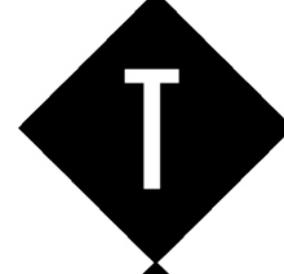
Caroline Baker  
 Debra Benson  
 The Bride Family  
 Susanne Drennan  
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 Sarah Fitzgerald  
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 The Griffin Family  
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 Miley Hallen Design  
 Danielle DeTiberus  
 Natasha Fields  
 Robin Grieg  
 Rutledge Hammes  
 Beth Hart  
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 School Nurses  
 Kevin Short

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Chevelle's Scholarship Fund  
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 Shannon Mahoney  
 Joseph Naas  
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 Ashley Bryan  
 Brenton Burbage  
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 Martin Garcia  
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 Izzy Gustafson  
 Kiley Hallen  
 Laci Heinrich  
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 Maddie Kelley  
 Erica Kremer  
 Hayes Martini  
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 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,

I would like to take this opportunity to address recent national events, particularly the school shooting that occurred in February at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida. Growing up in a generation that is increasingly desensitized to school shootings, it can be difficult to emotionally register another tragedy. But this is not the new normal, and it is imperative that it not become the new normal. *Applause* stands with the students at Marjory Stoneman Douglas, and as a student, I personally hope that the actions of many of the students at SOA and AMHS speaks for itself and makes an impact far louder than simply thoughts and prayers.

On a lighter note, only two more months of school remain. Think about that. As we approach the end of March, I am left to ponder how it is that time has gone by so quickly. Seniors are itching for the ever-approaching May 31st, these are being finished and performed, and SOA begins the excitement of the fourth quarter and all the events that it has to offer.

One of the most exciting events, one that has become an SOA staple over the last several years, is the SOA Fashion Show, sponsored by the Fashion and Design majors. In honor of the major and upcoming Fashion Show, this issue of *Applause* is giving you all things Fashion and Design. From interviews with Senior designers and Paul McCrae, the first Costume designer at School of the Arts, to a special feature on an SOA alumna, Louisa Ballou, making a splash in the fashion world, *Applause* has it covered.

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



# Applause

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publication of

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*Founded in 1995 by Rose Maree Myers*

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## Sign of the Month

Provided



*Ian Greig (left) and Ms. Robbie Amick (right) teach us how to say "I love you."*

*To sign "I Love You," put your thumb, index finger and pinkie finger up. Keep your ring finger and your middle finger down. Hold out your hand, and move it back and forth.*

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**Cover by Halle Garrett**

## SOA Dance alumna returns as guest artist

by Mary Grace Hutzler

Hundreds of talented individuals come through SOA each year and upon graduating, many go into a career in their art major. Since graduating from SOA in 2012, former dance major **Emily Hart** has made leaps and bounds in the professional dance world not only domestically, but internationally. After four years of undergraduate study at University of North Carolina School of the Arts, Emily graduated with a B.F.A. in dance. She took off on her own and moved straight into the heart of the performance world: New York City. There she began her career as a professional performing artist and dance/fitness instructor. “Life after school has been the biggest learning curve of my life so far, which is definitely invaluable and essential to personal growth,” Emily said.

After only a year in the city, Emily is performing for three professional companies, teaches dance and fitness classes and does freelance work in music videos, and film. She started as an apprentice for a modern company called Gaspard & Dancers and decided she wanted to expand her repertoire and do more commercial and theater work in several different styles. She now performs with Cirque du Nuit, an interactive, immersive theater company, where she gets to take on many unique roles performing for lavish NYC events.

In addition to this, she performs with an urban contemporary company called Gotham Dance Theater and occasionally a dance fusion company, Reaction Dance Company. When not rehearsing or performing, Emily teaches regular fitness classes and, whenever she gets the chance, dance classes. Among the many opportunities New York has brought her, she most values being able to travel and share her

love of dance with people across the world. She has been to Japan, Taiwan, Mexico and most recently, Montreal. “Traveling is one of the greatest highs for me, and seeing the world only makes you open your awareness about yourself and the vastness of arts, culture, language and more,” she says.



While traveling the world and performing in New York is very eye-opening and rewarding, Emily will always value her time at SOA. She is appreciative of the chance she had to practice her art every day and all the guidance her teachers gave her. It had a big influence on her chosen line of work, as she was able to practice creativity and learn new movement in an open environment which made her enjoy her education much more.

Emily was a very active student, always taking a hold of opportunities by going to dance festivals and participating in the school musical as well as learning and performing outside of school with The Charleston Youth Company and DanceFX. “If it weren’t for those experiences and instructors serving as my training grounds, I probably wouldn’t have gone on to desire to

train at an arts conservatory and now devote my career to the arts,” she said.

In late January, Emily came back to SOA, not as a student, but this time as a guest artist for the Dance Department. “I actually felt a little of imposter syndrome, like ‘who am I to be coming back and teaching or choreographing on these students?’ because I am still pretty young in my career.”

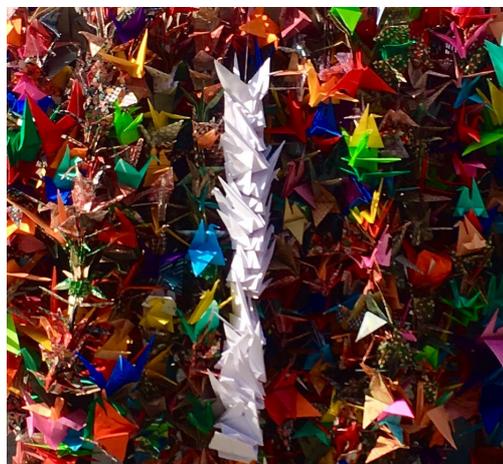
To her, it was a chance to be a resource to any students interested in performing professionally. During her week long residency, Emily brought a lot to the high school dancers as she taught contemporary, modern, urban jazz and improv concepts.

In addition to teaching every day, she also set a latin inspired contemporary piece on the sophomore class which they will be performing at the annual Dance Departmental show.

When asked what advice she has for the students of SOA, Emily put an emphasis on how important it is to enjoy yourself in high school: “Definitely work hard and have ambition and all that, but don’t put too much pressure on yourself. You are young and have the rest of your life to be an independent, self-sufficient, successful adult. You only have your adolescence once.”

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*SOA, led by the Visual Arts department, created strings of 1,000 paper cranes to send to Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School as a symbol of remembrance and a wish for peaceful healing.*

## SOA and AMHS students participate in National School Walkout

by Mary Grace Hutzler



At 10am, students from School of the Arts and Academic Magnet walked out of class and to the flagpole, many of them carrying signs, for 17 minutes of silence and a march around campus.

On March 14th, one month after the Parkland, Florida shooting, at 10:00am thousands of students across the nation walked out of school. The #ENOUGH National School Walkout was organized by the Women's March Youth Empower as an initiative for students to speak up against gun violence in schools. SOA students, both high school and middle school, stood in solidarity with Academic Magnet and observed 17 minutes of silence, recognizing those killed in Parkland. "It is time that we, those who have potential, those who are the future, make change today. Instead of being sitting targets, let us be standing voices." said Academic Magnet senior Elise Blackburn, in her powerful speech.

Students proceeded to march around campus holding handmade signs and chanting, "This is what democracy looks like" and "No more silence, end gun violence." Many students and several teachers wore orange, representing gun safety, or black in memory of the lives lost. It was inspiring to see such a large group of young adults from all different stances coming together, not just to honor the victims, but to influence change in our laws. We are very lucky to be a part of a school that not only allows, but encourages us to use our voices and our art to express our concerns. While some will criticize this movement, but our voices will not be silenced

and our actions will not be forgotten. Years from now, this demonstration will be a part of history and we can proudly remember having been involved in it.

## SOA Symphony previews performance for national festival

by Finian Butcher

On Thursday, March 1st, the SOA Symphony Orchestra showcased the piece they will be taking to the national festival this year in Atlanta: the first movement from Tchaikovsky's first symphony. The Symphony Orchestra demonstrated both their masterful ability and professionalism.

The orchestra was preceded by Senior **Luke Ablonczy**, playing a Mozart violin concerto with the Sinfonietta. The second soloist was Adam Beall, who played an interpretation of the first movement from Elgar's cello concerto that could be compared to Jaquelin Dupre's. The final piece of the night was "Symphonie Espagnole," by Lalo, played by **Elliott Weeks** with a passion that epitomized SOA strings.

The next night, the Sinfonietta took to the Gaillard to perform on a balcony before a performance by the Charleston Symphony Orchestra. The Sinfonietta played Mozart's violin concerto with Luke Ablonczy, as well as a few other pieces before the young musicians took their seats to watch the Charleston Symphony perform "Ein Heldenleben."

Once again, the School of the Arts Symphony Orchestra is on track to live up to its status as the best high school symphony in the nation. Everyone is encouraged to come out to the final concert on May 11th.

## Ravens Rugby season in full swing

by Mary Grace Hutzler

The Ravens rugby team took the field playing their first official game on February 10th. On the opposite side of the field, in crisp, green and white uniforms, was the Bishop England rugby team. Despite the substantial size difference in players, our Ravens held their own making tackle after tackle. The team definitely came to impress. This year it is comprised of primarily new players,

but you would never guess that watching them play. They have all been working hard since August as they basically had to start from scratch and have come so far since then.

The game was stagnant for the first half, with both teams making good progress, but ultimately just moving back and forth. It was a close call until the last few minutes of the second half when Co-Captain **Graham Wilson** threw a wide pass to senior **Caleb Smith**, who then plowed through the intimidating opposing players for 30 meters to score the game-winning try. As the players came off the field, ecstatic, jumping up and down, some even in tears, they lined up to face their eager fans. "I can't wait for the rest of the season. We are on the way to get that ring!" said Co-Captain, **Seungkyo Jung**.

The Ravens continued their winning streak the next weekend beating James Island with a final score of 53-0. They played Irmo High School the last weekend of February and although they didn't win, it ended in a close score of 34-21. This was impressive considering several players were injured and they played the second half of the game with only 13 players as opposed to the other team's 15.

Most recently, the Ravens took on the Wando B team in a rough Friday night game. With a score of 13-10, the second half started and within the first five minutes, Caleb Smith took a big tackle, breaking his leg. The whole team was understandably shaken up, but they went back and finished the game. The match ended 13-10, as no one scored in the second half. Make sure to send well wishes to Caleb as he begins the grueling recovery process. The team continues to train hard each week in hopes of working their way back into the championship. Come on out and watch them dominate the field at Wando on Saturday March 24th at 11:00am and at Bishop England on March 31st at 12:30pm.

## Applause to sponsor Rolling Stones tribute concert

by Jessica Bride

With the quickly changing popular taste and demand in music, it can be extremely difficult for an artist or group to remain relevant for an extended period of time. However, every so often, a band comes along that does exactly that and more. Earlier this month, the Rolling Stones extended their current concert tour further into the summer of 2018. For a band formed in 1962 and having over 240 million albums sold as well as almost 50 concert tours, the Stones remain extraordinarily popular, bringing along older Classic Rock fans as well as younger audiences energized by the extensive and hit-filled catalog developed over the last 55 years.

*Applause* is proud to announce a concert dedicated to honoring the Rolling Stones, as well as the 75th birthdays of founding members Mick Jagger and Keith Richards. Drawing inspiration from 2016's "Busy Being Born," a concert celebrating the 75th birthday of Bob Dylan, "It's Only Rock N' Roll" will take place on Tuesday, May 22nd at 6:30pm in the Rose Maree Myers Theater.

With performances of classic Rolling Stones songs such as "Satisfaction," "You Can't Always Get What You Want," and "Sympathy for the Devil" by SOA and Academic Magnet students and teachers, "It's Only Rock N' Roll" is sure to be a fun night.

The concert is free, and all donations will go towards the Rose Maree Myers Scholarship, which will be presented at the concert.

## Mrs. Zerbst steps into new role as Interim Assistant Principal

by Patrick Wohlscheid

Patrick Wohlscheid



When **Dr. Perrineau** left SOA to become the Interim Principal at Military Magnet, the administration was left with the daunting task of finding a new Assistant Principal late in the school year. Wanting to find someone who knew the inner workings of SOA and fit the school culture, the search turned inward. **Mrs. Zerbst**, who earned her administrative degree in 2015 and had been helping with scheduling and other administrative work for the last several years, seemed like the perfect fit. Remarking on her goals in the new position, Mrs. Zerbst expressed the desire to simply "help make SOA run as smoothly as possible." "I took the promotion," she says, "because rather than helping students one year one or two times, this way I can help all students all the time." Congratulations to Mrs. Zerbst on her new role at SOA and best of luck to Dr. Perrineau.

## Spring Showcase to exhibit the best of SOA

by Bailey Abedon

SOA's annual Spring showcase will be held on April 12th, from 5:00 to 8:00 pm this year. Come enjoy fantastic student performances, delicious food trucks, and a silent auction, all while supporting SOA.

Arrive at the school where there will be two ticket entrances, one at the front of the school and one at the side entrance by the box office. Admission is \$20.00 per family or \$5.00 per individual and both cash and credit cards will be accepted.

Colored wristbands and program schedules will be provided at the ticket tables. Auction items will be displayed in the breezeway, where bids can be placed until 7:00PM. Winners who are present will be awarded their auction items and can pay by cash, check or credit/debit card.

Booster Clubs will be providing food. In addition, food trucks will line up at the car rider line starting at 4:15PM. Students who are performing should bring money and eat at this time to be ready for 5:00 PM performances.

For additional information please contact Jules Shores at [juleshores@gmail.com](mailto:juleshores@gmail.com) or text 843-200-6441, or **Sylvia Edwards** at [sylvia\\_edwards@charleston.k12.sc.us](mailto:sylvia_edwards@charleston.k12.sc.us)



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## SOA students fight for social justice with local organization

by Taylor Kahn-Perry

This year, SOA students **Adam Krassnoff** and **Finean Williams** have joined the front lines to fight for social justice issues throughout Charleston. Both serve as Team Leaders for the Charleston Area Justice Ministry, commonly referred to as CAJM.

CAJM is a diverse network of faith-based organizations in the Charleston area united for the purpose of tackling the social justice issues which most affect the local community. "Although comprised of religious institutions," pointed out Adam, "it is a secular organization."

As Team Leaders, Adam and Finean work to recruit and engage other students in CAJM's efforts to advocate for social justice issues. They urge any SOA students interested in CAJM to reach out to them.

"Almost all of CAJM's power comes from people," remarked Adam. "It's really important that we do a good job of recruiting. The more people we have behind us, the more public officials are likely to pay attention to what we're saying."

Not only does CAJM harness its power from public participation, but it also builds its yearly blueprint through community feedback. CAJM's work starts with local house meetings, where community members respond to the question, "What keeps you up at night?" From there, organizers consolidate these responses and the CAJM network ultimately selects a particular issue as that year's focus.

"In the past few years, we have worked to lower suspension rates in schools, reclaim stolen wages, and perform an external audit on racial bias of the Charleston and North

Charleston Police Departments," said Adam.

This year, CAJM's work centers around affordable housing. "There are far too many people in Charleston being displaced by the rampant processes of gentrification happening on the peninsula," said Adam. "Charleston is a very different place now than ten years ago." CAJM's consensus is that Charleston's rapid growth affects low-

income citizens at disproportionate rates and is beginning to pose serious health issues for those living in far less than optimal conditions.

As the year progresses, Adam and Finean, as well as their student teams, will be involved in CAJM's research efforts surrounding affordable housing, ultimately preparing for CAJM's culminating event on Monday, April 30: Nehemiah Action.

"Every April, thousands of

Charleston-area residents gather under the banner of CAJM to meet with our public officials and secure public commitments

to initiate a process to both implement and evaluate the identified best practices," reads CAJM's website. At this event, the Charleston community turns out in numbers ranging from 1,500 to 3,000 and openly requests that public officials adopt the policy changes CAJM researched and organized that past year.

While the Nehemiah Action is an exciting event which produces tangible results to CAJM's work, Adam think it's important to remember that "real change occurs over time."

Ultimately, CAJM's goal is to "make the Charleston area a more just place," said Finean. Despite the long process which comes with social justice advocacy, Finean is driven by "a sense of purpose that comes with making significant changes for the betterment of the community."



Community members at CAJM's annual Nehemiah Action

For more information or to get involved with the Charleston Area Justice Ministry, contact Adam Krasnoff at [adamjk999@gmail.com](mailto:adamjk999@gmail.com)

Picture Credits: Google Images



Congratulations to Freshman Baron **Nick Tuemler** (far left) and Baroness **Abby Gardner** (left), as well as Sophomore Duke **Noah Lyons** (far right) and **Abril Castillo Acosta** (right), crowned at the Winter Dance on February 9th.

## Applause to welcome distinguished poet for National Poetry Month

by Taylor Kahn-Perry

Notable in the realms of feminist, comic, and performance poetry, nationally recognized, award-winning poet Denise Duhamel will visit SOA on Thursday, April 19, and Friday, April 20.

Duhamel's visit, which is sponsored by Applause, will include classroom workshops and a public reading in the AMHS Lecture Hall on April 20 at 6:30 p.m. The Fighting Gnomes will open the reading with an improv performance. Admission is free, but donations will be accepted for the Rose Maree Myers Scholarship Fund. Duhamel's work is likely to resonate with students, as Duhamel "is part of a broad-based movement to reintroduce poetry into the everyday world," writes scholar Tasia M. Hane-Devore in the *Dictionary of Literary Biography*. Accessible language and humor often characterize Duhamel's work, allowing her poetry to reach readers across backgrounds while simultaneously grappling with intense subject matter—gender, politics, consumer culture, sex, censorship, and love.

"A self-described post-confessional poet," Duhamel "combines the autobiographical with imagined events and details in her poetry," writes Hane-Devore. Post-confessional poets follow suit of well-known confessionalists such as Sylvia Plath, "as both are perceived to feature personal, autobiographical speakers who at times divulge intimate, sometimes unflattering information about themselves."

Duhamel is unafraid to derive her poetry from personal experience, even if the subject matter becomes taboo or controversial. "I'm sort of a sponge," Duhamel told SOA's AP Literature class in a March 2012 phone interview. "I feel so open to anything. I feel open to my own life experiences—I guess that would be the confessional or post-confessional mode—but also pop culture, history, the news, current events."



Duhamel.

"I think that almost anything can be made into a poem," says Duhamel, "because I think that the point of view and voice are the most important." Perhaps the best example of how point of view and voice inform Duhamel's

work is her series of "Barbie" poems which form her 1997 collection of poetry *Kinky*. Throughout this collection, she uses the commercial figure of a Barbie doll as a means to discuss society, commercialism, and womanhood in an often satirical manner. Other works of Duhamel's explore childhood. "To become again like children is very important for poets,"

Duhamel told SOA. "This idea of the child being pure joy, pure wonder, seeing things for the first time, seeing things in a very unusual way... that's what poetry is, looking at the world anew, taking mundane things and making them exceptional through language."

Duhamel has explored these themes and others throughout her prolific collection of published works—*Heaven and Heck* (1988), *It's My Body: Poems* (1992), *Smile!* (1993), *Kinky* (1997), *Queen for a Day: Selected and New Poems* (2001), *Ka-Ching!* (2009), and *Blowout* (2013), to name a few.

Her newest book, *Scald*, published in February 2017, is separated into three sections, each devoted to a female figure from the twentieth century—Shulamith Firestone (1945-2012), Andrea Dworkin (1946-2005), and Mary Daly (1928-2010). "I am wrestling with these foremothers and visionaries as I try to understand our cultural moment," Duhamel told writer Julie Marie Wade when interviewed about *Scald*. "While there are many amazing feminist foremothers to choose from, the big three that cast their presence over the poems in *Scald* are the ones who formed my own feminist awakening when I was younger."

Duhamel teaches creative writing and literature at Florida International University.

She earned a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship, was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award, and has been featured in *Best American Poetry* a total of nine times. In 2013, she had the honor of serving as the guest editor for the anthology, selecting all 75 of the poems which formed the collection. In the 2015 edition, Duhamel's poem "Fornicating" was featured alongside SOA Creative Writing teacher **Danielle DeTiberus's** poem "In a Black Tank Top."

Other creative process, Duhamel admits that "you can't really have an intent when writing poetry, because writing poetry is a way to discover what the mind is thinking." It is during revision that Duhamel actively seeks to portray how both tragedy and comedy inform the human experience, sharing that "being open to those two impulses is what I'm aware of in revision."

In terms of poetry as an art form, Duhamel admires the lasting power poetry has to affect change. "What poetry does is allow people who aren't represented in our culture at large to speak, and everyone has a voice. Everyone is saying something unique," Duhamel says of the relationship between poetry and society. "So, in that way, I do think poetry can change people and change the world for the better."

*For those interested in participating in the Interns that Work program for the 2018-2019 school year, Mr. Smyth will be in the breezeway at lunch every Thursday during April and May to speak with students about registering.*

## Guest Writer Interview: Denise Duhamel

*Before the reading next month, Applause writer Taylor-Kahn Perry talked with poet Denise Duhamel about gender equality, her writing process, and advice on a career in writing.*

**Taylor Kahn-Perry:** *How would you describe the relationship between your career as a poet and your career as a teacher? How do your interactions with students inform your creative process?*

**Denise Duhamel:** As a teacher, I am always teaching students the poetry I love so sometimes I do the assignments alongside them. I don't bring my poems to class or anything like that, but I find that when I am asking my students to write, let's say, a villanelle it is because I am also interested in revisiting the form in some way. My students at FIU also introduce me to younger poets through chapbooks or new literary magazines they are reading.

**TKP:** *What advice would you have for young artists about pursuing art as a career?*

**DD:** I would advise them to take the long view of things. Most artists must work some kind of job to support their art. I teach, but other poets work in advertising or arts management or even 9-5 banking jobs. Sometimes there is a rush to publish--I had the same urgency as a young person. But now I realize it's good to hold out for strong literary magazines and presses. I would also advise poets to write every day--even if it's for ten minutes. It's easy to let creative work slide by the demands of life.

**TKP:** *Over the course of your career as a poet, what have been the most significant changes you've seen in the fight for gender equality, and how have these developments influenced your writing?*

**DD:** I had no female creative writing mentors in high school or as an undergraduate. It wasn't until grad school that I was able to study with women poets. Now I am teaching undergraduate writers. More and more women are editing magazines. There is a story the poet Jean Valentine told

me....Anne Sexton and Sylvia Plath were both in the same class studying with Robert Lowell. He told them there might be room for ONE female poet in the publishing world, but definitely not two. This is a horrifying story on so many levels....but mostly because it created an unhealthy competition between Plath and Sexton. This would never (I hope!) happen in a classroom today.

**TKP:** *You've produced an extremely prolific collection of works over the course of your career. Is there a particular book you have published that holds special significance to you, and why?*

**DD:** That is a great question, but it is like asking a parent to name a child who is more significant than the others. I guess on some days it would be *KINKY* as this book about Barbie has had more impact than I ever could have imagined. But then other days it might be *BLOWOUT* as that was the most difficult book for me to write and I still kind of can't believe I wrote though that pain.

## Exploring the Arts

*SOA is a school filled with talent. Some students go above and beyond and pursue talents outside of their major. This month, Applause's Haley Swittenberg sat down with senior band major Tiamoni Garner to see what she's up to when she's offstage.*

Provided



excelled at clarinet earning the kudos of her directors and peers.

In December, Tiamoni and her fellow

clarinetists attended the Midwest Band Clinic in Chicago, Illinois. They were personally invited by a well known clinician to play a piece in front of thirty thousand people. This was an exciting time for SOA band and the clarinet's honored at the convention. Tiamoni said "I felt accomplished and was excited to play in front of some of the world's best musicians." She explained that the clarinets "weren't nervous a bit" as they had prepared heavily and were ready for their performance.

Throughout high school, Tiamoni has been a staple and go to player for chamber groups. But she couldn't do it all alone. "I love my band friends," says Tiamoni, "they make everything about music even better."

Tiamoni's love for dance began when she wanted to find a hobby. She was just nine years old and decided to take a few dance classes. She fell in love and has continued it since. She actually loves dance more than band as she is "pretty darn good at it." Tiamoni dances constantly outside of school and has countless trophies from almost 10 years of competitions. "Dance really helps my work ethic," says Tiamoni, "I love being able to push myself beyond what I thought I was capable of. She loves using dance as "more of an outlet" for whatever may be happening in her life. She hopes to continue dancing in college, although she is unsure if she will continue playing clarinet after graduation.

Tiamoni will attend the University of South Carolina this fall to receive a degree in nursing. Her dream job is to become a neonatal nurse, but hopes her love of music never dies, even if she stops playing clarinet or dancing.

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## Meet the Teacher: Mr. Barr

Applause writer **Mosiah Williams** sat down with Mr. Alan Barr, the long-term substitute teacher for SOA's AP World History and AP Psychology, to learn more about his life before SOA.



**Mosiah Williams:** What classes will you be teaching this year?

**Alan Barr:** AP World History and AP Psychology.

**MW:** Did you grow up in the

**Charleston area? If not, where did you grow up, and what attracted you to Charleston? And why SOA?**

**AB:** I was born and raised in Richmond, Virginia. It's Charleston, what's not to love? I love the beach and being near the water and also great food. Charleston has all of that. SOA has a great reputation in so many areas. I was drawn by the emphasis on arts which leads to creativity and innovation. I am an innovative teacher.

**MW:** Where did you attend college and what degrees did you earn?

**AB:** I graduated from Hampden-Sydney College, one of the last two single gender colleges in the country. I graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Managerial Economics. I got my Masters of Science from Longwood University in Education Leadership.

**MW:** How did you become involved in education as a career?

**AB:** I changed my career to teaching because I believed I could be successful at it. I define success as being fulfilled in my work.

**MW:** Where did you work prior to coming to SOA?

**AB:** St. Gregory's School in Albany, NY

**MW:** What were some of your earliest jobs? What did you learn from them?

**AB:** I was working when I was six years old. I cut grass, collected cans to recycle, painted fences, raked leaves, worked retail, worked loading and unloading cargo from semi-trucks, and many other manual jobs. I learned to get ahead you have to do the jobs you don't like in order to earn the jobs you do like.

**MW:** Is there any story you'd be willing to share that stands out to you as one of those "this is why I do what I do" moments?

**AB:** Yes. It's a long tale, but the main point was I was a constant advocate of a student and shielded him from negative perceptions developed by teachers who simply did not know or understand the student.

**MW:** What do you want students to take away from your classroom?

**AB:** Confidence in: themselves, their skin, their voice, their opinions, their approach to reason and conclusions.

**MW:** What interests do you have inside or outside the subject you teach, and to what degree are you able to pursue them?

**AB:** Inside: I read a lot of historical fiction and non-fiction. Outside: I haven't had time in the past for my pursuits but hope to now that I am here in Charleston. I enjoy fishing, the water, kayaking, and gardening.

**MW:** Is there anything else you'd like SOA to know about you or any advice you'd like to offer students?

**AB:** I will be here a very short amount of time but hopefully also here at the start of the next school year.

## Junior Visual Artist earns spotlight in arts and culture journal

by Mosiah Williams

Applause writer **Mosiah Williams** sat down with Junior Visual Artist **Leo Horton** to discuss his featured artwork and interview with VSCO.

**Mosiah Williams:** What do you do, and why do you do it?

**Leo Horton:** I constantly am working on a ton of weird, trippy illustrations and graphic design projects. I can't really say why I do it I usually just show up in art class and really have nothing better to do. With all that time everyday I usually just draw whatever I want to, and that leads to some pretty strange art. I do a lot of freelance work and work with a lot of musicians on album covers, tour posters and flyers. I'm doing a whole collection of posters for the rapper Raury (Featured on Chance The Rapper's Coloring Book for all the middle schoolers). Apart from that I have some record designs and album covers coming out throughout spring.

**MW:** What is VSCO, and how did you come about being interviewed by them?

**LH:** VSCO is a photo-editing app that has some social media aspects to it. You can alter and edit photography and artwork in the app and then post, share and like them. The community also features occasional interviews and articles on happenings in the fields of art and photography. They emailed me and said they really enjoyed the art on my account and wanted to write an article on me, followed by a set of questions. I guess they just liked my stuff and wanted to hear some of my thought processes and history behind it.

**MW:** What do you plan on gaining from this interview?

**LH:** Hopefully I can get a little more clout in the art world and be able to share my work with more people from this interview, I've got a lot more fans of my work from this feature so it's working so far.

## Where Were They Then?

*This month, in honor of the SOA Fashion Show and Fashion and Design major, Applause writer **Jessica De La Cruz** sat down with Fashion and Design teacher **Ms. Caroline Baker**.*

**Jessica De La Cruz:** *Where were you born and raised, and what did you enjoy doing for fun?*

**Ms. Caroline Baker:** I am from Lady's Island, just south of Beaufort, SC. I grew up in the woods, which was pretty magical. I enjoyed walking in the woods, mud-bogging, building forts, having rotten tomato fights in our garden and making things.

**JDLC:** *As a child, what was your dream job?*

**CB:** As a child I wanted to be a fashion designer and a pilot. I would still love to get my pilot's licence.

**JDLC:** *If you could meet your teenage self, what advice would you give her?*

**CB:** This is so easy and complicated. I would sing her some Bob Dylan ("I was so much older then, I am younger than that now") and tell her that she can relax because it [life] is going to be awesome! Although, quick caveat, I am not sure it would have turned out so awesome if my teenage self had relaxed. I think she launched all the great things that followed.

**JDLC:** *When did you become interested in fashion? Who inspired you?*

**CB:** I am the youngest of three so my interest in clothing bloomed from trying to figure out how I could look like myself in my sister's ultrapreppy hand-me-downs and my brother's shredded jeans. I was always re-inventing and upcycling things into clothes. My interest in sewing came from my father's mother, Maude. She inspired me and taught me a lot. My interest in fashion came, oddly enough, from my other grandmother, Dot. She LOVED clothes. I mean she really loved clothes. She had six closets filled to the brim with clothes and she was so generous. I lived in those closets and drank in the stories of the clothes with histories in her own Chicago and the places she had been in them. I think her closets hinted of the possibilities that had not formed in me yet.

**JDLC:** *What is your favorite part about being a fashion designer?*

**CB:** Hm. I really like it all so it is hard to pick

one thing. I love designing wedding dresses because I love to see a girl transform into a bride. I love the thrill of helping her find herself in her dress. I innately like to help so wedding gowns are pretty fun for me, but the dresses themselves are not all to me. I am a BIG math nerd so pretty high on the list of things I love about design is the marriage of right and left brain thinking. I love taking a beautiful, 2D idea and making the numbers work so it exists in the 3D and fits perfectly. I also really love having a product. I also love draping. I also love sewing. I also love... design. I think I may love design more than clothing and certainly more than fashion.

**JDLC:** *How did you end up teaching at SOA?*

**CB:** I started out volunteering. I read an article that SOA was starting the program and I heard a clear voice in my head/heart that said, "You can help with that." I had been trying to do these little "giving back" projects here and there, but it felt disjointed and not impactful. I wanted to do more. Then I met **Mrs. Nichols** and **Mrs. Miles** and, of course, I loved them so I started helping them with whatever they needed in starting the program. It was not until that first audition as an adjudicator that I realized that teenagers are so much fun. Before volunteering, I thought I just really liked my niece and nephews because they are so awesome (which they totally are); but after working with Mrs. Nichol's students I realized that teenagers are pretty hilarious (and I love to laugh). I started teaching very part-time and it just sort-of crept up to full time over a few years. Looking back, I can see how much I wanted to teach before but it was not something I was fully aware of until I started and met the amazing students.

**JDLC:** *Tell me some fun facts about yourself.*

**CB:** I am a car guy...I love old muscle cars. I grew up driving 1964-66 Mustangs.

I have had every hair color, length and style you can imagine.

Reading is one of my favorite pastimes.

I like my dogs more than is OK.

I just had a baby boy and I have an 8 year old son and 10 year old daughter.

I love stand-up [comedy].

I hope to adopt more dogs and children.

I love pretty much anything outside.

I am a pretty good shot.

I am really good friends with my family.

I love math.

I was a writer in high school.

I am pretty much always up for a road trip.

My husband is 6'6" and my brother is 6'7" (my children are also giants).

I think the world is amazing...everything inspires me.

I am an introvert.

Jesus is my homeboy.



As a child, Ms. Baker was involved in many outdoor activities on Lady's Island.

## Where Are They Now?

This month, Applause Editor **Patrick Wohlscheid** sat down with Paul McCrae, the first Costume designer at SOA, to see what he's been up to since graduation.

**Patrick Wohlscheid:** *When you were at School of the Arts, how did costume and fashion design play a role in the arts/school culture? What were some of your favorite productions or costumes that you worked on?*

**Paul McCrae:** I graduated from the School of the Arts in 2003. Actually, it wasn't until 2001 (my junior year) when I assisted **Mrs. Nichols** in the design and fabrication of costumes for the school's production of *Peter Pan* that Costume/Fashion Design entered my life. One of my favorite design projects was *The Addams Family Musical* at Theatre Memphis. It is such a wonderful, light-hearted show and I had so much fun re-imagining that iconic family and their ensemble of dead ancestors. Another would have to be *The Boy From Oz* at Theatre Memphis. This production was quite a challenge due to the sheer size of the cast and the demands of the script. I believe there were around 2,200 costume pieces that I was responsible for designing and fabricating....stressful to say the least. However, the satisfaction of seeing the final product on stage as well as the audiences' reaction was well worth it. Probably the most star-studded project I've ever worked on was the MTV/Nickelodeon "2008 Kid's Choice Awards" in Los Angeles.

**PW:** *What do you enjoy most about costume design?*

**PM:** Collaboration. Honestly, the two things I enjoy most is working through the script alongside the Director in order to fully develop a cohesive design plan, and working with the performing artists to determine what their needs are and how, through costuming, I can help them do their job. The last thing you want is for your designs to hinder a performance or to distract from the integrity of a production. The greatest compliment I've ever received was from performers who told me that my designs helped them find their character or movement/body language. My job is to help tell the story.

**PW:** *What, if anything, did you learn/take from your costume design experience at School of the Arts?*

**PM:** For my senior year, Mrs. Nichols and I formulated an independent study for me in Costume Design. That was the very beginning of SOA's Costume/Fashion Design program. It gave me a chance to learn the basics of garment construction and an opportunity to build a competitive portfolio for College/University applications. This, along with my Visual Arts training, gave me a huge advantage over the competition.

**PW:** *What are some things you have done since graduating from the School of the Arts?*

**PM:** I learned my Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree (BFA) in Costume Design & Technology from The University of North Carolina; School of the Arts; School of Design & Production in 2007, and have since been fortunate enough to have been employed with companies such as MTV, Nickelodeon, The Los Angeles Opera, The Santa Fe Opera, Spoleto Festival USA, Ford's Theatre, Theatre Memphis, and The Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. I have also served as a Fashion Stylist/Designer for an international clientele. At various venues and events I served as a Dresser for The Naked Brothers Band, James Earl Jones, Richard Thomas, Kelsey Grammer, Charles Castronovo, Mariusz Kwiecien, Katie Couric, Audra McDonald, and Bernadette Peters.

**PW:** *What are you currently up to or pursuing artistically and career-wise?*

**PM:** Recently, I've been dabbling in Interior Design and designing/building my own custom projects for clients. However, I've always got an eye on the horizon for the next possible venture...or...adventure.

**PW:** *What advice would you give to those attempting to pursue a career in costume/fashion design?*

**PM:** Be educated not only in the fundamentals of garment design and construction, but also in the world around you. You as a Costume/Fashion Designer will have a platform from which to express your own perspective and ideas. Go and experience life, form opinions, empathize with the opinions of others, and use your artistic and technical skills to reflect that. Art imitates life...so have one.

I would say nearly 75% of my job happens in my head. There is a very academic side to Costume/Fashion Design. A great deal of reading and research is required to be successful. There is also a great deal of Project Management and Production Budget Management that will be required of you. It is a business after all. Try to train yourself to always think/plan at least 10 steps ahead. This will streamline your productivity, making you more marketable as a Designer and thus making your life less stressful. It's not a glamorous profession. Ironically, the Entertainment and Fashion industries have portrayed themselves as such, but until you reach Colleen Atwood or Donatella Versace status you will struggle for jobs, you will struggle for money, and you will struggle to retain your passion for it all. However, if you love it...you love it. I certainly don't say this to deter anyone, but I just want everyone to be prepared. It is a very hard lifestyle, but it is very rewarding.

Never give up! I've had times where I was working on multiple productions simultaneously, cutting out garments on the floor of my rather unfurnished studio apartment at 3:00am after a full day of work, only to discover the next week I was working backstage alongside Orlando Bloom and Johnny Depp. Don't get discouraged...you really never know when something amazing will come your way...and it absolutely will.



## SOA grad Louisa Ballou makes waves in the world of fashion design

by Malachi Jones

Every artist who stands tall has a sturdy foundation beneath them. For former visual artist **Louisa Ballou**, her foundation is a makeup of unconditional support, past opportunities, and mentors. Since leaving SOA, she's pursued fashion design at a level that only the best in the world are afforded. As of recent, Ballou graduated from the prestigious, yet rigorous, Central Saint Martins (CSM), and soon after, Vogue Italia featured her newest collection—inspired by her love of surfing the Charleston coast. The influence of her colorful parents and the mentorship from Ms. Nichols are invaluable, she says, but these feats are reflective of her own character as well. She graduated salutatorian of her class at SOA, while creating pieces for the CSM's application process and AP Portfolio. It is her foundation and unwavering hunger to create that has propelled Louisa Ballou quickly forward—with supporters running to keep up with her.

To say Louisa's childhood was filled with color goes beyond bedroom walls and crayons. Being a gardener, Louisa's mother saw the bloom of many shades and palettes, giving her "an eye for color that's amazing." And this fine taste of beauty and color influenced the entire home. The house was stacked with art books: architecture, design, botany, Michelangelo, Monet, and Rothko. Today, Ballou's love for abstract expressionism stems from flipping through those books and paintings. It was an exposure that young Louisa took to with ease and her parents began to nurture it early on with regular art classes. Summer art camps crowd her earliest memories, and by third

grade she was learning to sew. "Clothes always bugged me," Ballou says. As a result, Ballou's mother let her dress herself. An early experimentation of style of comfortability. Her interest in fashion design was established during this time and would mature some years later. Ballou didn't know it, but the active role her family played in her growing ambition set a standard she'd practice going forward. It's that desire met with action goes very far. In turn, Ballou was primed and ready for her arrival at School of the Arts.

Though her elementary years were made of up of art classes, Ballou admits, "I don't think I knew how to draw until I came to SOA." But for what she lacked in skill she made up for with drive. At first, School of the Arts was intimidating for Ballou. For five years prior, she had attended an all-girls preparatory with uniforms and traditions that yielded "less pronounced" creative expression. SOA's campus and environment came in to contrast with her idea of what school was. It was a coed environment where arts and academics bolster each other. And with eight—now nine—majors to audition for, students were allowed avenues of daily expression they wouldn't get elsewhere. With all that in mind, Ballou nervously auditioned and stepped into the visual arts room her sixth grade year anyhow. "I had a hunger for art," she reasons,

and has kept that hunger up to her high school graduation. At the time costume design was only available as a high school elective, so Ballou's hand-on fashion work wouldn't come until her freshman year. Leading up to that point, the interest was still very much alive and developed. Learning figure drawing resonated the most with her because of its focus on the human body's

movements and proportions. It allowed Ballou to recall the bodies presented in her mother's art books, and her long-held gripe with how uncomfortable clothes seemed. "You can tell when someone's uncomfortable in what they're wearing and it doesn't look good...the clothes are wearing the person." By eighth grade, it was cemented that fashion design was what she wanted to pursue. Advocating for her was **Ms. Nichols**, who recognized Ballou's eagerness to participate in costume design when Ballou was still in middle school. Always reassuring that costume shop would be something Louisa loved. And she did. Ballou speaks of Ms. Nichols being an "incredible" instructor who allowed her extra time in shop, opportunities to work on the school musical, getting



Ballou models Christopher Kane for CSM's student magazine, 1 Granary. outside seamstresses to work with her, and more. "She was crucial," Ballou acknowledges, "I love her." She extends this sentiment to her other visual arts teachers, **Ms. Cimballa** and **Mr. Moore** as well.

But inspiration wasn't drawn from art classes only. Aside from the challenges and support from teachers, Ballou sees her academic experience at SOA as invaluable to her growth in design. Teachers like **Mr. Brehm** and **Dr. Cusatis**, she says, taught her subjects that relied on thinking differently than expected, or analyzing in specific ways. Ballou took those thought processes and integrated them into how she formulated her future design pieces. "It's not the material," she says, "It's the way you approach something. When her senior year arrived, Ballou revisited figure drawing in her AP portfolio.

*Continued on Page 14*

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“I figured that the more I know about the body the more it’s going to benefit me as a fashion designer.” This also gave her an opportunity to build her application for the extremely selective Central Saint Martins. Ranked as the #1 fashion school by Business of Fashion, fashion designers Alexander McQueen and Christopher Kane graduated from the London college, and for upcoming fashion designers CSM is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. “Getting into that school was really hard. They want all your sketchboard, all your research, and how your ideas were developed,” Ballou stresses. Her in-person interview took her and her work to New York City in a glassed in lobby of the Rockefeller Center. Her talent and intelligence was heard in the conversation, seen in her sketchbook, and materialized in her work. Weeks later she received her acceptance. But before leaving SOA, Ballou gave a speech at graduation as the well-deserved salutatorian. The speech, using Pink Floyd’s “The Wall” as a guide, focused on how SOA nurtures creativity and works towards the respective strength of the students. Ballou took advantage of all SOA had to offer her and excelled on both fronts. Her efforts took her across the pond to the United Kingdom.

“I knew it was going to be a totally different world.” Ballou had become an expatriate but the expected culture shock London didn’t affect her really. She knew what she was getting into. Just as she had done as a sixth grader, she wouldn’t let slight discomfort interfere with her path. She also happened to be the only American in her class. While most would see this as a disadvantage, Ballou embraced it fully—enjoyed it. To have so many international students converge in one city at one school displayed a unity in art that intrigued Ballou. Her peers would be her competition but also critics with varying insights she’d find valuable. The only obstacle, she jokes, is the conversion to the metric system. “I had, again, that hunger, that drive, to do what I was doing. That was always the loudest voice in my head.”

After her Foundation year, a year of classes all CSM students must take, she went into a four-year Bachelor’s program of Fashion Design in Print. The open interpretation that the degree lent to the ambitious fashion designer gave her the chance to explore. The next four years dropped a load of opportunities at Ballou’s feet. The first two years she was given projects, or briefs, where she would go through the process of research



Ballou’s final collection at Central Saint Martins.

design, and creation but under a very broad context. “They never gave us a theme to work on. It was always our own research and ideas,” Ballou says. How, what, and when a designer made their designs was completely personal. Success at CSM is anchored in self-discipline and self-drive because instructors don’t cuddle designers. A thick-skin would also be developed because critique was brutal but always honest. “If you’re not a hard worker, you’re out. You don’t get a gold star for working hard. It sounds silly because it’s fashion design school,” Ballou jokes, but reaffirms that it’s a passion taken seriously. Self-drive wasn’t something Ballou lacked, so she thrived with the time given to her. At CSM, she donned the cover of the school’s magazine *1 Granary* wearing Christopher Kane. The majority of her third year was spent in Paris interning at luxury fashion company Loewe, owned by the LVMH group who also own luxury brands such as Louis Vuitton and Dior. She had seen for the first time the collaboration and tension that comes with running a fashion company, from design concepts to sales department. Ballou recounts the experience as a major influence in her career aspirations and is hoping to break into the business side of luxury fashion as well.

Her final year at CSM was dedicated to creating six looks for her final collection. The vibrant collection was inspired by surfing and contains bits of swimwear, but standouts with her choice of patterns and prints. Ballou cut apart wet suits to look at the materials and note the physicality tied with surfing. The body-focused seams revisit her Charleston home where she often surfed and even competed for a short time. Ballou admits that

Charleston’s environment had been taken for granted: “I didn’t realize how much the colors and being on the coast and growing up in this tropical climate would influence and inspire me.” The clothes Ballou made stay true to her philosophy on fashion: people need to wear the clothes not the other way around. She assures that each cut was made for comfortability not design. Her completion of the final collection was a success in itself, but just a year after graduation Ballou’s swimwear pieces

were featured in *Vogue Italia*.

That opportunity wasn’t just given though. Ballou had graduated and had a few desires: “I wanted to make more swimwear and I want make a collection and I wanted to work with photographers and pitch to a magazine...so that’s basically what I did.” Ballou finished another collection, teamed up with fellow CSM alumni photography duo Reece and Dean, shot the pieces, and sent them to *Vogue Italia*. She says it proves how small the fashion world really is and that exposure from it has been great. Her future plans involve working with more swimwear, photographers, stylists, and the business of luxury fashion.

Since Louisa Ballou’s graduation, SOA has added the Fashion and Costume Design major. In the few years of existence, student designers have prospered in being some of the most creative minds at SOA. Their concepts are hallmark in school musicals and the annual Fashion Show is an end of year staple.

Ballou’s talents have brought amazing opportunities, but her self-drive will surely continue to propel her career. And so too will the support from home. Her mother still gifts her art and fashion books every Christmas, and Ballou continues to “go to them all the time for research.” She thanks her visual arts teachers Ms. Cimballa, Mr. Moore, and Ms. Nichols for their framework lessons that she still uses. SOA wishes the best and more for Louisa Ballou as she paints the globe red and gold.

## Thesis Highlights

This month, Applause writer **Mosiah Williams** sat down with Senior Creative Writer, Applause writer, and Scholastic National Writing Gold Portfolio winner **Malachi Jones** to discuss his thesis, inspirations, and creative process.

**Mosiah Williams: Please describe your thesis.**

**Malachi Jones:** Basically my thesis is anchored in the Black identity—the American Black identity. I’m exploring it in different avenues and outlets. In the sense of the Black identity in Christianity, or the Black identity in religion as whole. I’m going to talk about the Black identity in the family aspect—because that’s usually touched upon, and just the world really. I’m using a mixture of nonfiction from my own life, and research from other things to get a point across.

**MW: What inspirations do you draw on for your thesis?**

**MJ:** Definitely *Between the World and Me*, because it reinforced this idea that you really can make a bigger statement from your own life. *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*—definitely one of my most favorite books. And just the fact that I haven’t ever dived this deep into my own life before, I’ve always written around it or through little aspects, but now I’m kind of going for it.

**MW: How does your thesis reflect current events?**

**MJ:** I mean that’s sort of the basis for my thesis, or at least what inspired me too. In it I’m going to talk about like, right now this idea that Black Christianity is dysphoria, I think I’m also going to talk about the popularity of black movements like Black Lives Matter—there’s disagreement occurring now and it’s fairly new which probably isn’t good for a new movement, especially when it’s Black Lives Matter. I also want to touch on not voting, and kneeling, and stuff like that.

**MW: What are you most excited about concerning your thesis?**



Provided

Jones

**MJ:** I’m excited to reveal this to my family because they don’t really know what’s happening in it. I mean I’m sure some of the of the opinions I have in there are going to surprise them, especially concerning religion and like the Black family in America. So that’ll be interesting. But I’m very eager to write it, just gotta get through it.

**MW: What has been the biggest challenge concerning your thesis?**

**MJ:** Sitting down and having to put myself in the stories that, you know, may not lend itself to automatically to that. With certain ideas I have to go through my whole memory and also like confront those, I guess. Especially when I’m writing about family, just the whole putting myself out there like that. So it’s an uh, daunting process—emotionally draining process.

## Club of the Month: Jefferson Service Club

by Carson Peaden

Sponsored by **Mr. Lindgren**, Jefferson’s Club celebrates another year of giving back. Throughout the year, the student run service club engages in several service projects, most of

which focus on the community around them.

Each Monday, the club meets in Mr. Lindgren’s room. The officers then update members on upcoming projects and assign leadership roles, which help transition students to become officers. This year, they organized a service banquet for those who received the SOA Diploma with Distinction and started Art Outreach, where students in Jefferson’s Club meet with kids from Malcolm C. Hursey Elementary School.

Right now, they are planning Art Camp. Over spring break, kids from local Title 1 elementary schools are exposed to the arts offered at School of the Arts. Each kid chooses a major and then for three days, they participate in activities to prepare them for a performance on the final day.

Jefferson Service Club President **Frances Hart**, finds the whole experience to be incredibly rewarding. “I love being able to spend time with kids in the area. We’re able to create great relationships with them because we see them year after year.”

Art Camp will be held at North Charleston Creative Arts Elementary School. If you are interested in participating and need pre-approved service hours, contact Frances Hart for more information.

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Members of SOA Jefferson Service Club accept the Students in Action Award for 2017.

## The rich history of Fashion and Costume Design at SOA

*Fashion and Design has had an interesting journey at SOA. Applause writer **Haleigh Markham** sat down with former SOA Visual Arts and Fashion and Design teacher **Ms. Marie Nichols**,*

**HM: How did you come to work at SOA?**

**MN:** I had actually heard about the school in the newspaper. At that time, I was living in Florence. I heard the school was being made by Mrs. Myers, who was the principal at the West Ashley school, Ashley River Creative Arts Elementary. I already knew who she was because my school in Florence was trying to get an award called Palmetto's Finest, and ARCAE had won the year before. We had gone to interview her and get some ideas on how to incorporate the arts into our curriculum. When I heard that the school was going to be moving here, I applied for the job and got it, and I have loved every single minute of it. I have come to substitute a bit once I retired. I've enjoyed filling in for **Mrs. Baker** while she is on maternity leave this year. I will always substitute and help out this school because I enjoy it here.

**Haleigh Markham: When did students begin to work in fashion design at SOA?**

**Marie Nichols:** It was Costume Design first, and it was my first year here, 1997-1998. It was the third year the school was open and the first year the school was doing a musical, which was *Oklahoma*. All of the art teachers were asked what role they would take for the play. I saw no one had chosen costumes. I have sewn all my life and said I would love to do that. It's funny though because all the students that I had for help with the costume design were the kids that had not chosen something else to do with the musical.

We had a small budget. We had some money from **Mrs. Myers** to buy fabrics for the costumes. We had one sewing machine,

one iron and ironing board I brought from home, and we had the old room that the vocal students were not using at the time. For the fall semester we actually got to change the students' schedules so they could come

Provided



Nichols

and work on the costumes in third block rather than having to come after school. I told all the students and parents to scavenge at home for anything Western that we could use in the play. We altered things and pinned it up on students. I would sew everything because no one knew how to sew at the time but me.

We only had a musical every other year, and the years we didn't, we would go on field trips to European countries such as Italy or France. So we only had Costume Design every other year at this point. For the second production we could not get the schedules changed for students because the school had grown, and that made things more difficult. But some students would come after school and help design, and we would make new things and recycle old clothes made for the other productions.

*Guys and Dolls* was the second production, and then it was *Peter Pan*. For *Peter Pan* we had 15 students actually wanting to help out with the costumes. They would meet almost every lunch as well as after school. Mrs. Myers gave us a portable classroom, and West Ashley High School donated a few old Singer sewing machines.

We had a few more students interested in sewing but Paul McCrae was a junior and was the first one that came to me and said that he wanted to do his AP portfolio in Costume Design. This was right after the *Peter Pan* production, and I had just recently taught him how to sew. Sewing became the initial elective class, and Paul McCrae was my only student for the first year. Then, I slowly started getting more students interested in Costume Design. On the years we did not have big productions, we would help design clothes for **Mr. Younts'**

eighth grade class or help out with some outfits for dance performances.

**HM: Was it difficult to get Design developed into a major?**

**MN:** It was kind of an uphill battle. **Dr. Cook** was very supportive with the idea, but the district was not too wild about it. They told us to wait a year, but the *Post and Courier* came and interviewed us about it and said it was starting to become a thing, so we just went ahead with it. We ended up starting the major in 2014-2015, which was my last year teaching here.

**HM: Do you have any students doing fashion outside of their major?**

**MN:** We have two right now working on internships, both working over at the Silver Thimble. Mrs. Baker helped them with it. **Nadja McGlone** and **Maggie Tennant** are working there as professional seamstresses. The Silver Thimble is a place that works on wedding dresses, altering and sometimes even making things from scratch. They do all sorts of things, and these two have gained a lot of skills there. They're both planning on going into careers in Fashion and Costume Design.

**HM: What would you consider your most important responsibilities to the school?**

**MN:** Definitely the students-- learning and getting to know the students. It is very rewarding watching them grow and to see all their interesting thoughts in either Visual Arts or Fashion Design. I have always enjoyed working with students, and I think that is the main reason that I became a teacher.

[soa-applause.com](http://soa-applause.com)

## Inside Look: SOA Fashion Show

This month, Applause writers **Graham Martini, Cora Schipa, Maggie Robinson, Haley Swittenberg, Alec Pourmoghadam, Jayla Sanders, Caleb Smith, and Haleigh Markham** sat down with some of the designers and models for the upcoming SOA Fashion Show to discuss their themes, influences, and aspirations.

Picture Credits: Caleb Smith and Provided

### Arden Dodge



**Cora Schipa:** What is your experience with the SOA fashion show?

**A r d e n D o d g e :** Honestly, out of the shows I've walked in all, I've really enjoyed the SOA show as one of my

favorites. There's something about having all your friends around you learning to walk and gaining confidence just in those few practices. Also, rehearsals are much more fun. In freshman year I modeled for **Galen Berger** whose theme was feminism! This year I'm modeling for **Quinn Burgin**. Her theme is manipulation of the female body.

**CS:** What is your experience with modeling outside of SOA fashion shows?

**AD:** My experience with modeling is very interesting. I had to fake confidence for a while until I finally got where I am, and I still have trouble with all the competition. You meet a lot of funny people and you also realize that certain features about you are way more important than you could have imagined. For instance, I've met with agents before who have put their hands up to my jaw to measure it, so I had a bunch of hands all over my face and body. That happens a lot. It can be bizarre, but you learn that being modest isn't an option. You also can't take it too seriously or it will affect you negatively! Once you let call back denials affect you, you give the modeling industry that much power

over you, when really the goal is to be in control of your own industry.

**CS:** What is your favorite thing about modeling?

**AD:** My favorite part of modeling is how empowering it is. I love traveling and that's partly why I started in the first place. I've also met so many people that have taught me lessons whether they were from toxic experiences or smooth sailing ones. One thing I also adore about modeling is the fact that the model stereotype is actually very inaccurate! Of course there are people who fit that position, but most models are intelligent and have something to say.

**CS:** Is modeling part of your future career plans?

**AD:** I plan right now on taking a gap year between senior year and college to travel to New York where the real industry is. I'll be applying for college senior year, but I'm going to request deferment. New York City is where it's booming right now, and I want to figure out what I want to do before I go into school for a degree I'm not sure I care about. I'll also be able to work another job and save money because I'll be paying half of my tuition. I'll be able to travel to different fashion weeks and go to different countries, and that's a dream of mine.

### Sasha Gregorieff



**Cora Schipa:** What is your theme for the fashion show?

**S a s h a G r e g o r i e f f :** It's complicated. It began as how our perception of death, life, the afterlife, and religion make how we treat our everyday lives

differently. But then it mutated into how love can be corrupted. I'm now telling a narrative story with my

collection about a man and woman who fall in love and the man begins to sort of subdue the woman. At a certain point she realizes she needs to escape the man so she kills him, becomes remorseful and is visited by the devil and spirits that represent her conscious.

**CS:** What are your biggest fashion influences?

**SG:** I try not to get influenced by other designers because that can become unoriginal, repetitive, and not very fun so I try to take inspiration from literature, painting, and art as well as fashion history. I try to stay away from contemporary fashion.

**CS:** Do you practice any other art forms?

**SG:** I used to be in the Visual Arts major which was super fun. I'm still doing two separate 2D AP art portfolios: one is art and one is design. All the pieces in them were created last year when I was in Taiwan.

**CS:** What was your experience in Taiwan?

**SG:** I learned the language and a lot about the culture. It's a whole different perspective on the world; you have to get used to everything being different. Also, my host family was really mean so I had to learn to be with people like that.

**CS:** What are your future career plans?

**SG:** I want to do fashion as my career. Next year I'm planning on taking a gap year and doing some fashion internships in New York or London. After that, I want to go to Central St. Martin's in London.

*Continued on Page 18*

## Graham Martini



**Mosiah Williams:** What are some art areas or people that inspire your work as a designer?

**GM:** I try not to have any influences.

**MW:** What are some

**recurring themes in your fashion work?**

**GM:** I like to repeat the forms and tones of the human body, and try to mesh the model with the piece.

**MW:** Do you have any career interest in the fashion or design world?

**GM:** I like to keep my options open, so I don't know. I'm going to go to art school and take a bunch of fashion classes and a bunch of art classes and if I like it I might do it.

**MW:** What has influenced you as designer?

**GM:** Definitely organic shapes and tendencies of the human form.

**MW:** What about the human form excites you?

**GM:** The natural lines and the fullness.

## Nadja McGlone

**Mosiah Williams:** What are some art areas or people that inspire your work as a designer?

**Nadja McGlone:** Iris Vanherpen—her clothing isn't wearable, but is more for looking and finding influence.

**MW:** What are some recurring themes in your fashion work?



**NM:** Fabric manipulation through backpacks & clothing. I got really into backpacks during sophomore year, and Junior I began incorporating backpack attributes into clothing.

**MW:** Do you have any career interest in the fashion or design world?

**NM:** I want to work in fashion and design, and eventually start some sort entrepreneur practice.

**MW:** What has influenced you as designer?

**NM:** Accessory wear & backpacks. Hardware from construction clothing (like functional/purposeful clothing).

## Eliza Black



**Haley Swittenberg:** What's your favorite thing about modeling?

**EB:** It might be the social aspects of it. You meet so many cool designers and people and you end up having a lot of time to talk to

them.

**HS:** Who are some models who inspire you?

**EB:** Alek Wek is probably one of the most inspiring models to me because she overcame a lot to get where she is and broke a lot of boundaries.

**HS:** What are some of your career aspirations?

**EB:** I don't really have a dream job. I just want to be happy.

**HS:** What is your favorite show/piece you've ever walked in?

**EB:** Walking for Creatures of the Wind was probably my favorite experience because it was all bigger and more intense than my other shows.

**HS:** Do you have any advice for someone wanting to enter the world of modeling?

**EB:** You have to have really thick skin and not take things to heart. You'll get ridiculed but the only thing that matters is if you're happy with yourself.

## Caroline Dukes

**Haley Swittenberg:** What are some of your inspirations for your designs and patterns?



**Caroline Dukes:** I draw inspiration from both older European styles like the colors from baroque and rococo styles and the silhouette from a more Victorian style. Other influences are Korean and

Japanese street style

**HS:** What are some of your career aspirations?

**CD:** My dream job would probably be a mad scientist, who engineers and accidentally releases the virus that creates the zombie apocalypse, and then move to Alaska, living out my days in a tiny cabin by the sea. Practically I'd love to be a biomedical or agrobiotech engineer.

*Continued on Page 19*

**HS:** Who are some of the most influential designers to you?

**CD:** I wouldn't say I have specific designers who inspire me, but one of my all time favorites is the Victorian designer Charles Frederick Worth.

**HS:** What experiences outside of school/the design room inspire you?

**CD:** I cosplay a lot in my free time, so anime and video games inspire me alot!

**HS:** What's the theme for your showpieces/senior thesis/AP portfolio?

**CD:** My thesis is based on a Japanese story telling device called the Hanahaki Disease, which is the Flower Lung/Coughing disease. To sum it up, if an individual is in love and that love is unrequited, then flowers bloom in their lungs and they cough up flowers, as it progress the afflicted suffocate and die. If victim communicates with their unrequited love then the flowers can dissipate. There's no set origin time or place for the story. It symbolizes the toxicity of miscommunication.

## Maggie Tennant



**Haley Swittenberg:** What are some of your inspirations for your designs and patterns?

**MT:** I have always loved vintage styles, so I just wanted to put my own twist on 60s and 70s looks for my

senior thesis.

**HS:** What is your dream job and some of your career aspirations?

**MT:** My dream career is to become a costume designer after getting into my top school UNCSA. I believe this dream will come true for me.

**HS:** Who are some of the most influential designers to you?

**MT:** Some of my most inspirational designers are Michele Clapton, Ann Maskery, and Christian Dior.

**HS:** What experiences outside of school/the design room inspire you?

**MT:** My boss, Sig at the Silver Thimble, is also one of my inspirations because she started her own alteration shop and creates lots of Victorian costumes.

**HS:** What's the theme for your showpieces, senior thesis, and/or AP portfolio?

**MT:** My theme for the fashion show/senior thesis is quirky vintage where I take vintage styles from the 60s/70s and put my own twist on them by using complementary prints and colors.

## Malena Lisanti



**Maggie Robinson:** Who/what is your fashion inspiration?

**Malena Lisanti:** My biggest fashion inspiration has always been Fendi and Chanel, because I love their use of simple styles and colors.

**MR:** What are your career aspirations?

**ML:** I plan on becoming an interior decorator, but obviously I'm going to continue fashion projects on the side. I love designing and sewing clothes, but more for fun.

**MR:** Do you have any experience in Fashion and Design outside of SOA?

**ML:** If cutting up fabrics around the house and making doll clothes when I was little

counts, then yes!

**MR:** What is your theme for the fashion show?

**ML:** My theme is global warming. I didn't know what to do at first, but I was certain that I was going to include something about nature. I decided I was going to focus on certain effects of global warming: droughts, ice melting, forest fires, polar bear extinction, and flowers blooming early. I usually get inspired when I go searching for fabrics or when I see certain colors and shapes that remind me of something in nature, and that's when I start designing an outfit.

## Ele Fish

**Alec Pourmoghadam:** What is the inspiration behind your designs?



**Ele Fish:** I like to design collections that optimize comfort and style. Streetwear as well as artistic fashion are my main

inspirations.

**AP:** What is your theme for this year's fashion show and how did you come up with it?

**EF:** This year, my theme is psychological manipulation. I chose this theme because we had to pick something in the realm of manipulation and I thought it would be interesting to explore the different types of psychological manipulation. I am representing these categories somewhat abstractly through fabric manipulation and imagery.

**Alec Pourmoghadam: What are your career goals and aspirations?**

**EF:** I am undecided on what I would like to do as a career. Right now, I am not planning on pursuing a career in the fashion industry. I'm very interested in studying foreign languages and cultures. I hope that whatever path I end up taking will allow me to have an impact on the betterment of society.

**AP: After SOA, how do you feel you will incorporate your major into your life?**

**EF:** Fashion has taught me skills such as attention to detail and perseverance that I think will help me in any field that I enter into.

## Zola Jay

**Alec Pourmoghadam: What is the inspiration behind your designs?**



**ZJ:** I think that the majority of my inspiration comes from current events and topics around the world, which explains why I am always so scattered from year to year.

**AP: What is your theme for this year's fashion show and how did you come up with it?**

**ZJ:** My theme this year is called 'Borders,' and through it I attempt to encourage conversation around immigration and the unimaginable struggles immigrants face with the current policies that are in place. I have been thinking about portraying this topic through the fashion show since sophomore year, but with so many new laws surrounding immigration in the US and in other countries, and after writing about women immigrants in Morocco for one of my college essays, I was so strongly drawn to do it this year.

**AP: What are your career goals and aspirations?**

**ZJ:** As of now, I am pretty unsure of what I would like to focus on for a future career, although I am leaning toward marine biology, environmental sustainability or migration studies.

**AP: How would you say being a Fashion and Design major has contribute to your life?**

**ZJ:** While I'm rushing to finish garments and fit models for upcoming deadlines it's a little hard to see all of the benefits that comes with the show each year. But I do know that I would not have been able to take ideas and turn them into tangible, wearable art, without this major, let alone alter my own clothes.

## Jada Orr



**Caleb Smith: What is your theme for the fashion show?**

**JO:** The manipulation of stereotypes.

**CS: Who are some of your biggest influences?**

**Jada Orr:** Marc Jacobs, and RAF Simmons.

**CS: What are your career goals and aspirations?**

**JO:** Basically everything that has to deal with writing. I want to work in journalism in media but also like write a bunch of literature and surrounding like political issues and cultural issues and also like play around with editorials and publishing.

## Erin Porter

**Caleb Smith: What is your theme for the fashion show?**

**Erin Porter:** The manipulation of protest.



**CS: Who are some of your biggest influences?**

**EP:** Jeremy Scott.

**CS: What would you say is the main goal of your work?**

**EP:** Making a statement, I want my clothes to speak to the masses and I'd like to bring out different things about protests.

## Grace Earle



**Carson Peaden: What is your theme for the fashion show?**

**Grace Earle:** Perception.

**CP: What are some of your sources of inspiration?**

**GE:** I am inspired by strong, powerful, successful, courageous women. Women that stand up for what they believe and have a true purpose for the work they do. Women like Michelle Obama, Kerry Washington, Judy Smith, Hillary Clinton, Diane Sawyer, and Oprah Winfrey.

**CP: When did you first become interested in fashion and design?**

I fell in love with sewing when I was little and I would watch my granny

*Continued on Page 21*

sew, but I really fell in love with design when I was in middle school. I was in Theater, and I eventually realized that I enjoyed the costumes and the design aspect of theatre more than performing.

**CP: Who are some designers that inspire you?**

**GE:** I absolutely love Monique Luhlillier, Coco Chanel, and Giorgio Armani. Monique Luhlillier designs the most beautiful gowns, which are my favorite things! Coco Chanel and Giorgio Armani pioneered fashion with peices that we consider staples today such as the little black dress, or the pantsuit. I love the way they can turn a simple garment into a fashion movement and change history.

**SOA seniors utilize professional experience on runway**

by Graham Martini



Cora (left) and Amber (right) bring a plethora of modeling knowledge and experience to the SOA Fashion Show.

The annual SOA Fashion Show features designs worn by students who want to try their hand at runway modeling. A few students have expressed special interest in modeling and have pursued it in their time away from SOA.

**Amber and Cora Schipa** have

been a part of many local fashion design and fashion photography events. The two sisters have been runway models for Charleston Fashion week for the past three years. This event is especially exciting because models get a chance to wear designs created by professional designers. Models have to go through a series of practices in which they are taught proper form for walking and general look and expression.

Amber and Cora have also been a part of the annual wedding week event. There, they wear custom made wedding gowns for catalogs and for an intimate runway style show. The Art Institute of Charleston also has a fashion program in which volunteer’s model for school organized programs. Cora and Amber have also been known to participate in these.

When asked what the positive aspects of the modeling industry were, Cora stated that, (modeling) is a way to empower the model and to be a part of a creative community.” To contrast, she said that though modeling can empower the model it can also belittle the individual and worsen issues of self-confidence.

Despite the struggles of the industry, Cora and Amber love to be a part of the fashion and design community and to contribute to a creative endeavor. Be sure to watch the two sisters in this year’s SOA Fashion Show wearing designs by **Nadja McGlone**.

**SOA Sports Update**

by Julian Griffin

As spring turns its head and flowers begin to bloom, the spring sport season also starts up. Freshman Band major **Vigi LeBlanc** and Senior Vocal major **Son-ja Jones** run for Stall High School.

Practice for Vigi and Son-ja seems to be tough, but enjoyable. “It’s probably the highlight of my day after hours of academic classes,” says Vigi. “Workouts are fairly hard on Monday’s and hard on Wednesdays and Fridays if we don’t have a meet that day or the following day,” Vigi says, “Tuesdays and Thursdays are mostly saved for block work and short sprints, but overall practice is great.” For Son-ja, who’s throwing and sprinting for her team, she starts practice with “2 laps around the track, next we either do drilling or glute activation exercises, then we will branch off to practice our events.”

Keeping up with their academic, artistic, and athletic work ends up being very difficult for students. “This is my first year running high school track,” says Vigi, “and I can definitely say that managing my time and making sure I’m balanced with track and school is difficult.” “Some days I have to miss practice for a graded performance or some other band function” Vigi says, “other nights I’m up until midnight making sure other academic work is getting taken care of.” However, Son-ja says that there’s a plus side to all these hardships, “it teaches you time management skills, so if you conquer that you’ll be fine.”

When it comes to goals for the team, Son-ja hopes “to bond together and make it to state.” Vigi hopes that she and her team can “improve our technique and shorten our times this season and not only growing individually, but as a team should.”



*SOA’s PTSA is raising money for our school through the national Boxtops for Education program. Boxtops can be found on the packaging of many commercial food items. Each Boxtop is worth 10 cents for SOA. Students wishing to participate can deliver their Boxtops to the collection containers in the following areas around campus by Monday, April 9 to raise money for SOA:*

- Cafeteria (2 containers)
- Ms. Summey’s desk
- The sign-in desk
- Any high school English teacher’s classroom
- Any middle school Science teacher’s classroom
- Teachers working the car line will collect
- Homeroom teachers will collect

**Kelsey Hansen**

Go after your dreams and keep moving toward your goals. We are so proud of you, Kelsey Hansen!

Love,  
Mom, Dad, Colin & Ryan

**Marie Cecil**

Marie, we are proud of you! Keep shining on the inside and out. We love you very much!

Love,  
Mom, Dad, Emily & Henry

**Haley Swittenberg**

Flawed and fabulous...because perfect doesn't exist and normal is boring. So proud of all you have accomplished!

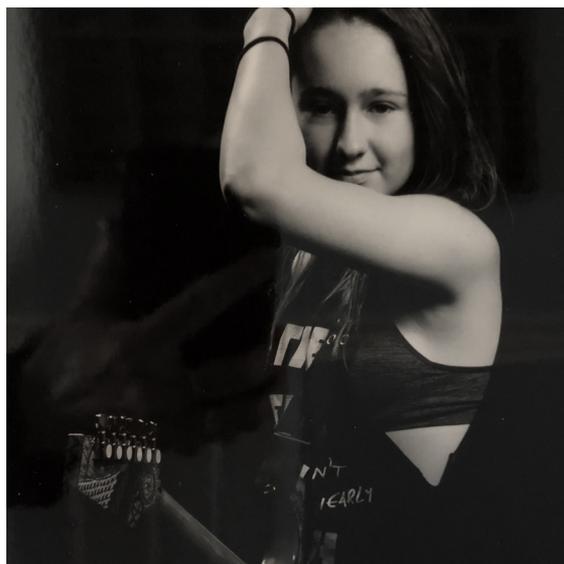
Love, Mom

**Jada Orr**

Congratulations, Jada  
on your  
Final Fashion Show!

We Love You to the Moon & Back!  
Mom and Dad

## Caitlin Brennan



“Because of your smile, you make life more beautiful.”

-Thich Nhat Hanh

## Helen Izzo



To Helen, our beautiful creative designer,  
We are wishing you a wonderful fashion  
show this year. Your designs will rock the  
runway!

Love, Mom & Dad

## Hunter Garner



Hunter, you were the child that was so hard to make smile as a baby. Now you light up in front of the camera! We are so proud of you.

Love you to the moon and back,  
Mom, Dad, and Ellie



## Isabelle Chuy



Haute Couture at SOA?!

Wear it Gracie Girl!

Have fun on the runway, Isabelle!

Good luck from your Rents!

## Ele Fish



Congratulations, Ele!

Your perseverance has led to considerable accomplishments. We admire your sincerity, decency, strength, and humor. As your future takes shape, remember- the best is yet to come!

Love, Mom and Dad

“Always stay true to yourself and never let what somebody else says distract you from your goals.”-Michelle Obama

## Hannah Bendure



Hannah,

You are an amazing actor and a beautiful model. You will go so far.

With love,  
Your Family

*Applause congratulates everyone involved in the SOA Fashion Show, and wishes you best of luck on Wednesday.*

## Classic album review: *Young, Gifted, and Black* by Aretha Franklin (1972)

by Maggie Robinson

Everybody understands the feeling of not getting needed recognition, and *Young, Gifted, and Black* is the embodiment of deserving more. It was lost between Aretha Franklin's more popular releases in the early seventies and late sixties. In a way, it's a hidden gem. The time of this release was around Franklin's prime time, only a few years after her hits like "Respect." It was looked over and still is.

*Young, Gifted, and Black* has a beautiful mix of sounds. All the songs have a beautiful backup choir and, of course, Franklin's unmistakable vocals. Even after upbeat songs, she goes back to a slow tempo with ambience and hints of blues and gospel.

At first listen, it may not immediately stand out as the best. After all, how can anything compete with "Respect"? However, many argue that *Young, Gifted, and Black* is Aretha Franklin's best of the best. It's dynamic and powerful, mixing multiple genres. Especially in

the title song, she speaks about the greatness of and pride in her talents and



culture. "Border Song (Holy Moses)," first recorded by Elton John, is similar, calling for a change and to spread love for all people. The rest of the album follows the same tone, which has inspired many modern day artists, especially women, to pursue a musical career. My favorites are "Day Dreaming," "April Fools," and "Border Song."

Picture Credits: Google Images

Congratulations to the winners of the SOA's PTSA Reflections contest as judged by our esteemed judges:

### Middle School Visual Arts

1st. Savanna Jones  
Honorable Mention. Ben Huston

### Middle School Dance

1st. Sophia Katsibis and Natalia Benton  
2nd. Laci Heinrich  
3rd. Emma Cannon Davis

### Middle School Literature

1st. Henry Monteith  
2nd. Sydney Lee  
3rd. Jessica Johnson  
Honorable Mention. Caitlin Sandifer

### High School Photography

1st. Leah Heneck  
2nd. Jenna Flaherty  
3rd. Nicole Dawson  
Honorable Mention. Carson Stehling

### Esteemed Judges

Literature- Mr. Smyth (retired SOA teacher)  
Photography and Visual Arts - Sara Frankel, (Professor and Department Chair Drawing and Painting, College of Charleston)  
Dance - Gretchen McLaine, Associate Professor Dance, College of Charleston

The teacher with the most entries, with 13, was Creative Writing teacher Ms. Beth Webb Hart.



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

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

[lesslievisioncare.com](http://lesslievisioncare.com)

## Hip Hop music review: *Black Panther: The Album* by Kendrick Lamar

by Caleb Smith



Picture Credits: Google Images

As the film *Black Panther* continues to dominate in the box office and break records, it is worth noting that one of the most appealing aspects of the movie is the soundtrack. Spearheaded by the notorious Kendrick Lamar, the soundtrack, which is

not recognized as an independent album, has worked wonders for the film.

Lamar incorporates various A-list musicians. Among these are SZA, Anderson .Paak, Travis Scott, Swae Lee, and James Blake. This soundtrack is the introduction to a new way of incorporating music into cinema. I feel fortunate to live in a time where I can see one of the groundbreaking artists that I admire the most create music for a film that will be a cornerstone in my culture for a lifetime.

Some of my favorite tracks on this album are “Big Shot,” “The Ways,” and “King’s Dead.” Although I have recognized these to be the top tracks for me, the whole collection is one that I would put above other independent albums from other well known artists. I have listened to this collection continuously for the past months, and I do not see myself stopping in near future.

## Contemporary Album Review: *Crush EP* by Ravyn Lenae

by Maggie Robinson



Are there any hotter releases than *Crush* right now? Nope. Not even close. The nineteen year old Ravyn Lenae, within just a few days since her EP’s release took the music industry by storm. She released it on February 9, just in time for Valentine’s Day with her modern-soul love songs. After touring and working with artists like SZA and Noname, she’s finally making her own ripple in music.

The EP kicks off with my favorite track, “Sticky.” It’s a bit more funky than the other songs, more upbeat. But she transitions into many different sounds with the rest of the songs, sharing her dynamic taste. I’d also like to dedicate this review to just her voice: it’s adaptable and takes on lots of ranges and styles. Both airy and strong, Lenae’s voice takes on a personality with each new track.

What I really like about *Crush* is how self-aware it is. Lenae goes through the music trying multiple styles without ever overdoing it. Oftentimes, an artist’s first big release tries too hard, but *Crush* is the outcome of when an artist experiments without getting too far ahead of themselves. Ravyn Lenae also understands exactly what she’s singing about, what she’s creating. She shares her messages of self-love for the world, and can bring a positive light to anybody’s day. Usually I choose my favorite songs off whatever album I’m reviewing, but I can’t decide on this one. Give it a listen to see for yourself.



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## Found: Her Genesis

by Sophia Cosentino

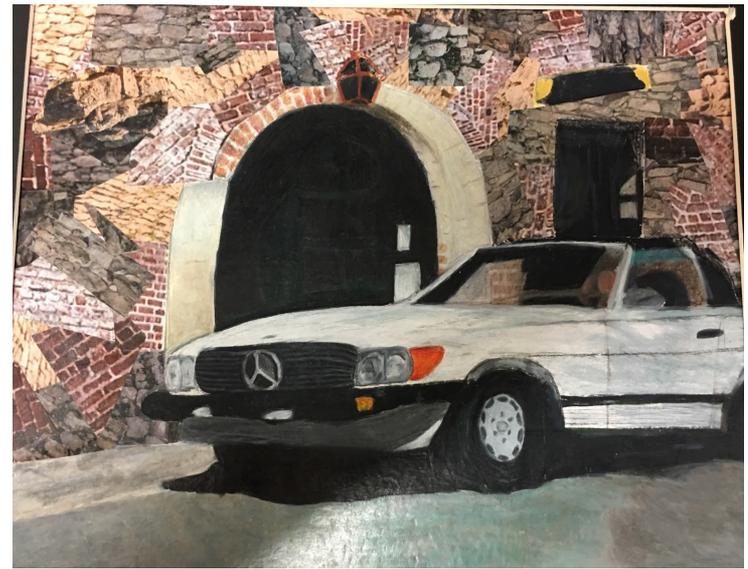
She took some and ate it.  
The earth found enmity;  
Eve found pain in the earth.

We sprung up like plants;  
We have made thorns and thistles  
grow out of the ground.  
Wild by the sweat of your brow, Eve, you are  
free of command; We are  
free of command. Eve, desirable like gold, runs  
along the river; takes the dust with her,  
takes the entire land  
in her hands and runs

like wind on her face as she runs.  
Gaining Wisdom as the tree that must grow,  
Eve was the first wild woman of earth.



**Shelby Ayers**, Junior.  
Watercolor and marker.



**Sophie Heinold**, Freshman.  
Mixed media.



**Braedyn Wasserman**, Freshman.  
Watercolor.

**Submissions of creative  
writing, visual art, and  
fashion and design  
pieces can be sent to  
[pjwohl2000@gmail.com](mailto:pjwohl2000@gmail.com)**

## Fashionably Unfashionable: the origins of SOA edginess

by Bailey Abedon

I recall the moment I got my first pair of black skinny jeans. On a cold winter afternoon in the year 2010, I looked down at my yellow capris and had a fleeting moment of horror as I realized something. They were ugly. Into Urban Outfitters I went, and selected the stiffest pair I could find. Oh joy! Oh sorrow! Oh assimilation! I was overwhelmed to near tears. So this is how to rebel I thought.

This isn't a real memory. Truthfully, I could not track the specific moment in which I adopted the aesthetic of thrifted clothes and caustic smolders so common in the halls of School of the Arts. I forget when I stopped saying my favorite color was yellow, or when I started feeling unreasonably angry at things as trivial as pencil breaking or a tapping foot.

Like many things in life, it just happened. It is true that many at our school have reasons to be angry. Here we sit, enter and exiting classes we do not care about, riddled with existential dread, sitting despairingly in our bathrooms stalls covered in graffiti pulled right out of a teenage movie. The angst festers within us like a sore. But rather than choosing to heal this wound, we protect it. It is a part of us. The SOA student thrives off the idea that, in some way or another, we are a vital part to the counterculture movement. Do we function this way because of our creativity? Are we just like the next art kid fallen victim to a society which values STEM over the arts? Does any of this mean anything? And this all begs another question. Is counterculture really counterculture when everyone's doing it?

To answer this, I embark on a quest to find the origins of SOA "edginess." Together, we will delve into the minds of our past edgy icons. So take my hand, and let us cringe together.

Edginess was not always referred to as edginess. We might once have referred to it as goth, then scene, then hipster. But since then, those labels elicit an immediate cringe. We think of MySpace, and tragic early 2000 bands such as My Chemical Romance, etc.

We begin with **Austin Worth**. You might have known him as the kid with the (possibly?) ironic lip ring. Austin was a Creative Writer here at SOA, during the time when the phrase "hipster" was relevant. Though the current generation of teenagers a hipster as a thirty something with a neatly tied man bun and perfectly trimmed mustache,

someone who "just found this really cool underground bar you should check out", the word used to have a different connotation. Someone who struggled against the flow of the mainstream, or at least tried to. So, in accordance to his era, Austin was the quintessential hipster for his time.

"I wanted to be just like the poet Tristan Tzara. Otherwise I looked up to my other favorite poets at the time: Whitman, Rimbaud, Ginsberg, and Brautigan." Classic responses. I ask him what he thought made SOA kids unique from other schools. "SOA as a whole is far more 'out there' than other schools. I recall that while still in high school my friends were throwing experimental music house shows. I'd certainly never expect that from, say, Magnet students."

And what is Austin up to now? He is travelling to Ireland soon. In regards to how he has changed since high school, he says he "can hardly recognize the high school Austin, while still knowing him all too well. It's difficult to approach this non-philosophically. I can say simply that I've learned, with much difficulty, that one must love others. As for not changing, I have to admit (especially to the Creative Writing teachers) that I'm still pretty disorganized."

There is no question in my mind that SOA is different than Academic Magnet. But I decided to get some insight from my older sister Zoe, who is currently a junior at Duke University. Her immediate response was a justified scoff. "But that's just an artsy kid thing in general though. I don't know if it's some phenomenon." Oh. She had a point. But can it be that simplified, I asked her. Is there nothing that sets the "SOA kid" apart from the next woeful artist?

"There's definitely the illusion of SOA existing as some sort of outlier because the students are drawn to aesthetics that let the world know they're interested in art and therefore "not like other high school students" but as far as really "pushing the envelope" goes you don't get much of that. We were conforming to a different idea of what's cool, yes but it was certainly conforming nevertheless. Being immersed in an artistic environment does inspire curiosity and acceptance of a broader range of experiences and interests, which shouldn't be discounted... but an arts high school only serves to plant the seeds of tendency. The real exploration and formation of the self comes later."

Well then. Zoe brought up a profound point in an exceptionally pretentious way, which ironically, is a notable quality of an

SOA kid. But she was right. Perhaps someone's individuality does not come from labels like "hipster" and "edgy", but rather the traits of the individual itself.

Whatever the origin of this debated phenomena, whether one calls SOA's culture edgy, grunge, hipster or emo, it is undeniably unique considering the Southern environment we are otherwise growing up in. Maybe we conform to a certain "art kid" persona, but we push the boundaries within our community, constantly questioning authority, and the way we are expected to live our lives in general. To all you SOA students out there, keep being you.

## Sass Attack

by Alec Pourmoghadam



As we gear up for the fashion show, a thought crossed my mind. Why does each gender have specific fashion guidelines to follow? Fashion is an amazing art form that can be displayed in many different ways. I feel that in the fashion industry, gender shouldn't exist in the form it takes in other facets of society. As the times change, so does the fashion industry. More and more, we see concepts like androgyny and gender fluidity welcomed in the fashion community.

At SOA, we see a boy walking down the hall wearing heels and don't think twice, but much of society finds it repulsive or socially unacceptable. Since when did heels become and stay a girl thing? Historically, men started wearing heels as a sign of strength and power.

As time changes so do our opinions and views. These views help shape fashion. It's 2018. It's time to accept the fact that it's okay for gender stereotypes to be crushed and broken. We are here for a changing generation from close-minded stereotypes to acceptance. As feminist queen Reese Witherspoon once said, "Being true to yourself never goes out of style."

## Fashion Show and Spring Showcase embody the value of arts education

Walking into the administration building at Charleston County School of the Arts, one is almost bombarded by art. The walls and glass cases are filled with paintings, drawings, and sculptures while fashion design forms draped with handmade garments line the halls. This isn't typical at most high schools. But, then again, SOA isn't your typical high school.

Founded in 1995 by Rose Maree Myers, SOA is the 2nd highest rated high school in the state. Born from an old recycled building with trailers, it has turned into a one of a kind, state-of-the-art campus. Each student has an hour and half long major class everyday ranging from music to drawing to writing to fashion design. This is recognized as one hears Tchaikovsky burst from the Symphony room and sees student writing lining the walls. Some may think that this time distracts from the ever important academics of high school but it's actually a unique and powerful form of motivation. Students must maintain a C average or above in their major and good grades throughout the year to continue to attend. This pushes students to put as much time and energy towards their artistic passion as their academics. In a normal school, an extracurricular such as band or art may be taken away if the student does not excel at academics. But at SOA, excellence must be maintained around the clock in order to keep the standards as high as possible.

There is clearly a feeling of passion and love of art in students at SOA. This creates an environment like no other and produces experiences distinct to the school. A perfect example of this is the annual School of the Arts Fashion Show, which brings together students and teachers from every major to prepare and put on a modern production showcasing the talents of the Fashion Design major. Designers create up to 10+ designs for the show depending on their grade level. They then pick students to model their looks on the runway, while another student provides the music. Yet another serves as emcee while one provides lighting and sound. Many help to set up the stage while others work on hair and makeup. These students come from all grade levels and majors to make the production run seamlessly. After the show, the energy of the room is electric, each member of the show proud of their contribution. This sense of

pride and accomplishment brings the teacher, students, and parents together. The arts can connect people in ways core academics cannot.

Another important event to everyone is the annual Spring Showcase. Each major has different times and places around the school to put on performances for fellow students, parents, and the community. It is a very meticulous process to coordinate and is planned throughout the year as each major shows their progress. Theater students are singing Broadway songs in the black box while the band plays in the auditorium. Creative writers are holding readings in the Pegasus Garden while piano majors are perfectly executing Mozart in the breezeway. Students want to share their talents and work hard to put on breathtaking performances. In other schools it can be hard to find a community like the one at SOA. Everyone works hard and passionately on their art to make it the best they possibly can.

So how does a school founded in trailers become one of the most revered in the state? The arts interconnected in academics creates the perfect learning environment. In a study by the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development results show that arts education brings positive emotional development, deep learning engagement, motivation to learn, decreased disciplinary issues, self awareness, concept, and expression as well improved self-efficacy and self-confidence. An arts education adds something fluid and creative among the seemingly "right or wrong" attitude of most

core academics. Children learn to rely on themselves and trust in their talents, abilities, and dedication to excel in arts classes rather than instruction by the teacher or note taking. The arts help children to better understand different cultures while providing them with a safe space to express their emotions in a healthy, productive way. It can also help those with mental and physical disabilities find confidence in their abilities to complete tasks on their own and motivate them to push themselves further in the real world.

As school, college, and the real world seem to loom over high schoolers constantly, the arts provide a sense of confidence in decision making and perseverance. This translates excellently into having that same confidence for in-school assignments, homework, test and quizzes, and teacher and peer interaction. An early arts education can provide someone with skills they will use their whole lives. Without the arts aspect of SOA, you would find normal kids with normal goals. But the arts encourage kids to push themselves beyond the normal. This is what puts SOA's alumni in some of the most esteemed arts jobs in the entire world. School of the Arts is a living instance of the arts helping children to go beyond the typical and inspiring them to achieve their full potential in all aspects of life.



*AP Chemistry students perform analysis on blue standard solutions with a new spectrophotometer. The results this year are far more accurate than with the older borrowed machine from years prior.*

## April Spotify Playlist

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



Spotify

“Fashion” by David Bowie

“Suit and Tie” by Justin Timberlake

“Leopard Skin Pillbox Hat” by Bob Dylan

“Supermodel” by RuPaul

“Vintage Clothes” by Paul McCartney

“Always True To You In My Fashion” by Ella Fitzgerald

“Vogue” by Madonna

“Touch the Hem of His Garment” by Sam Cooke

“The Emperor’s New Clothes” by Elton John

“Fashion!” by Lady Gaga

## SOA Sudoku

3			7			9		
		2				4	8	6
	5	8						
	2		1		5			
	3	1	8		2	7	5	
			4		3		1	
						1	4	
4	6	5				2		
		9			4			7

## April Horoscopes



**Aries** (Mar. 21- Apr. 19): Don't be afraid of commitment. Whether it's deciding on a college or solidifying plans with a friend, be more open to opportunities.



**Taurus** (Apr. 20- May 20): Try not to jump into conflict that isn't warranted. Talk out your problems with the other parties involved, making sure to stay calm and collected.



**Gemini** (May 21- Jun. 20): Your pride is getting the best of you. Focus less on yourself, and be mindful of others around you.



**Cancer** (Jun 21- Jul. 22): You might be craving adventure this month. Get out of your comfort zone, and explore some of those feelings.



**Leo** (Jul. 23- Aug. 22): If you don't put effort into your studies, you might not get the results you've been hoping for. Turn in those assignments on time.



**Virgo** (Aug. 23- Sept. 22): Cut out your bad habits as soon as possible. They may just drain your wallet.



**Libra** (Sept. 23- Oct. 22): You hardly have time to breathe this month—don't try to add a relationship into the mix. Focus on sorting out everything you have going on.



**Scorpio** (Oct. 23- Nov. 21): Don't give in to your desires. Although you may think it's what you need, these actions might lead to unintended consequences.



**Sagittarius** (Nov. 22- Dec. 21): That upcoming event that you're nervous about will be a success. Don't let your doubts get the best of you.



**Capricorn** (Dec. 22- Jan.19): Try not to be so hard on yourself. Do your best and the results will surprise you.



**Aquarius** (Jan. 20- Feb. 18): Keep any promises you make this month. If you don't, you might disappoint someone you care deeply about.



**Pisces** (Feb. 19- Mar. 20): Your empathetic side will show itself this month. Embrace it by giving back to the community and the people you love.

# The Trivia Challenge

by Cora Schipa

It's March, which is National Women's Month, and what better way to celebrate women than to remember the ones who changed the course of history? This issue we have two-time champion and Senior Creative Writer Mosiah Williams up against Senior Fashion and Design major Jada Orr for the March Trivia Crown!

## Questions

1. What year did American women gain the right to vote?
2. Where was the first Women's Rights Convention held in the United States?
3. Who was the first African American actress to win the Academy Award?
4. Who is the architect of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., which she designed when she was only 21 years old?
5. Name one of the four women who were part of the Women's Rights movement during the late 19th century, traveling across the country for 40 years lecturing and organizing.

6. Who was the first black woman billionaire and the current richest African-American woman?
7. What was the name of the female punk rock group who blended together music, art and consciousness-raising into a reformulated brand of feminism in the early 1990s?
8. What was the date of the Women's March, the largest single day protest in US history?
9. Who was the first female Speaker of the House?
10. What was the name of the landmark decision issued in 1973 by the United States Supreme Court on the issue of the constitutionality of laws that criminalized or restricted access to abortion?

## Mosiah Williams 12th Grade Creative Writing



## Jada Orr 12th Grade Fashion and Design



1. 1918.
2. Seneca Falls.
3. Patti Labelle.
4. I don't know.
5. I don't know.
6. Oprah.
7. TLC
8. January 21st, 2017
9. Nancy Pelosi
10. Roe v. Wade

5/10

And Mosiah retains his throne! After a hard fought battle, Mosiah will return to fight for his Crown in *Applause's* Graduation issue!

### Answers

1. 1920
2. Seneca Falls
3. Hattie McDaniel
4. Maya Lin
5. Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony, Lucy Stone or Sojourner Truth.
6. Oprah Winfrey
7. Riot Grrls
8. January 21, 2017
9. Nancy Pelosi
10. Roe v. Wade

1. 1920.
2. Seneca Falls.
3. Cicely Tyson.
4. I don't know.
5. Eleanor Roosevelt
6. Madam C.J. Walker
7. I don't know.
8. January 28th, 2017
9. I don't know.
10. I don't know.

2/10

If you would like to compete in next month's Trivia Challenge, please contact [pjwohl2000@gmail.com](mailto:pjwohl2000@gmail.com)

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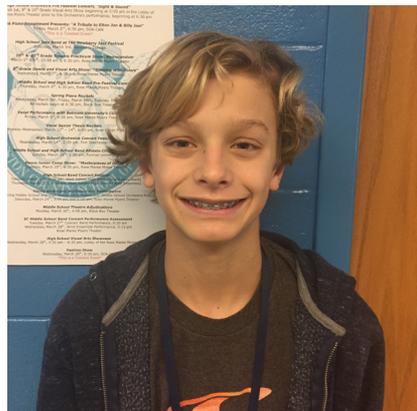
843.478.9594  
BenChase@att.net

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“Oprah Winfrey.”

-Mrs. Greco, Guidance Counselor



“My grandmother. She served in World War II.”

-Ronan Kotz, 7th grade Piano



“Michelle Obama.”

- Yorasias Randall, 9th grade Vocal



“Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie because of her unifying character.”

-Jo Edwards, 12th grade Dance



“Nancy Hamrick. She was a mentor for me when I was a young woman and taught me a lot about grace, forgiveness, and how to react to adversities in life.”

-Mrs. Crawford, Spanish teacher

# Who is a female figure you look up to?

## by Caleb Smith and Graham Martini

Picture Credits: Caleb Smith



“My mom because she gets me through hard times.”

-Michael Bendure, 6th grade Theater



“Maya Angelou.”

-Sophia Leonardi, 8th grade Dance



“My girlfriend, because I love her.”

-Zachary Shirley, 11th grade Vocal



“Beyoncé, because she’s queen.”

-Bethany Weeks, 10th grade Fashion and Design



“My mother because she’s worked as a teacher for 40 years.”

-Ms. Mortensen, Science teacher

**Gracie King:** Throughout the last 7 years, I have formed relationships with many students and teachers. Having a small, school environment has definitely contributed to the level of closeness the student body has and will be something I will miss as I move on to the real world.

**Erica Kremer:** I will miss all the friends I have made at SOA the most.

**Jordan Le:** The activities.

**Megan LeBarron:** I will miss going to band every day and seeing the same kids that I've been with since 6th grade. I'll miss Mr. Kerr's long anecdotes that only sometimes relate to what we are doing but always entertain.

**Jessica Leiker:** I will miss my classmates the most.

**Caroline Lloyd:** I will miss the gross smell in the hallways. I know I will never smell it anywhere else :(

**Damon Lockwood:** Playing basketball at lunch.

**Abbie Long:** I will miss being able to say 'hi' to everyone when I walk down the hall.

**Eli Lyons:** Having my theater family to laugh with and support each other through all the social experiments we are required to put ourselves through.

**Andrew Macchia:** Walking out the door at 3:25.

**Betty Manaris:** I will miss my friends so much.

**Carson Mann:** I will miss the Strings department the most.

**Graham Martini:** The people I have come to love.

**Nadja McGlone:** My friends. Obviously.

**Walker Menkus:** The Strings program.

**Adrianna Mitrano:** I will miss my opportunities and experiences that SOA provided me with.

**Courtney Morrow:** Watching the snakes slither through the halls.

**Jackson Morton:** My close friends.

**Lily Murchison:** The security of fairly easy classes.

**Joshua Nell:** Strings and friends.

**Dionte Nelson:** Friends.

**Lian Norris:** I will miss my friends, because after spending seven years together it's weird to think that we are all going our own way.

**Jada Orr:** My friends.

**Karlee Parshall:** I'll miss the friendships the most.

**Mollie Pate:** The looming fear of never graduating.

**Carson Peaden:** I'm definitely going to miss my Creative Writing friends and teachers. Other than that, there are not a lot of other things I'm going to miss.

**Alec Pourmoghadam:** I will miss my friends for sure. I have grown so close to them through crazy classes, my major, and general SOA stress.

**Virginia Quarles:** I will miss seeing my

piano family everyday.

**Grace Rauton:** My friends are the things I will miss the most about SOA. I have become especially close to my fellow dance majors over the past seven years, so it is going to be very hard to leave them.

**Nick Remington:** My Republican friends I sit at lunch.

**Elise Richardson:** I will miss some of the most genuine friends that I made here.

**Anna Ritchey:** I'm definitely going to miss the amazing friends I have made and all the memories we have together the most.

**Maggie Robinson:** Dr. Teseniar. Gotta love the guy. I'll probably grow up to be some strange mixture of him and Mr. Orvin.

**Morgan Roddey:** The closeness. We are all a family and the thought of not speaking to some of my classmates and teachers on a daily basis makes me really upset.

**Tianai Rong:** The whole 90 minutes of doing art everyday.

**Brianna Samonte:** I will miss the constant exposure of the different forms in order to express creativity. The constant exposure inspired me to convey my art in multiple ways.

**Maggie Scapellato:** The hand soap smells phenomenal. I really will miss that.

**Amber Schipa:** The windows.

**Cora Schipa:** Creative Writing, for sure.

**Trevor Scott:** The friends I have made since coming to SOA in 6th grade.

**Taylor Seel:** My Vocal family and the trips we would go on.

**Hunter Simes:** Being surrounded by people with that have the same passions and mindset of myself.

**Caleb Smith:** My major and all of the hopefully life long friendships I have made over the course of these 4 quick years.

**Denver Smith:** The easily made friendships and the teachers who are out there to help students.

**Elizabeth Snyder:** I will miss the multiple piano classes with my fellow piano majors and the Jefferson Service Club.

**Rose Stark:** I will miss everything about the Theater program; all the people, the teachers, our performances, and the amount of opportunities for outside theater events.

**Jonathan Stone:** I will miss my Republican friends the most.

**Haley Swittenberg:** Mr. Kerr, the bandroom, and my beautiful baby bass trombone.

**Cecile Thomson:** Being in the symphony orchestra.

**Keegan Vath:** The ease of meeting up with the friends and teachers that I love.

**Elliot Weeks:** Dr. Christopher Selby.

**Maev West:** Dr. Selby.

**Cassandra Whiteside:** I will miss SOME of the people.

**Courtney Wickstrom:** Creative Writing, without a doubt.

**Quinn Wilder:** I'll miss my friends the most. They are a special group that has made me into the person I am today and I can't believe I will continue life without them by my side daily.

**Cayman Williams:** All of the people I've grown close to and the family we've made in Dance.

**Mosiah Williams:** The people that have believed in me.

**Patrick Wohlscheid:** I will miss Adobe InDesign causing my computer to crash every ten minutes at the most inconvenient times.

**Mark Wolfe:** I think I will miss my Theater family the most.

**Lance Wylder:** My TRUE friends. We all watched each other grow from little sixth graders to seniors, and it has truly been a long journey with my best friends.

**Bethany Yeung:** Being able to play in an orchestra with all my friends.

## Son-Ja Jones wins 9th Annual RMM Scholarship at Stones Tribute



Senior Vocal major **Son-Ja Jones** was this year's winner of the Rose Mare Myers Scholarship for Artistic Excellence. The award was presented at the Rolling Stones tribute, "It's Only Rock 'n' Roll," sponsored by *Applause* and performed by SOA and AMHS students and faculty. Above: junior **Joey McGuinn** (l) and senior **Jalin Williams** (r) jam on the Stones hit "Emotional Rescue."