

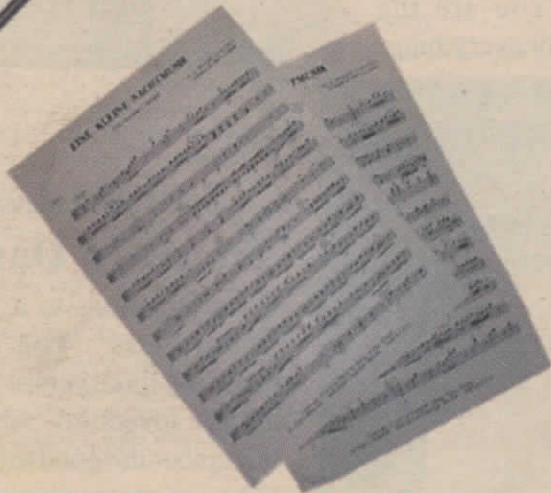
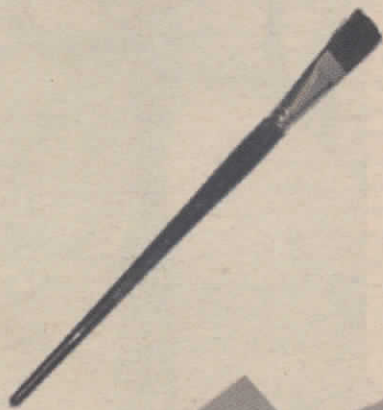
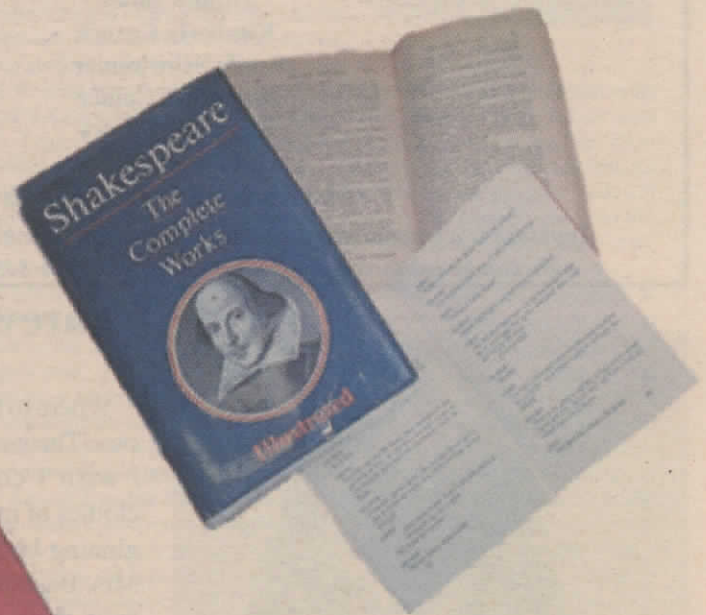
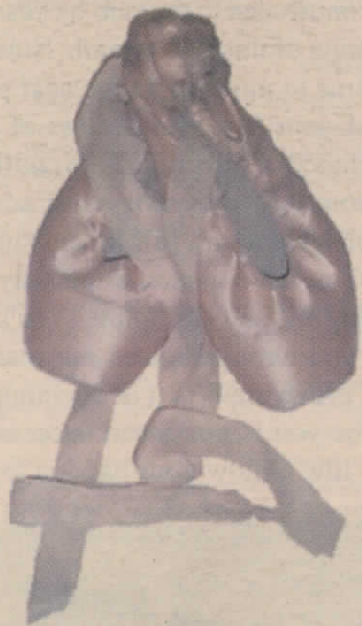
Applause

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Charleston County School of the Arts, North Charleston, SC

May 25, 2002

A Tribute to the Second Graduating Class of the Charleston County School of the Arts: The Class of 2002



"Where Talent and Vision Create the Future"

Editor's Page

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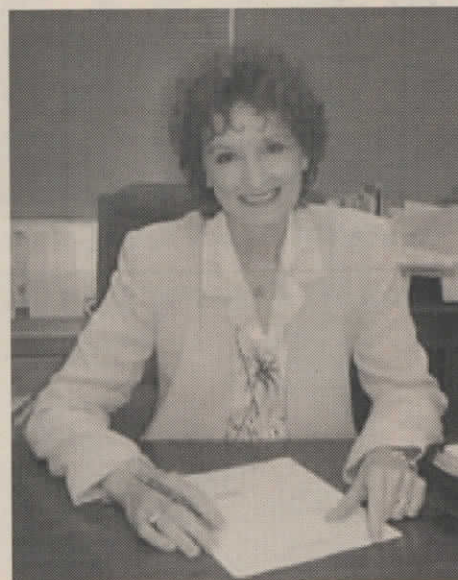
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A note from Mrs. Myers



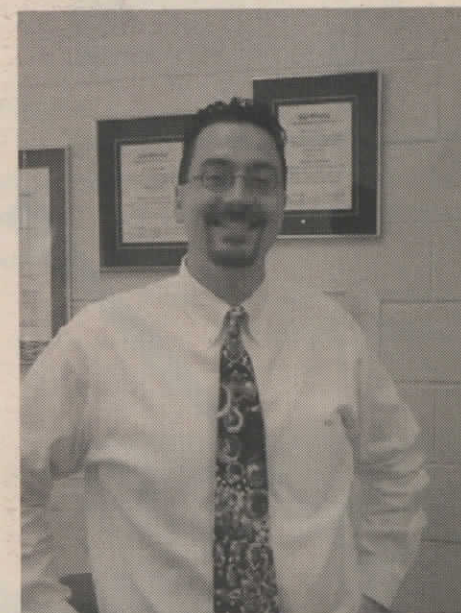
A letter to our seniors

Most of you came to School of the Arts as sixth graders that first year we opened. Many of you had come from the Ashley River School when I was principal there. Others of you have joined us along the way...all together helping to create a dynamic senior class. You have contributed to the year by year creation of this fine school. Now it is time to move on to the next phase of your life. Regardless of your choice of direction, I am confident you will enjoy a level of accomplishment and fulfillment such as

you have during your time at SOA. You have gained a maturity and insight into the importance of goal-setting and self-discipline. You know about choice and the difference right and wrong choices can make in your life. This knowledge will always prove important in directing you throughout your lifetime. My wish for you is continued success and happiness in all you undertake in your life. Allow your passion to provide the beacon for life's choices.

A few more words from Mr. Shaw

You have been an OUTSTANDING senior class. We have shared a lot of wonderful memories during my time as instructor and as administrator. You have left a lasting impression upon our school, one that I'm sure will never be forgotten. I wish you all "Good Knowledge" and please, please beware of those M-O-N-O-grammed shirts. You are the BEST!! Thank you for everything!



Farewell from the editor

Where to begin. Simple memories. There are so many things that I wish I could forget, like the clothes of my early years, my beginning bad attitude, the trips to Mrs. Bastian's office. But as one goes through life, there will always be those certain things that you will remember.

The things I remember: *The Giver* project; "I am not your friend or your babysitter, I am your teacher."; Mr. Rivers; the big orange couch; "Please leave the learning community"; Courtney's

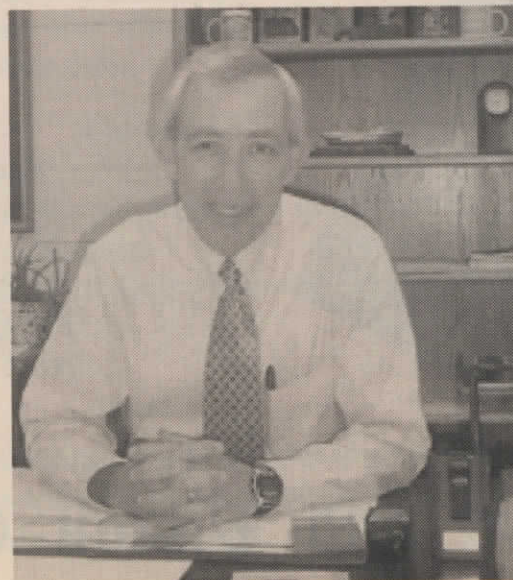


sneezes from the other side of the classroom divider; *Oklahoma*: banquets; school dances; the ghetto and its shopping carts; ring ceremony; Mrs. Yatsco; my senior thesis; prom; drama, drama, and more drama...simple memories to add to my collection box.

Out of all of the memories, the ones that I hold the most dear are all the relationships that I have gained over the past seven years. Everyone knows that there are those people whom you will never forget - whose faces will always pop up when a memory is triggered. At SOA, I honestly don't believe that any one of us will be able to forget each other - either student or faculty. Here, we are family. It began for us in sixth grade, and now here we are at the end of this chapter. We have stood beside each other to give each other support or just to laugh with. We have all been together for so long I don't think we could be anything but family. I can remember an award given to Courtney Coan called the "Joe Mama" award. It suited her because many of us view her as the mother of our SOA family.

People have come and gone but they are still remembered. Many left to experience the "true high school experience", but I wouldn't trade any of this. We have made our own high school, with our own traditions, secrets, awards, and friendships. No matter the good, the bad, or the ugly, I know that these seven years are something that I will always cherish (with moments that I will laugh at). This is a part of me that will live on.

Thank you to everyone who made it possible to publish this final issue of *Applause*. I will miss all of you. - Kelly Blohme



Best Wishes from Mr. Davis

Congratulations to a great senior class! You have made my three years at SOA a great adventure. Always remember the good times at SOA. Keep your eyes on the stars and follow them to your dreams.

Best Wishes, Seniors!

Bubba Bryant

Bubba,

"Rise and Shine." I wake you up every morning by saying these words. Since you will soon be on your own, the alarm clock will replace my voice. I have no doubt, however, that you will rise above all adversities that may come your way and shine in all that you do.

Love,
Mom

James Ulmer

First...The School of the Arts
Next...The College of Charleston
After that...The World!
Congratulations James Ulmer!
We salute you!
Mom, Dad, and Cameron



Kimberly Cozart

Kimberly,

We are so proud of your accomplishments at SOA. But most of all we're proud of your development as a unique, strong, and caring individual. As all Trekers know- Develop a Flight Plan, Follow the Prime Directive, an Soak into the Stars.

Your loving parents
and brother Chris Cozart

Mary Ann Synder

Ode to Mary Ann

Your highest goal has not been achieved,
and your greatest idea has not been concieved.
Your most beautiful song hasn't been sung,
and your swiftest race has yet to be run.
Your most challenging battle hasn't been fought,
and the knowledge you'll need hasn't all been taught.
Your foundation, however, is solid and true,
and your future's secure because Christ is with you!

Godspeed, Mary Ann.
We love you.



Zora Johnson

Zora Kinshasa,

"A good head and a good heart are always a formidable combination."

- Nelson Mandela

You have that combination.

Love,
Mom and Dad

Richard Larson

Richard,

Congratulations on this special day and milestone in your life. You have truly been a blessing in our lives and we pray God will guide and direct you as this new chapter in your life begins. We are very proud of you.

Love,
Dad, Mom, Sean and Garrett



Marina Parol

Marina,

We've loved you as a part of our family. We'll miss you!

Gros Bisous,
Roberta, Rachael and Leah

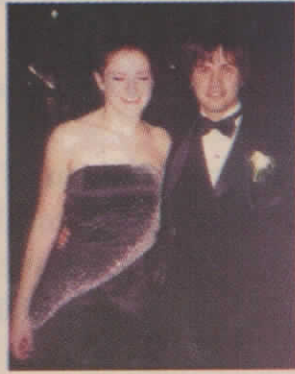
Kristen Granet

Kristen,

Congratulations! Great job. We love you. God Bless you in whatever you decide to do in your life.

Dad and Mom

Recent Events



School of the Arts
Junior-Senior Prom
May 4, 2002
Stern Center
College of Charleston



Senior Survey

The most important thing(s) you've learned at SOA:

Joel Hamilton: "Everyone loves to tell you to stay inside the lines, but some things are better on the other side."
- John Mayer

Ashley Rowe: I've learned the importance of friendship and family. Throughout the years at SOA, my friends have become my family.

Richard Larson: You're never the best. Everyone is talented, some in ways you could never imagine them to be. It takes someone to pull that talent out and nurture it for it to truly grow; that can happen here.

Rachel Taylor: I've improved in art, of course, but I'm most glad I took marine science because I found what I want to do in life.

Kelly Blohme: No matter what happens, friends and family will always stand by you.

Amber Rosintoski: How to deal with people and just move on during bad times.

Caroline Bailey: No matter how strange you think you are, there's always someone stranger, and there is no such thing as a "normal" day.

Josh Garr: True Friendship. The value of being your own person, doing what you enjoy, wearing what you like, and not letting others dictate that to you. Work with your superiors, they always have information that can help and have most likely been where you are. Above all, never forget the value of a true friend, they will never leave you. God bless you Tristan.

James Ulmer: Drawing is fun. Take every good opportunity. Only you know what you want, but friends do help sometimes. Let elder wisdom guide you. Get a hobby.

Anthony Norris: I've learned that true friendship is a big responsibility; sometimes you have to choose between friends and work. School is as fun as you make it, so I try to make everyday...interesting.

Stacey Jarrell: Friends are very important in life and that when working as a team you can achieve anything.

Marina Parol: If you are different, that's O.K.

Elizabeth Buck: How to cherish the friends you have and that it doesn't matter how different you are because everyone here is crazy.

Stephen Soles: Advanced Jazz Theory and how to avoid advanced janitorial elephant stalkings and still be cool.

Kai Revels: I have learned to get along with people I would have never thought about talking to.

Katya Demcheva: I have learned that even though people are different and have different talents, they all can be friends.

Lisa Harvey: Who you can really count on when you need them.

Christine Colon: To stay away from those that are outside the fence.

Daniel Earnst: You cannot get STD's from toilet seats, door knobs, or hand shakes.

Rodney Lewis: To never stop dreaming.

Meghan Braswell: I've learned how important it is to have good friends. I've learned not to take anything for granted. And I've learned that being yourself is definitely the best person to be.

Angela Shaw: The people who matter the most will stick around.

Jasiri Whipper: You must be responsible for your own education. Never take your friends for granted.

Ellis Bradford: With all of my classes here I've learned that you definitely have to have self motivation. There have been so many little class assignments, projects, that you have to be motivated to get through and see what's really important, graduating! Not doing all of those little things will hold you back.

Deas Richardson IV: I've learned a form of survival: How to roll with the punches, prioritize, fake, and keep a rolling mental schedule. I've learned how to deal with my poor timing skills and stay afloat anyway.

Courtney Coan: Friendship is forever. Don't let anything/anyone tell you different.

Carol Jordan: SOA has taught me not to be afraid to voice my opinion, and whatever I do, to be proud and confident.

Suzanne Justice: That we are really strange kids.

Allison Orvin: That students can fight the man! That you can't deny the fact that everyone knows everyone so well since we've been together since 6th grade.

Staci Oliver: To lock my car.

Sharmetta Sheppard: If you can dream it, you can do it.

Kristen Gaetke: I've learned how to speak for myself. As a creative writer, you have to learn how to speak out, with people like Tammy Butler, Nicole Stasko, Kimberly Anderson, and Jessica Gaskins, you have to speak up to be heard. They all taught me to speak with confidence, and I love them all for it.

Elizabeth Skuhra: Change is inevitable; you can't stop it if you try. Friends are with you in the beginning and are there to stick it out until the end.

Kari Rikard: Don't wear flip-flops or shirts below your collar bone to school.

Katy Hovis: How to deal with things you don't like and situations that are unfair.

Haley Campbell: I learned that risks and experiments can have even better results than you hope for.

Jennifer Paul: To be more open minded, to be more accepting of those who differ from you.

Kristen Granet: There are many things I've learned during my 7 years at SOA. I've learned how to get along with people I never thought I'd encounter and work out problems that I had once thought unsolvable.

Lydia Sisson: Sometimes teachers are your friends. Mr. Murray and Ms. Marshall, I love you both.

Carissa Hanagriff: The best people for you are the ones for whom you don't have to edit yourself. There are people like you and those spirits are the best. I'm a dork.

Nicole Stasko: Don't worry about grades, worry about what you are learning.

Taylor Silver: Stay open-minded, new things might just turn into a pot-of-gold

Teresa Karr: Be yourself. Some people may not like it, but that is their problem. They'll get over it.

Loriel L. Brown: I've learned why you should keep secrets, how to detect a real friend, how to analyze literature, how to sight sing, how to count to ten in French, and most importantly how not to let people get under my skin.

Lori DeNicola: Don't give up if there's something you want to do-go for it. The only way you're gonna get it done is if you do it yourself.

Blair James: You can trust some people, but you can't trust everybody.

Monicanne Fields: The most important things I've learned at SOA are to take pride and consideration into the people you meet, and to never take life, friendship or your education for granted.

Mallory McLane: Not to make eye contact with anyone outside the fence.

Tamerlyn Greene: Realize your talents, improve them, and use them to your full advantage-always.

Zora K. Johnson: No matter how you feel about school and life in general, just breathe and keep struggling, and everything will work out fine.

Tamara Butler: SOH-CAH-TOA no, I'm just kidding. The most important thing I've learned is that you should try to be nice to all of your teachers because you'll never know when you'll need them.

Vanessa Panerosa: I've learned to be myself. We are in an environment that says it's acceptable to show your true colors, not to conform or put on a facade, and most importantly to expand in your talents and appreciate others. Also, never stop learning- the more you learn, the more you realize the less you know.

Contesia Gadsen: Don't put your wallet down because you may never get it back! Don't talk when you cross the railroad track.

A quote you want SOA to remember you by:

Joel Hamilton: "Don't tell yourself the lies you want to hear, because when beauty fades before love, nothing is left."

Ashley Rowe: "Live, learn and grow."

Richard Larson: "The sweet ain't so sweet without the sour."

Rachel Taylor: "Aww, I still love you!"

Kelly Blohme: "It's because they're male." - Me. "I learned how to swim and I learned who I was. A lot about living and a little 'bout love." - Alan Jackson.

Amber Rosintoski: "It's a good thing it doesn't hurt to love, cause otherwise we'd have bruises everywhere."
-An original by Amber Rosintoski and Amanda Thompson.

Caroline Bailey: "Here I come to save the day!" - Mighty Mouse. "As you wish." - Wesley, from Princess Bride.

Josh Garr: "When I go to heaven, I want to ask God some questions; and it's not the usual, 'Why is there suffering?' I want to know what was the biggest, nastiest bug that ever crawled on someone, they didn't notice and then it crawled away."

James Ulmer: "Blessed are we who amuse ourselves, for we shall never be bored."

Anthony Norris: "I came, I saw, I did some stuff...some more stuff and I left the seat down on my way out. Enjoy!"

Stacey Jarrell: "Well I would say 'Twins,' but I will say, 'I always knew looking back on my tears would make me laugh, but I never knew looking back on my laughter could make me cry.'"

Marina Parol: "French people have feelings too!!!" (It may seem stupid but a lot of people don't seem to notice).

Elizabeth Buck: "Don't compromise your standards or what you believe to make someone else happy." -Me.

Stephen Soles: "Tis wittier to be wise, than wiser to be wittier with the wit wise wise de da wise wise wise wise."

Kai Revels: "Even though I don't know everyone's name I do know the person on the inside."

Katya Demcheva: "Foreign people have feelings too!"

Lisa Harvey: "Don't worry about the past, just about your future."

Bubba Bryant: "I passed."

Christine Colon: "Dream what you want to dream, do what you want to do, because you have one life and one chance."

Daniel Earnst: "To the message machine."

Angela Shaw: "I'll love forever ever if you're deaf, blind, retarded and vertically challenged (y'all I just love retarded people)."

Jasiri Whipper: "Live your life authentically and let not the outside world define who you are, you define you."

Deas Richardson IV: "Se siete felici e lo conoscete applauso il vostro mani." ~Anonymos.

Courtney Coan: "Yeager, Gia, Tanisha and Tiffany: Y'all better leave Emory alone."

Suzanne Justice: "I'm a speed limit soldier! Master C and Silkk the Sugar represent always." "I'm really done with Jesse this time. For real!" "Pack 'em up!"

Allison Orvin: "If you're going to laugh, laugh loud."

Staci Oliver: "Know and love yourself before you try to love someone else." "Worrying is a mistrust of God's wisdom."

Sharmetta Sheppard: "Be yourself. Who else is qualified?"

Kristen Gaetke: "At any rate, let us love for awhile, for a year rf so, you and me. That's a form of divine drunkenness that we can all try." -F. Scott Fitzgerald.

Elizabeth Skuhra: "Use what talent you possess; the woods would be very silent if no birds sang except those who sang best." -Henry Van Dyke.

Kari Rikard: "Life if just one damn thing after another."

Katy Hovis: "Oh well." -Mr. Smyth. "Some people are never quite what they seem." -Adam Duritz. "Il. A. Froid." -Arthur Rimbaud

(continued on p.7)

Seniors name their favorite books and movies during their years at SOA

Books

1. *The Catcher in the Rye* - J. D. Salinger
2. *Haroon and the Sea of Stories* - Salman Rushdie
3. *The Giver* - Lois Lowry

Movies

1. *Save the Last Dance*
2. *Lord of the Rings*
3. *The Matrix, American History X* (tie)

Seniors Reflect On Years at SOA

Emily Wahrer

During my five years at the School of the Arts, I have had many teachers, but few have had as large an impact as my creative writing teacher, Ms. Miles. Without her I would not have grown as much as I have as a writer. Don't get me wrong; it wasn't all sunshine. If Ms. Miles hadn't given the occasional (and well-deserved) bad grade or hadn't bitten my head off every now and then I would still be making the same horrible mistakes that I was making in the eighth grade. I think the reason she has made more of an impact on me is because I have had her for at least one semester each year since I started going to SOA.



Elizabeth Buck

Thinking about my time at SOA, there is so much to remember. From the starting of sixth grade to my senior year has flown by so quickly. The reflection of all the crazy things we did and talked about. The vocal trips, field trips, and classes brought the excitement to SOA. To forget what we started would be throwing away the things we've seen and have learned would be something horrible. SOA life has been wonderful.

When thinking about SOA, I will never forget those times of vocal, from when we started with Mrs. Brown, talked to Lea Salonga. Being with Mr. Rogers was so great. Then Mr. Varner came along. When we first started we thought, "Boy we wish he was a mix of Mr. Rogers and himself." But, as the chorale, we became so disciplined. I am so thankful he came and taught sol-fedge. I won't ever

forget Canada and how much fun we had. I will never forget our vocal days and how many friendships and how I have found a new family.

How we did *Christmas on Angel Street*. and show kids why they would want to come to SOA. To Mr. Rogers where we would watch movies. Always being promised things that sometimes we wouldn't see. Or...the bus trips (1,2,3...movie). Where we would practice the week before a concert or on a sidewalk before a competition. But, we were always ready and knew how to put on a great show. I will never forget Loriel crying over us not singing with Shania Twain or running and falling over herself.

SOA has shown me so much. From learning how to let myself go, I think my friends have shown me that. From the sixth and seventh grade teachers showing us who they were by the show they put on for us at the beginning. Going from cold lunches to finally getting our lunch room finished. The field trips we took were great. Ms. Caldwell, we were so scared of, but all fell in love with, and we knew she'd never forget us. We were known as the "bad" or "loud" class, but it turns out we were the best. The office staff who have always been there, Ms. Mandy and Mr. Shaw especially. Where in sixth and seventh grade we played around all day. Yeah SOA is a place you can get made fun of. But, those who have been here since sixth grade won't forget the family we have made. SOA is an experience never to be forgotten.

SOA is a place to feel comfortable. The friendships I've made will never be forgotten and I thank all those who have made an impact on my life, I will never forget you. It makes me cry to think something so wonderful is going to change! I will never trade any of my times here at SOA as hard or as easy as they may have been. SOA and all of my friends, thank you so much for changing my life for the better.

Kristen Gaetke

Anxiety, fear, excitement, and wonder were the emotions I felt seven years ago when I first entered the doors to the School of the Arts as a sixth grader. I only knew three people from my elementary school, and as I stepped into Mrs. Bell's room, I saw twenty-four other faces, all diligently working on name tags. Ironically, these are the same emotions I am experiencing now as a senior in anticipation of graduation. To reflect on these past years means to reflect on my life as a whole. This school helped me to create my voice and personality. The friends I have made here have been some of the most influential people in my life, and it will be very hard to leave them as I try to "conquer" college, or as I know it, a very scary thing in the near future.

Middle school is now a complete blur, but I still remember Friday afternoons, when we did absolutely nothing, actually getting hot lunches, Mr. River's math class, the never-ending substitutes for 7th grade science, Mrs. Caldwell's admission of love for our class, and "Oklahoma!", our school's first attempt on showing the public what this school could really do.

In these last few days, reflecting has not been a random occurrence, but an everyday thing. In the writing lab, I remember how nervous we were when we first met Mrs. Miles and found out how tough the class was going to be, and then how honored we are now to have had a teacher that did not only teach us how to write, but how to develop our unique voices in our writing. Each time I go into Mr. Murray's classroom, I remember how every year, since tenth grade, I have felt a little bit nervous thinking about if we have a compounds quiz, a physics test, or a quiz on stellar parallax, depending on what Mr. Murray was teaching us that year; however, that nervous feeling disciplined me into always being prepared, and for that discipline, I will always be thankful. He and Mr. Smyth have been responsible for my growing interest in both math and science. I won't forget Mr. Smyth's Mr. Sneaky One, Elvis, the pumpkins, or the feeling of accomplishment after I've passed a calculus test. He taught us to solve a problem on our own, and he cared when something happened in our lives, good or bad; he is truly a concerned teacher, helping out at any time. I remember people like Mrs. Yatsco, who while teaching Sappho, taught us how to trust our own thoughts and how to write confidently, things which I will carry with me forever.

I have seen this school grow, literally, from being crowded in what is now the fine arts building, to taking over the Berry Building and various trailers, from being only two hundred students to over eight hundred students. But more importantly, I have grown as a person. I am more outgoing because of this school, and more specifically, because of my major. Although reading my own poetry and short stories was hard at first, it has become a little bit easier now. The girls of Creative Writing (we scared every guy away) are some of the most loving and comforting people I have ever met, and with Mrs. Miles as our "mother" the family that we have can never be erased. Every year has its own laughs, its own tears, but each year has only made the bond between us stronger. Being a writer has allowed me to become more open-minded as well as more confident, which is easy to do when you walk into a classroom full of loving people every day for seven years.

These years at the School of the Arts have given me joy, pain, a lot less sleep, and a lot more laughs. I will remember the events and the people here for many years to come. Graduation will be bittersweet; as I walk across the stage to receive my diploma, I will be walking past the life I have created here. But when I see the faces of my teachers and of my fellow students, some of which were those same faces in Mrs. Bell's class, I know that I have done something wonderful.

Monica Fields

I remember sixth grade like it was yesterday. I'm sure all of the students, as well as the teachers, felt like they were in a lab experiment. I sat in Mrs. Salley's classroom in a table of four with Tommy Aspinwall and Michelle Gadsden. Even though there were three other students from my old school, I didn't see anyone else I knew. About five minutes later a childhood friend walked in and was the first student to get in trouble. Yes, Loriel Brown! We sat together in class and got acquainted with other students. I remember one student I disliked, Aquila, who later became one of my good friends.



I remember the "cute" guy that everyone liked-Greg Cryer. I sure do laugh at it now. I didn't tell anyone I liked him because Ashley Rowe had her eyes set on him from day one. By the end of the year, I got my man, which lasted until the beginning of seventh grade. Later I realized he was the most annoying person I had ever met.

I remember reading *The Giver* and Mrs. Ambrose dramatically crying at the end of every chapter. After we finished the book we had to "realistically" act out the books. Standing in a straight line, not speaking to anyone, and dressed in blue and white. The teachers felt so bad for us at the end of the day, they all began to cry. It was really funny to see them in more pain than we were.

I have so many great memories at SOA, from playing "mission impossible" in Latin class to Dr. Parker trying to put the cassette in the VCR. These memories are priceless and can't be found at any other "normal" high school. We all have a bond that no one else will develop with students, teachers, administrators and the cafeteria ladies. I must say I'm going to miss this little school more than anything in my life. I cherish every moment, and I hope all the underclassmen do the same.

Richard Larson

Standing on an empty stage, peering out into empty seats and looking upon the sloe walls that have absorbed so much of what I am now, I realize that my time as a student of the School of the Arts is coming to an end. Lost applause echoes through the Black Box and opens doors to which the key of memory will always turn. I take these last weeks now to reflect upon my years here and how this school has become not just a part of my life, but provided growth for the soul.

Entering through what was the green building unaware of how much of an impact this school would have on me, I now see how fortunate I was to have an education in a performing arts school. The creativity of the faculty and students filled the air as I breathed in and allowed it to flow throughout myself. I in turn exhaled and my talent worked in

the same cycle. We learned so much through each other. Everyone was talented in their own way. I began to appreciate people for their talent and effort. I could now see that normality lied in obscurity and that being like everyone else was boring. It was here that you could see everyone's true colors as the arts work through the soul, a place where truth and beauty bloom.

This school is a never ending spring. The only thing that would wilt would be characteristics of self doubt and ignorance. Here we are emerged in culture, generosity and understanding. The idea of never giving up or saying that's enough did not exist. If something becomes easy, your not pushing yourself hard enough. You can always become something better.

So much opportunity has approached me because of this school. I never thought that strings would bring much of an exciting life. The viola was something I was good at. It came naturally to me, and eventually brought me to record with such bands as Sheldon, and work with other classical musicians such as Ward Wilson of Jump Little Children. I've also been able to play with the Charleston Symphony Orchestra and have gone on many trips around the South East with my Orchestra. I've also made money playing at weddings and other special occasions and have met many interesting and influential people.

Aside from my art major, with the use of exploratories, I have indulged in talents I never knew I had such as singing and acting. I recently became a member of the Charleston Youth Company where I landed solos and lead roles in my first year. Without the background given to me here at SOA, I know that the idea of even auditioning for such a thing would have been absurd to me.

And so, as strange as it may seem, I find life in these black walls, that are cold and cemented. Forever etched in applause that still rings in the Black Box. An echo that's dawning on my time, but arising for another, but with the dawn of my day, a new one begins, and as SOA wilts from my stem and makes its way to the ground, gracefully gliding in the wind, it becomes buried in the rich soil and my roots hold fast to it. Spring begins again, and soon I will bloom from my new bud with the roots of memories of what caused me to become. "Child is the father of man." I have just begun to blossom.



Senior Survey

(continued from p. 5)

Jennifer Paul: "Try to live so that you won't have any regrets. Don't be scared to chase your dreams and trust people with respect. Never consider yourself to be better than them."
Kristen Granet: "Vision is the art of seeing the invisible." -Jonathan Swift. "Every generation is dangerous, especially this one." -Mark Twain.
Lydia Sisson: "Live to the point of tears." -Camus.
Carissa Hanagriff: "Mr. Shaw, are all your shirts mammogrammed?!?" "Hell is other people." -Sartre. "In the sun, I feel as one." -Kurt Cobain
Nicole Stasko: "Nothing will catch you, nothing will let you go." -Jorie Graham.
Taylor Silver: "Sometimes people of the smallest stature can preform the largest task." -Fellowship of the Ring.
Teresa Karr: "And you won't see me surrender, you won't hear me confess, 'cuz you've left me with nothing, but I've worked with less." -Ani DiFranco.
Loriel Brown: "Carpe Diem- Live your life to the fullest because one day ya goin to die!"
Lori DeNicola: "You've got to dance like nobody's watchin' and love like it's never gonna hurt."
Blair James: "...Janet Jackson..."
Monicanne Fields: "The girl who was never afraid of speaking her opinion and thoughts."
Mallory McLane: "Rock on."
Zora Johnson: "Boy, don't play with me!" (usually intended for Tim Pape)
Tamara Butler: "If you decide to do what you want when you want, with who you want, make sure you do it and have no regrets."
Vanessa Panerosa: "With all there is, why settle for just a piece of sky?" -Yentl
Contessa Gadsen: "Carefactor? Nonexisting! You have just lost all speaking privileges! They have just flown out the window."

What are your plans after you graduate?:

Joel Hamilton: I will be attending College of Charleston in the fall. This summer I will be playing music up the East Coast with my band *The Working Title*.
Ashley Rowe: I plan to attend Winthrop University and have a career in Radio Broadcasting.
Richard Larson: Attend College of Charleston. Join the Crew team (rowing) and become a nurse or major in musical theater.
Rachel Taylor: Go to college, move out of my house, travel and see the world, get a good job, maybe own a house someday, keep lots of pets, maybe get married, but it's not a big goal.
Kelly Blohme: I will be attending College of Charleston and am considering majoring in Communications and minoring in International Studies.
Amber Rosintoski: This summer I'm going to Cozumel with the rest of the seniors and I'm going to be attending College of Charleston in the fall.
Stacy Kinard: I plan to go to college and major in elementary education.
Caroline Bailey: I'll be taking a summer job somewhere near my home on Johns Island, then heading off to USC Columbia in August where I'll major in Theater.
Josh Garr: I'm going to be working most of the summer to get as much money as possible for college. I'll also be counseling at Camp St. Christopher. Otherwise, in my free time, I'll be at the pool or beach until I leave for college in N.C.
James Ulmer: Attending college, going back to Europe, visiting Asia (specifically Japan and part commie China), find someone to pay me to do what I love and find someone to spend my life with.
Anthony Norris: Definitely college because I want to take my education as far as I can to see what this world has for me, so I'll have what I need to take it. Oh and I'll definitely eat a sandwich after graduation...maybe two.
Stacey Jarrell: Go to College of Charleston and perhaps become a teacher.
Marina Parol: Go back to France and be...a professional dancer in Paris! (First, I have to lose 100 pounds, and second I have to learn how to dance!)
Elizabeth Buck: Going to North Greenville College to major in Music Education and hopefully do something in missions.
Stephen Soles: Perform at Spoleto. Move to Iowa.
Kai Revels: To attend a good college (USC) and further my music plans.
Katya Demcheva: Attend College of Charleston in the fall and spend the entire summer at home in Russia.
Lisa Harvey: University of South Carolina.
Bubba Bryant: Go do some plays and movies.
Christine Colon: Get a life and run away from home!
Daniel Earnst: Move to London.
Dan Erickson: For now, all I care about is summer break and then I'm going to College of Charleston.
Rodney Lewis: Go to college and major in Music Education.
Meghan Braswell: I plan to attend Anderson College in the fall of 2002! Woo Hoo!
Angela Shaw: I am attending College of Charleston, will major in Education. Studying to be an interpreter for the deaf.
Jasiri Whipper: Attend Morehouse or C of C or SCAD. Become wealthy and retire.
Ellis Bradford: After high school, I'm going to attend College of Charleston and major in Education. After that I plan on marrying Mr. Right, having three children, two boys and one girl and moving to North Carolina or Virginia, where the weather is better and teachers make more money.
Deas Richardson IV: Get my undergrad degree from Furman University, then hit a Digital Media School for a Masters in Digital Cinematography. I'd like to work filming international t.v. shows (Discovery/TLC's land) or IMAX movies. That'd be cool.

Courtney Coan: Attend South Carolina State University. Major in Communications, but right after graduation, I'm going to party.

Carol Jordan: After graduation, I'll enjoy summer and then go to basic training, after that, in January, I'll begin college at Dillard University in New Orleans.

Suzanne Justice: I'm going to be a psychology major at College of Charleston and share an apartment with Joel and Daniel!

Allison Orvin: I plan to still work at Sticky Fingers in Mt. Pleasant this summer and go to Cozumel on our Senior trip - that's going to be an event - and head off to USC in the fall with Megan Utsey as my roommate (God help her) and major in International Studies.

Staci Oliver: Attending Charleston Southern University to major in Math and minor in Education and after college, if it is in God's will, get married to my "high school sweetheart!!"

Sharmetta Sheppard: Attend college and go on to pursue a career in the education field.

Kristen Gaetke: This summer, I'm going on the senior cruise, which I'm very excited about (I'll bring lots of sunscreen.) I'll perform in Piccolo Spoleto's Dance at Noon series, but most importantly, I'll be going to China for two weeks to dance. Next year, I'll be going to the College of Charleston as a member of the Honors Program. As of right now, I want to major in International Politics and hopefully go on to law school after that.

Elizabeth Skuhra: Continue my education at the College of Charleston and then attend MUSC to become a nurse.

Kari Rikard: Have fun, move and go to college.

Katy Hovis: SENIOR TRIP! Then, I will be entering C of C honors and majoring in Arts Management.

Haley Campbell: After graduation I plan to attend C of C and hopefully figure out what I want to do from there.

Jennifer Paul: I'm going to USC, hopefully majoring in International Studies and minoring in Spanish.

Kristen Granet: After graduation I will go on the senior trip and spend as much time as I can with all my friends during the summer before I, or they, go away to college.

Lydia Sisson: I have to work during the summer. Then I start school at Vassar at the end of August. I'm going to college.

Carissa Hanagriff: Attend Wheaton College, double major in Theatre and Studio Art and make art furniture for a living.

Nicole Stasko: To go to College of Charleston and have fun.

Taylor Silver: I'm going to College of Charleston and waiting for fate to come kick me in the butt.

Teresa Karr: Work over the summer and have some fun on off days. Major in Studio Art at USC and minor in just about everything once.

Megan Utsey: I'm going to USC and rooming with Allison Orvin. Lord help the people in Columbia.

Loriel Brown: To have fun.

Lori DeNicola: I plan to attend Columbia College the first year, where I will major in Dance. Maybe become a choreographer or a personal trainer. I'm not exactly sure yet-my plans are subject to change. Once I've become successful, get married to the love of my life and three children.

Blair James: Chill for the summer, then attend Winthrop University.

Monicanne Fields: My plans after graduation are to attend a four-year historically black college, preferably Tennessee State University, to get a degree in Forensic Science or Dentistry.

Mallory McLane: Three words. College-Internship-Life.

Tamerlyn Greene: I plan to attend Winthrop University and major in Business Management and Administration. After Winthrop, I plan to attend the Art Institute of Atlanta for Interior Design.

Zora Johnson: I plan to attend Howard University with a major in Biology and emphasize on Pediatric Dentistry or Sports Medicine.

Tamara Butler: Work, sleep and Party! (especially on July 15th)! But, eventually I'll attend Queens College in Charlotte, NC. Hopefully I'll get a full scholarship and will transfer to Xavier University of Louisiana in New Orleans.

Vanessa Panerosa: Pursue musical theater and possibly public relations, either in Chicago, San Francisco or New York City.

Contessa Gadsen: I plan to become a professional exotic dancer in Paris with Marina!

What is your advice for underclassmen?

Joel Hamilton: When you're frolicking through the meadow, if you see a blue rose pick it up and place it in your satchel, because when the big bear comes everything else is useless. And don't forget to go to www.theworkingtitle.com.

Ashley Rowe: Enjoy this time in your life. Have fun and remember to laugh. When you find yourself, don't ever lose it and find good friends to share every moment with.

Richard Larson: Never Stop.

Rachel Taylor: Don't get so caught up with good grades that you can't have fun. Grades aren't everything.

Amber Rosintoski: Make sure you have an early out your senior year and do your best the first three nine weeks so you can afford to slack off in the end.

Stacy Kinard: Work hard now, for the future is sooner than you think.

Caroline Bailey: Ignore Mr. Cusatis (just kidding). Pay attention, take notes, and read. Cliche, I know, but truth.

Josh Garr: Stick to your work, the fun can wait, it will always be there; your opportunities won't. It is one of the worst lessons to learn the hard way. Most of all, lose the cliques, we are all talented and no one deserves separation because they aren't like you.

Ashley Gaston: Never have regrets.

Anthony Norris: Don't be afraid of change, it happens a lot in life, so just grin and bear it. And if you don't like it, jump the guy who made the changes. Just Kidding!

(continued on p. 9)

Seniors Reflect

Blair James

I remember when I first heard about School of the Arts. I was in seventh grade at Drayton Hall Middle School and there was the application in the guidance office. I was going to try out for vocal and theater, but then just decided on theater. My audition came up and there was this really peppy girl (who I later found out was Michelle Beck) and she signed me in. I did my audition using the monologue "This Property is Condemned" and did an improv with a girl named Amber. A few weeks before school started, I got a call from Mrs. Myers saying that I was accepted and asking me if I still wanted to come to SOA. I told her that I had to ask my mom first, (which seems dumb now but oh well).



The first day of school my mom took me. My first friend was Rissa, who was also a theater major. She showed me around the school, to homeroom and to theater. When theater class came, I sat on the edge of the stage while everyone hugged and "I missed you". I felt a little left out but I also had my guard up because Drayton Hall was more of an in-your-face-I-don't-play-no-games-with-you school. I wasn't used to all of this huggy-huggy, kiss-kiss. Mr. Locklair came in and everyone swarmed to him with hugs and kisses. Our theater teacher was Mrs. Clark and I remember when Fitz Robinson heard it was a female, he said, "Is she fine?"

I got yelled at my first day in English class. I learned that Mrs. Caldwell was a lady who didn't take any mess from anybody and when you came to her class, you'd better be on your best behavior. In science class, we did a carrot experiment. People were hitting each other in the hand with the carrots. Zora Johnson hit me in my hand a little too hard and my palm was swollen. Mrs. Levertte took me to the office, the nurse's office, called the doctor, everything. Well, it ended up that I had a doctor's appointment that day anyway, and when I walked in, Zora was sitting in the waiting room. Her face had shock and dismay. The next day, I went into homeroom and told her that my mom was mad at her and she wanted her mother to pay my doctor bill. Zora gave me her number and I let her go the whole day thinking about what could happen to her. Before we left school for the day, I told her I was kidding and that I had already had a doctor's appointment before the whole incident occurred. We still trip about that.

I had never been around people my age in school who were so close just like a big, integrated family. I was really cautious about who I hung out and socialized with because I was expecting them to flip on me like ordinary people would. One day in theater, Mr. Locklair yelled at me because I would sit by myself and not join all of the other theater majors. He basically scared me into having friends.

Our first major musical was coming up. We performed Oklahoma! at the Gaillard Auditorium and what a pleasant experience that was. I had my first crush in eighth grade: Josh Strickland. Oh man, you could not tell me that boy was not f-y-n-e fyne.

As my years progressed, I made tons of friends, some who are like my family. We've had our times, but we are always there for each other. I can't believe that in 34 days we will be walking across that stage, getting our diplomas, saying goodbye, graduating. When you think about it, it is a lot to handle. We all should be enjoying our last days of high school and being together. I know that's what I'm doing.

Mallory McLane

Art as part of an education is very important; you can tell the difference between SOA and other public schools because of it. The students are well rounded and have better respect for art.

If I were just entering SOA as a 6th grader, I would first scream because I had to start all over again. But really I don't think I would do anything differently, I would try to do more extracurricular activities involved with the school. I believe my experience at SOA has been a beneficial one that I have learned a lot from.

Out of all my teachers, Mr. Pezzeca has taught me the most. I really enjoy science and understand the way he teaches. I find myself at home telling my parents about sponges and tenophores. The class that had the best affect on me would be my independent study in Visual Arts. When I changed majors from Visual Arts to Theatre, I still wanted to paint, so I took it as an elective. Since then my art has really grown because I wasn't confined to still life and self-portraits, all of which are great, but none of them really expressed how I felt.

In 2012, I will be 27 and hopefully Stage Managing on Broadway. If not Broadway, then with a touring company. I would also like to do some design and lighting on the side if possible. I plan to attend college and expand my skills in this area. Then hopefully, I will get an internship and it will all take off from there.

I have been at SOA for four years and I will tell anyone that they were some of the best times I've had. I've met so many great people that I hope will be friends with all my life. When I look over the green grass in the school's lawn, memories from freshman year come to visit and play on the jungle gym and that orange squiggly thing. (No one knows what it's called). The stump at the end of the field, the trees that provide shade for everyone at lunch. The two posts that used to harbor a volleyball net, or nuk'em net, if you were in my PE class. I will miss Krissy and Emily, the only two people who appreciate gaining weight, the theatre crowd for being loud, all the time, and playing cards. The visual arts boys for being my family at this school, 80's rocks, Africa for teaching me about fried chicken. All these things I will miss and cherish because it's what makes SOA great. I love you all.



Angela Shaw

"Oh, I have heard about this class," Mrs. Caldwell said, the first day of 8th grade. From day one, the class of 2002 has been a unique group, full of personality, full of potential, and "full of it!" From sixth grade to twelfth grade, we have grown as artists, thinkers, and individuals. At times the seven years has seemed like an eternity, but now the day we thought would never come has arrived. As the Class of 2002 prepares to graduate I often think about our beginning, our end, and all the memories in between.



In the summer of 1995, Suzanne Justice and I jumped in the beloved "soccer mom" van, with our mothers, to go check out our new school before it opened. We took a picture in front of the construction sign, in our shorts past our knees and "cool" hair styles. We had no idea what this school had in store for us, but we were excited about going where we could be in the band, or the theatre, and take academics classes as well. I will never forget the first day of school at SOA. The bus was late, we had to hold class in the art room, because the air conditioning didn't work in Mrs. Graves room. We read the book *Oh the Places*

You'll Go, and discussed what we would get to do at this "special" school. The teachers put on an impressive performance to introduce themselves in the cafeteria, complete with extra large sunglasses and Hawaiian shirts. From there on out, we realized just how "special" we were.

From "fighting fouls" and "I-messages," we moved along to our Art Smart year, seventh grade. "The Get Down, Get High, Druggie Blues Bad" performance was one of our all time favorites, along with "That's a Fact", and "Rags, Bags, and Boxes". In English with Mrs. Newell, we had some of our best moments, and who could forget sex Ed. with Mrs. Graves, and then there was math with Mr. Rivers, and Science with all 12 of the teachers of the teachers we had that year. Seventh grade was when many of us found heaven in three young guys, who looked like girls. Isaac, Taylor, and Zac were the topic of most of our conversations at school. Hanson pictures wallpapered our rooms and covered our binders. And if we weren't listening to the CD, we were singing it. We had as much fun as we could that year, because next year we had Mrs. Caldwell!

Drill Sargent Caldwell started the year with the rules, and we hit the ground running reading and writing. I remember telling my mom that she was so strict, and I wish I didn't have to go to her class, but by the end of the year we had all become the very best of friends with Mrs. Caldwell. We put on our first school wide production of *Oklahoma!* directed by Marybeth Clark. Eighth grade was also the year of our first and only fight in SOA's history involving two red heads and a tall guy. The Eighth Grade Prom, was also a very important night for us. I went with Joel and Gonzo...enough said.

With middle school behind us, we entered ninth grade ready to rock and roll. We lost some friends to the "real schools," and gained some of our very best friends in ninth grade. We bribed Mr. Shaw with Mt. Dew on days that there was an "opportunity to excel." We learned to revise, revise, revise, revise, revise with Mrs. Yatsco, aka Pocahontas, and had a funeral procession led by Cleopatra (Tizzy). Mrs. Rickson helped us create our geometric gardens full of roller coasters, chocolate pools, and skate parks. Although, most of the memories in ninth grade were from our trip to New York City. We saw Broadway shows, hung out with Carson Daly, and lost Bubba and Bacon.

After visiting New York, in tenth grade we performed *Guys and Dolls*, in which many of us learned to play both a guy and a doll. The "shemales" played a good crap game, and had a blast on and off stage. We had our time with Mrs. Byars, and met Mrs. Ladue with her Mr. Potato head, who changed attire with every chapter we studied.

By the time we reached eleventh grade, we couldn't have been more ready for twelfth. We watched as the first seniors had prom and graduation. At that point we realized that this is all very real, and our school was "all grown up." We anticipated taking that prized place at the top for twelfth grade year.

Now here we are, the seniors, the tip top class, the class of 2002. We are a very close group of friends who have seen each other through all the bad hair, through all the oh-so-fashionable outfits, from boy band to boy band. We have all come a very long way, and I have really learned that the people that truly matter will stick around, and that nothing is more important than finding and remaining true to yourself. After all of these years, I can't possibly imagine going to any other school. Now, we are setting off to college, to accomplish so much more. I will miss everyone dearly, but I will never forget the times I have shared with the students and faculty at the School of the Arts, we truly have something "special."



SOA Freshman earns second degree black belt

Anahita Tipnis, a ninth grader, was awarded a second degree black belt in March from St. Andrew's Parks & Playgrounds. Anahita has studied martial arts since she was six years-old. She says that in addition to enabling her to defend herself, her training has enhanced her strength, flexibility, and confidence. Congratulations, Anahita.

Senior Survey

(continued from p. 7)

James Ulmer: Push yourself to be everything you can and I'm not just speaking academically. Life is so much more than school/work, they're just a portion. Honor your loved ones and yourself; all else is bull. Figure out who you are.

Stacey Jarrell: Keep your grades up! When you need scholarships, you'll regret you ever slacked.

Marina Parol: Be yourself! Don't trust people too fast.

Elizabeth Buck: Don't wish high school away so fast, if you do it will pass too quickly and you won't enjoy it.

Stephen Soles: Keep ya nose clean, stay out o' drugs, do ya milk, stay in school, get eight hours of sleep then you'll feel less slothful.

Kai Revels: Please don't take your senior year lightly.

Katya Demcheva: Try your best, it will pay off later.

Lisa Harvey: Don't be lazy and slack off your senior year. You will regret it. Don't wish it was over so fast, you will miss it when it is all over.

Bubba Bryant: Never underestimate the power of suck-upation.

Christine Colon: Stick with school, you will finish soon enough, then you'll miss high school.

Daniel Earnst: Complaining to Ms. Hamilton does no good.

Rodney Lewis: Get on Mrs. Hamilton's good side.

Meghan Braswell: Devote yourself to your major. Take pride in what you do. Don't try to be someone you're not. And cherish every moment.

Angela Shaw: Don't be afraid to be different.

Jasiri Whipper: Stay focused, work hard in your early years so you can party all the time when you're a senior.

Ellis Bradford: Whatever you do, whether it be academic or social, you have to always be up front and committed. You can never, never, never, never procrastinate.

Deas Richardson IV: Get a life, and/or help.

Courtney Coan: Take Government and Economics during the summer before your senior year, or just do all of her work and don't miss one assignment.

Carol Jordan: You should always travel with deodorant, you never know when you gotta pull it out! And if you do, don't be ashamed! Your classmates will know you're fresh.

Suzanne Justice: Get to know people, you'll learn a lot about yourself through them.

Allison Orvin: Live it up man! Sometimes it's alright not to think twice... be loud, especially when you laugh.

Staci Oliver: Have at least one early out or teacher monitor period, you need time to do your homework at school or you won't do it otherwise.

Sharmetta Sheppard: To accomplish great things, you must not only act but also dream, not only plan but also believe. (Anatole France)

Kristen Gaetke: For all underclassmen, don't wait for the last minute to do something. Believe me, staying up until 3:00 in the morning is not the best way to do an economics project.

Elizabeth Skuhra: Know what you're doing and do it on purpose.

Kari Rikard: Be true to yourself and live every day like it's your last.

Katy Hovis: Concerning college stuff, don't wait until the last minute, it will only stress you out. Work hard but try not to stress too much.

Haley Campbell: Believe it or not, it's the end of the world. People are more important than numbers and they'll be what you remember looking back.

Jennifer Paul: Don't stress. Be responsible but make sure you don't miss out on actually living life: being with your friends and just having fun.

Kristen Granet: Grades really don't change who you are, guys, it's the knowledge you gain leading up to the grade that determines the depth of your experience.

Lydia Sisson: "It's all inside of you (Adam Duritz)." Don't get too stressed. Everything will work out, so just stay true to yourself. Hug at least one person a day.

Carissa Hanagriff: Find the people and things that bring you peace and hold onto them. The rest will fall into place.

Nicole Stasko: Don't procrastinate and don't worry.

Taylor Silver: Remember, you start preparing for college in the 8th or 9th grade. How you do now will determine where you end up.

Teresa Karr: You have to try if you expect to get anywhere in life, you are not special, and people will not take care of you.

Loriel L. Brown: My advice for underclassmen is to have pride in this school because it is really one of the best. I will also reveal a secret, the reason I have been so successful with teachers at this school is because I never talk back and I nod and agree even when I wish they would close their mouths. One thing I've learned is that teachers are like parents; they always want to be right and have the last word. I know it may be hard but just do it. They deserve at least that because they don't get paid that much anyway. (ha ha)

Lori DeNicola: Be yourself. Take everything in stride-don't stress too much, you only live once. You are the only one who can make your dreams come true, don't give up.

Blair James: Keep a positive attitude always. Don't wait until the last minute to do papers and projects. (Although I know you probably won't listen.)

Monicanne Feilds: My advice is to stay on task with your work while you're young and be on your P's and Q's when you get up to Ms. Hamilton's class.

Mallory McLane: Have Fun! If it isn't fun, make it fun, that's the only way to make it through. Also, enjoy Wednesdays... they are the best.

Tamerlyn Greene: Even though it can be difficult, try to stay focused on your future and what you want it to be like. Don't drop out of school: I promise when you become a senior you'll realize that everything you went through was well worth it.

Zora K. Johnson: Stay on task and away from the drama which will only make your years seem longer. Remember, no matter what you may think now, when it's all over and done, you will realize that attending SOA was one of your best experiences.

Tamera Butler: Watch your relationships. Don't let everyone in on your business, it may come back to haunt you.

Vanessa Panerosa: Don't ever let an opportunity pass you by. Regardless of the outcome, seize the day. Don't ever let yourself be the one to wonder "what if...?"

Most Memorable Moment at SOA:

Joel Hamilton: Trying to start a riot in Mrs. Newell's class with Johnny Schulte. She asked us to please sit down.

Ashley Rowe: One day at lunch, I was choking on my food and the only person that came to see if I was okay was Mr. Ritchen. Loriel and Stacy laughed in my face, but I was alright.

Richard Larson: We had the greatest field trips. Could you imagine a bus full of SOA kids?

Rachel Taylor: Too many to choose from. Traci's birthday parties, art field trips, all the musicals, putting off doing the Duck Stamp for 4 years, all the horrible dances in the cafeteria, Mr. K being Mr. K, Switching art teachers too many times, and doing my projects for Mrs. Graves at least twice.

Kelly Blohme: When I performed my senior thesis. At this point I realized there was no going back. Senior thesis...Princess Bride...Tennessee Williams...Mr. Rivers...Mrs. Graves's orange couch...Carowinds...Baby experiment...Peter Pan...fights with Mr. K (my cousin)...Art Smart..., and Last years graduation.

Amber Rosintoski: Any time involving strings, going to NYC and having to keep Laurel awake during it (Miss Saigon), getting the nickname "Coney", getting lost in Columbia at Region Orchestra, having Elizabeth Skuhra as my stand partner, throwing the monkeys across the room, and having to stretch before playing. I love you Liz, Meg, Rich, Ashley, Katy, Laurel, and Ms. Hovis. Thank you for the great memories.

Caroline Bailey: Art Smart was my first production here. I was so scared, up on those tall stairs (which didn't help the fear of heights I had at the time), reciting a poem while interpretive dance was being performed below...What a feeling!

Josh Garr: I haven't had it yet, but I know it will be saying goodbye to a part of me. This school is a part of my life and I couldn't be who I am without it. Also, Mr. K, I'm really gonna miss my first psychotic art teacher.

James Ulmer: Exam week in tenth grade, I had art every morning and no work got done. Bliss and chaos all in a neat little bundle.

Anthony Norris: I remember when the Art room couldn't keep a teacher and when we got Ms. Rappold, a former S.O.A. student, Jason Smith, asked her out. She said No!

Stacey Jarrell: Any and every one of the performances and all of the friends I've made.

Marina Parol: Each astronomy class, when Mr. Murray tells his life and his jokes...

Elizabeth Buck: There are so many, but Lori DeNicola and I in the class "Weave the Word." "Where's my weave cause I don't have any more straws!" -you only know if you were in that class.

Stephen Soles: The time I realized it was a school of arts, for a moment.

Kai Revels: Finding out that I passed government.

Katya Demcheva: That would be graduation in May.

Lisa Harvey: Sitting outside at lunch on a blanket talking with all my friends.

Bubba Bryant: Frolicking about the grassy knole with my fellow pupils.

Christine Colon: Lunches under the tree with Mallory, Sean, David, Alex, Richard, and Philip.

Daniel Earnst: Walking in halls to get out of class.

Meghan Braswell: I have so many memorable moments: Carowinds, "Oklahoma", Magistra Lannie's Latin class in the garage, Mrs. Graves "baby experiment," The Giver, Art Smart, Middle School vocal performances in the cafeteria, movie time in vocal, multiple trips to Disney World, exploratories, Dance/PE Classes, "Recess" Time, Bus rides home, being a mentor to the little kids at Berry Elementary before we took over their school, "pep rallies", The Ghetto, What time is it? "9:30!", the angel appearing when Mrs. Brown sang, 6th grade Christmas musical, stealing Mrs. Phillips flowers, the Fung Yung Song, Canada, Prom 2001, Carnegie Hall. I could go on and on.

Angela Shaw: Standing in the senior parking lot, looking for my car, which was nowhere to be found. 8th Grade Prom: Joel-mohawk-gonzo...you do the math.

Jasiri Whipper: My fight with Fitzgerald Robinson.

Ellis Bradford: My most memorable moments have been Guys and Dolls, Oklahoma, all Sotille performances with the Dance majors, Absolutely anything Kevin Wood did, Car thefts and break-ins here, Running into the ditch with Lisa Harvey, Running gag between Me, Mr. Smyth, Lisa Harvey, and The restroom, 7th grade locking ourselves in Mrs. Slowenski's dressing room, seeing Brian Batten running up and smacking Jessie Nelson, Me and Lori DeNicola Running away from campus, and there are many many more!

Deas Richardson IV: I will never forget my visual art trip to Italy. Standing on the marble steps at the edge of the sea in Piazza San Mario...or making regular stops at the Gelateria just around the corner in Firenze.

Courtney Coan: Sharmetta Sheppard trying to compete against Stacey Heyward in cartwheels and busting her butt.

Suzanne Justice: When we were playing truth or dare in the band room and I had my first kiss with Joel. I was so scared that it took like an hour to convince me to do it and after class I went home sick. Joel dumped me a few days later for not kissing him again. I know he still secretly loves me.

Allison Orvin: Too many- The standing ovation I received after my senior thesis and my dad giving me flowers. I was crying from relief and happiness when I saw all my teachers, friends, and family cheering for me, for something I wrote, produced, and directed.

Staci Oliver: Just talking at lunch with Carrie Baker about anything and everything.

Kristen Gaetke: The New York trip is most definitely my most memorable moment. From throwing snowballs at the Statue of Liberty, to seeing The Phantom of the Opera, my first Broadway musical, to watching Hamadi Brown pole dance in the subway for Mrs. Miles. That trip was the funniest, and most unbelievable thing I have ever done.

Elizabeth Skuhra: Going to New York City: waking up in the cold and walking to Flurry's for breakfast.

Kari Rikard: My first day here when everyone came up to me and said, "Oh you're new, what's your name?"

Katy Hovis: The Italy trip has been my most memorable moment.

Haley Campbell: My most memorable SOA moment was Rissa saving me from the ants after I sat on a box of nerds at lunch in 10th grade.

Jennifer Paul: I will remember *Guys and Dolls* forever. It was magical.

(continued on p. 10)

Go to www.ccsa.com for the 2002-2003 CCSD calendar and for summer reading and supply lists

Seniors Respond

(continued from p.9)

Kristen Granet: There are too many moments about SOA that I found memorable: The Giver project, mirroring , and the lunch song ("I'm hungry, very hungry, I'm empty inside... Me too! Me too! Me too... I'm cookin' in the kitchen, I'm cookin' in the kitchen, I'm cookin' in the kitchen for father bear) with Mrs. Ambrose, Art Smart when we dressed up and sang TLC's "Waterfalls", continental groups with Mrs. Graves, the baby project (who ever thought making a baby out of apples that would rot was a good idea?!?!), when Chris Blalock stuck a paper clip in the electrical outlet and the lights went out, the "growing up book" about where you came from that made Mrs. Leverett cry, New York, "Oklahoma!" , geez... need I go on, I'm starting to miss you guys!

Lydia Sisson: Long talks in French class. Our perfect boy-overalls.

Carissa Hannagriff: The bomb in our hotel room in New York City. The ONE fight ever: two red-heads and a beanpole.

Nicole Stasko: Falling off the sidewalk.

Taylor Silver: The band, orchestra and chorus trip in seventh grade to Disney World was very memorable.

Teresa Karr: Traveling in Italy with the artists. How can one forget wandering Venetian Alleys and walking around Rome in Italian leather jackets with your best friends?

Megan Utsey: In the 11th grade, we went for Thanksgiving dinner to Boone Hall Plantation. It was the coldest day ever. The tractor broke down, Suzanne and I stole a pumpkin pie, and our whole class stood in a circle and sang and danced. "Aposda Beans"- Joel

Loriel Brown: I could say being a lead character in our school musicals, I could say laughing with a friend; however it's neither. In high school every person has that one special person who they fall head over heels for. I met him at this school and he is my first love.

Lori Denicola: GUYS&DOLLS, OKLAHOMA; All Sotillie performers with the dancers, locking ourselves in the dressing room during Mrs. Slowinski's class. All car thefts and break ins, the "ghetto" and "sr. parking lot."

Blair James: 9th grade French I, Chimere stealing our French tests and hiding under the couch and us changing the clock 20 minutes ahead to get out of class early.

Monicanne Fields: My most memorable moment at SOA is in 8th grade. Sharmetta got chased around the school by Emma because Katrina and I locked the Door. LMAO!

Mallory McLane: The 4 years of hollering, or under a tree with Sean, Alex, Andrae, Emily, David, Richard, and Kelsey. Also choosing pudding... Yummy.

Tamerlyn Greene: When Fridays at SOA were free days. We had four 45 minute classes and the rest of the day, we could do whatever.

Zora Johnson: My finger got stuck in my instrument during band and nobody believed me until I sat down on the floor with tears coming down my face, and Mr. Kerr came to the rescue while everybody else laughed.

Vanessa Panerosa: The last day of eighth grade, when we realized who was staying and who was leaving. We discovered that we were the true heart of SOA.

What will you miss about SOA?

Joel Hamilton: I will very dearly miss every person I have come in contact with. I will miss the pep rallies the most . . . I already do.

Ashley Rowe: Walking around school and hearing music in the halls or walking into the art room and seeing people drawing. I will miss seeing what our school is about. I'll also miss seeing the people that I have seen everyday for the past 7 years.

Richard Larson: My friends, major, the relationships that start out as friendships and turned into family. Music and arts brought me to find what was inside of me.

Rachel Taylor: My friends, generally being stupid around them. Traci most of all, of course. They're all my family now.

Kelly Blohme: The friendships that I can never replace whether it be with students, teachers, administrators, the lunch ladies, or Mr. Davis.

Amber Rosintoski: The people, even though most of the time I'd like to ring their necks, they really have become like family. I will also miss having someone to speak Rosinthompsanese with in the hallway and blaring hard core on the way home from school, but most of all, I'll just miss my best friend, Nanda the parabola.

Caroline Bailey: Where do I begin? I'll miss all of my friends, most of my teachers, watching "Princess Bride", and definitely the musicals. I will never grow up and my memories will never grow old.

Josh Garr: Knowing everyone. It's a giant family. Also, Mr. Murray's class; I've never gotten a better education than from him.

James Ulmer: The fun I had with my friends in Visual Arts.

Anthony Norris: . . . LUNCH! It was my favorite period because i got to be with all of my friends . . . that and the food. But seriously I will miss the deep friendships and even the not so deep ones I've made here.

Stacey Jarrell: The people I've met and the fun family setting.

Marina Parol: My astronomy class (!), and my friendships with Nicole and Kimberly and Tessa. (I love you girls!)

Elizabeth Buck: The friends and the teachers I have made connections with. And the Field trips.

Stephen Soles: Its schooliness and its clean restrooms, ahhhh. . . clean restrooms good for the taking and using.

Kai Revels: The small classrooms with big personalities.

Katya Demcheva: My friends and teachers.

Lisa Harvey: I will miss all of the performances.

Bubba Bryant: My freedom in school.

Christine Colon: All the people who made SOA. . . well, SOA.

Daniel Earnst: My freedom to do whatever I want.

Dan Erickson: My classmates were very nice.

Rodney Lewis: "Roaming in the halls"

Meghan Braswell: The people. I will miss walking down the hallway and not only recognizing, but knowing the people I pass.

Angela Shaw: The friends who have loved me through all my hairstyles.

Jasiri Whipper: The close knit environment, and the relaxed nature of the school.

Ellis Bradford: I'll definitely miss the teachers who have been so nice to me and have made classes fun. Mr. Smyth, your class has been the funniest math class i have ever had and probably ever will have. Mrs. Awkerman, I'm sorry for picking on you all the time but it was just fun. You have definitely been very understanding with all of my computer issues. You know you're gonna hear from me after high school. Ms. Slowinski, you have been

with me since day one here at SOA. Through all our years together, I have always thought of you as a good friend. I'm gonna miss you so much. Also, I'm gonna miss seeing all of my friends on a daily basis.

Deas Richardson: The atmosphere, the people, the goofing off. Everything.

Courtney Coan: The laughs and the cries. The overall bond that we share. it's hard saying goodbye but we gotta go. But the friendship remains.

Carol Jordan: I can't say exactly who I'll miss, but I sure will miss the atmosphere.

Suzanne Justice: Time to do whatever you want with whoever you want.

Allison Orvin: I'll miss knowing everyone's faces, free lunch 'cause my dad works here, the Ang and Al show. Theater with Block-O, Lock, Mrs. Kay's room with Yannick rapping, the musicals when school shuts down, quirky teachers like Mrs. Lannie, The Mastah- Daddy Knows! Malapropes, the song from theater, roaming the hallways with Tommy, the fear of my thumb, planning the weekend, meeting in the cracked out parking lot to be bad, Jessica Gaskins and I as horses, the obsession with Joel and Johnny, hanging on CoCo, New York and loosing Bubba and Bacon, Mrs Lannie's garage with the haunted bathroom with rats, climbing trees, Mrs Newell's class and her monopoly rules "Do not pass Go," art room being the cafeteria, the autistic kids, Emma, Vanay and I doing impressions of teachers, Mrs. Margiotta's class. . . just watching "Gone with The Wind," the bad kid parking lot, being tardy my whole senior year.

Staci Oliver: Having a class I was allowed to do nothing in and getting a grade for it (Teacher Monitor).

Sharmetta Sheppard: The many friendships I have developed. Some have grown over the years, while others dwindled. Just like the years of high school, friends come and go, but there will always be that special someone(s) always there by your side.

Kristen Gaetke: The people here, students and teachers, and the close knit relationship we have with one another. I will miss knowing everyone around me.

Elizabeth Skuhra: The overwhelming talent that every individual at SOA encompasses.

Kari Rikard: Caroline Davenport

Katy Hovis: My friends and teachers that I have grown close to over the past 7 years.

Haley Cambell: The safety of SOA and all the people I've grown up with.

Jennifer Paul: The acceptance people are willing to give. I will miss being around those who feel just as passionate about the arts and beauty as i do.

Kristen Granet: The things that I'll miss most about SOA are the people and atmosphere. I know that while you're attending SOA, you don't realize how awesome it is to be going to school with so many people that enjoy the things you enjoy, like the things you like, and share a similar passion for the arts in some way, shape, or form. We're gonna look back one day and remember what we had in this "family" and be grateful for the time that each of us shared with one another, bettering them as a person and helping them to grow as an artist.

Lydia Sisson: Sitting out in the sun with friends.

Carissa Hanagriff: Being able to curl up in the grass, headphones on, and sleep away my stress. I'm gonna get walked on in college.

Nicole Stasko: The small atmosphere and Mrs. Miles.

Taylor Silver: My childhood.

Teresa Karr: Relaxing in the art room with friends. Relaxing just about anywhere, actually. Notice how "school-work" appears nowhere in here.

Megan Utsey: I'll never have the freedom that I had at SOA any place else.

Loriel Brown: I will miss the family environment and most importantly, I will miss Choral.

Lori DeNicola: The Sotille performances with the dancers, Mrs. Slowinski's class, and Mrs. Slowinski! You have been more than a great teacher to us, you are our friend. We love you! Mrs. Awkerman!!! I'm sorry for driving you crazy, I'll never forget you or your class- lots of laughs. And to all my friends I'll miss you, our memories are forever. I love you guys.

Blair James: Being around my friends.

Monicanne Fields: I'll miss the dance majors and performing the most. Mrs. Slowinski's class, Danielle's wired choreography, Cora's Big mouth, Bea's abusive ways, Danielle's many stories, Deirdre and Diamond, Dr. Parkers hot class, the little red man and most of all, the class of 2002.

Mallory McLane: Everything! I don't think people realize how lucky you are to go here until you leave.

Tamerlyn Greene: The friendships that I've developed with the people here and the friendships that are still growing; Mr. Ritchen and Mr. Kerr.: Mr. Ritchen for a good start in band and continuing to check up on us and Mr. Kerr for polishing our skills and helping us with everything, from band to academics, as best as he could.

Zora Johnson: I will miss my school family that I have grown to love (teachers and students) and I will miss looking forward to the day it would all be over, because now I have to start over in college.

Tamara Butler: I'll probably miss my creative writing class, although we didn't get along all the time, with 7 females in one room, any and everything happened.

Vanessa Panerosa: The memories of vocal trips from middle school, "One, two, three-Movie," friends and parties, Mr. Shaw's class, Mr. River's class, Mrs. Yatsco's class. Movie night.

Contessa Gadsen: Dr. Parker's class, My Pals: Tiffany, Ryan, Christina, Marina, Caroline, Stacy K., Marty Joniesha, Steeven, Ira, and Mrs. Marshall.

Seniors recall their favorite concerts and compact discs during their SOA years

Concerts

1. Jump Little Children
2. N*SYNC
3. The Working Title

Compact Discs

1. Jump Little Children - *Vertigo*
2. Counting Crows - *August and Everything After*
3. Linkin Park - *Hybrid Theory*, Ludicrous - *Word of Mouf* (tie)

Seniors Reflect

Deas Richardson

In 2002, I graduated from the Charleston County School of the Arts. I made a last minute, but confident decision to attend Furman University. My twin sister, Emily, also joined me in the freshman ranks at Furman. I entered my undergraduate studies somewhat undecided on my major. After some time and lots of question asking, I chose to major in International Business. I was afforded the opportunity to study abroad, and toured the Eastern Hemisphere, touching major countries of interest on my way. After graduating with a Bachelor's degree I took another step toward my final goal. I entered Full Sail Digital Media School in Winterpark, Florida in 2006. In 2008, I graduated with a Master's degree in Digital Cinematography. I immediately began work for my favorite television stations from childhood, Discovery and TLC, which are owned by the same corporation. I traveled overseas and shot on location for special features and I was promoted to take charge of a series dealing with new technologies being developed by foreign scientists in association with the International Space Station. In 2011, I was looking for a change of pace, and joined up in a relatively small field of cameramen. I went to work filming new IMAX features. Large format cinema required me to relearn a lot of the traditional film-making process when applied to the modified and specialized equipment. In 2012, I will begin drafting blueprints for a high speed camera meant to mimic the eye movements of human beings, as well as plans for a shield and weight system which would serve as the vehicle for my next project. At the end of my current production, I will have introduced "stream-of-consciousness" film-making, and I will have the first complete footage of the complete journey of free fall, from orbit around the earth, through her atmosphere, and to the ground. This could be the start of a new genre of large format films, and films in general. I hope they call me a pioneer.



Jeremy Goodwyne

My years at School of the Arts have been very limited as this is my first and last year here. I began SOA in the fall of 2001, and I knew very few people. I did, however, know a small group that I had hung out with over the summer. This group of friends was incredibly helpful to me, as was everyone else. This is a school where you can ask people questions and not worry about them going crazy on you. So, because the SOA campus is so strangely shaped, I got lost very easily, and it took me like a month and a half to learn my way around. Sure enough, however, I never missed a class because the people at SOA were always nice enough to show me around even for the 37th time.

I have made very many close friends in my limited time at SOA. These friendships, I think, will be quite long term, and the people I have made them with are incredible. I can surely say I am a totally different person than I was when I

entered the school in 2001. I feel I have matured greatly from my experiences, and I hope my friends have matured from their experiences with me.

Going to a school that really focuses on my artistic need has helped me tremendously. When I started in the fall, I really didn't know the first technical thing about music. I knew I had a talent and I sang a lot, but I definitely could not read music at all. Being in Mr. Varner's class one hundred minutes a day cured me of this very quickly. Because of his dedication, I know quite a bit of theory, and I can read music no problem. I scored a 10 out of 10 on my sight reading selection at All-State, and I wouldn't have done nearly that good this time last year.

I owe a lot in my life to this school and what it offers, especially in the artistic aspect of it. I plan on doing something with this knowledge when I graduate college.

Taylor Silver

I guess this is more of a letter, and less of an essay. It was really the only way I could express how I feel.

Mr. Ritchen,

I want to thank you for your years of hard work and dedication towards the education of young people. Countless hours, countless headaches (care of Amadeus and percussion sections everywhere), and countless enlightening talks show how much you have given up for us. You are one of the finest music educators I have ever had, and anyone who has had the pleasure of studying under you not only acquired a firm musical knowledge, but also developed, or at least I did, a supreme love for music in general. There are a lot of people who can teach kids to play music, but it takes someone special to make them appreciate and enjoy what they are playing.

You are one in million Mr. Ritchen, and I couldn't have picked a better person to graduate with. You are the one I will miss the most. Have a long healthy retirement; you deserve it.

-Taylor Silver



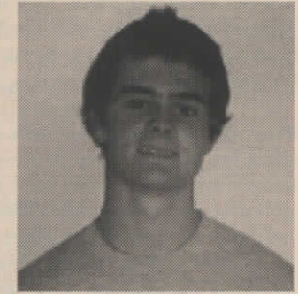
Dan Erickson

The past four years of my life in high school have been incredible. I don't owe this entirely to SOA, but there are a couple of things I am thankful for having that I may not have gotten anywhere else.

What got me interested in SOA was the idea of having a major, something to focus on. Music has been the most important thing in my life for a long time and I'm glad I got to go to a school where I could do it all the time. Without music I would be incomplete and unhappy.

Another thing I enjoyed about SOA was how friendly all the students were. There is a sense of unity here that I have never seen at any other school. That is an incredible trait that a few schools have and we should be thankful for.

In general, SOA was a good high school for me. I got things here that I wouldn't have gotten anywhere else, however I always wonder what it would have been like to go to Wando. In conclusion, SOA was great for me because it supported me with what I love to do and the people kept me in good spirits.



Staci Oliver

Before entering SOA in the 9th grade, I hated math. It was difficult and confusing. My teachers wouldn't help anyone in class or outside of class; they didn't care one way or the other if you passed or failed. During class was what made understanding so difficult, instead of going over examples to show us how to work the problems, they read to us out of the book. Therefore, when I entered SOA I was not looking forward to retaking Algebra because I thought that was how all math classes were taught, yet I knew it was inevitable. I decided to just try to remember anything that would help me this year. By the end of 9th grade, I was one of the top students in my math class and understood what was going on. Once I entered Algebra II, I was confident in my ability to do

and help others in math. As the year progressed Mrs. Tilton's style of teaching served to further my love of the subject even more. By the end of this year I was again at the top of my math class. Math had become fun and enjoyable, not to mention, easy! I knew what was going on and this knowledge gave me confidence in myself and as a student. Mrs. Tilton as a teacher and a person helped to cement my plans of being a teacher. She showed me that there are good teachers and that I would like to try to be one of those teachers. I have decided I want to teach elementary to try to help instill a love of school in children from the start. I want to be the elementary teacher that I never had, a teacher who has confidence in my students and their ability.

Through this year, I have maintained my rank as first in my math class and continue to enjoy talking and learning from Mrs. Tilton. I am now registered for classes in the fall at Charleston Southern University. I have already been able to declare my major as elementary education so that I can hopefully help children enjoy school from the beginning and not have to start at the end.

Dwan Miller

A teacher that has had a strong impact on me in everyway is Mrs. Cecilia Slowinski. Slowinski saw a spark of talent in me that was never seen before. I was accepted to SOA with no dance experience. She would work with me during summer breaks, encourage me to do different things, gave me corrections, and just showed she really believed in me. The reason she has a strong impact on me because she acts as a second mother. Mrs. Slowinski goes out of her way to help students succeed, dealing with both dance and academics.

I remember my summer classes with Mrs. Slowinski, every other day I would go downtown in her huge house (which had a dance room) and I would get private lessons. "Tuck that butt in," "stand up straight," "point your feet" she would yell constantly. Well at the time I wasn't so fond of all that yelling she would do, but now that I look back on it, I'm glad she did. After a couple of summers working with her she advise that I start going to summer programs. For two years she had me audition for South Carolina Governors School of Arts and I made it in. Mrs. Slowinski pushed me and encourage me so much that I would refuse to fail because I didn't want to let her down.

Years after years the same thing "Mrs. Slowinski I don't want to dance today." If Mrs. Slowinski could receive money for every time a student would say that she would be a millionaire. Mrs. Slowinski pushes each of her students to the limit and she doesn't fall for those sorry excuses to get out of class either.

The person within Mrs. Cecilia Slowinski is the greatest thing. All of her students look up to her as a teacher, but for the few that's been with her since the school began found a friend. Mrs. Slowinski is that kind of person that will play around with you and then put you straight to work. She is one that you can talk to about any problem and she would try to find a way to help you through it. Mrs. Slowinski is an overly lovable person. I will cherish the day I met Mrs. Slowinski for all eternity.

Thank you for everything Mrs. Cecilia Slowinski.
Love Always,
Dwan Miller



Visit SOA on the web at
www.ccsa.com

Seniors Reflect

Meghan Braswell

I get asked all the time if I wish I had gone to a "normal" high school. There was a time, back in middle school when I may have responded yes. But now, after spending seven years at SOA, I know that I would not have wanted to be anywhere else. To me, SOA has been a "normal" high school experience, its been all I've ever known.

SOA has taught me to have an appreciation for all areas of art. From movie days to solfege, my vocal classes have strengthened my skills and given me a deep appreciation for all types of music. The Chorale has become my family. I don't know what I am going to do without my alto girls next year. All the trips to Disney World, Canada and New York have only made us closer. I can't believe all the opportunities that have been given to me, such as chances to sing at music festivals, with professional singers at Carnegie Hall. I've had so many experiences that I will never forget.

I truly believe that I would be a completely different person if I hadn't grown up at SOA. I've learned so many lessons over my time here. There have been teachers, classes and friends who have made huge impacts on my life and will never be forgotten. Thanks to all those people and to SOA for helping make me who I am.



Kai Revels

The years that you spend in high school are the most memorable years of your life. While I didn't get the experience of being with the same group of friends for the full four years, it has still been a good one that will stay with me for the rest of my life.

My years of high school started in Queens, New York, with about one and a half thousand students. The classes were large with only a short period of time to get everything taught to the students. The classes lasted for forty-two minutes with thirty-plus students. Even with all of the madness the education was a good one.

As time progressed I always yearned for a large school that gave students the attention that was needed for them to succeed in life. For a moment I believed that I was there. That changing year of 2000 when I started SOA was my breakthrough. All I saw when I came to

the school was the size of the campus. There was also my older cousin Hamadi who told me about the one-on-one attention that the students received. I thought I was in heaven. On top of all that, I soon realized that this school was also focused on majors. My major, being vocal, gave me a better reason to sing all day without a care in the world.

My first day of class was... different. I had a run in with the teacher of my favorite class (Vocal) first thing in the morning. After that day I felt this was not the school for me but new friends made me stay to finish out my last two years of high school.

The people here are in a world all of their own. They have been here for six to seven years and at times they seem so distant from everyone else in the world. The school since I've been here has been a changing school. We have taken a hard yet easy going teacher out of retirement and produced three new additions to the world.

If I had a chance to trade my years at SOA, I would decline. The teachers, especially my English teachers have changed my life. Ms. Marshall, my Junior Speech and English teacher has always hounded me on the way I say the word "ask," which I have finally been able to control, and Dr. Parker, who was there to edit and re-edit my college essays, have changed my life forever. One other major highlight was going to school with my cousin Hamadi that everyone thought was my boyfriend. I would not change any of it for the world.

Tamera Carroll

Spending any time here at SOA will change your life dramatically. Before I came here, I was the shyest person you could meet. The day in 5th grade that I found out about auditions for this new school, I knew it was the place for me.

My mother was amazed. I wanted to audition for theater even though I could barely stand before my family and speak. The day before auditions, I had a bad cold and a 103 degree fever. The next day, my cold went away and I was able to audition.

Auditions went well, I had fun and started to learn how to open up. When the letter came in the mail, I was disappointed to learn that I did not make it, but was excited to learn that I was first on the waiting list. My 6th grade year started off at Alice Berney Middle. Then, the day before Halloween, I got the call. A girl had moved, so there was an open slot for me.

I entered SOA on October 31, 1995. It was the most terrifying day of my life. Everyone was in costumes, and that was how I remembered who they were. I still remember Katy Hovis (the M&M) and Suzanne Justice (who came dressed as a nerd). The next couple of years were the worst of my life. I had maybe three friends, was not accepted and was made fun of every day. Then in 8th grade I "blossomed", as Josh Garr put it. I lost weight, grew taller, and opened up. I made many friends that year, even with those who seemingly hated me before. Suddenly everyone was nicer to everyone else. People were coming together in a way I had never seen before. This has only progressed here in the past five years.

Now, I feel like I am friends with everyone. I can talk to anyone, be an idiot, or act "blonde" and not care. I have learned through the years that what everyone thinks does not matter. If I am myself, not someone else, then life will be much happier. SOA brings this out in everyone, and now we're all one big, happy family.



Megan Utsey

Throughout my seven years at SOA, I've had a number of events and people who have impacted my life. Some teachers have made a lasting impression on my life. One teacher has affected me more than anyone else. That teacher is Ms. Hovis.

Sixth grade started it all. Ms. Hovis became a second mother to me. Not just in school, but out of school, too. She took Katy and I to my first concert to see Jump Little Children with the Charleston Symphony Orchestra. That night was one of the best nights of my life. In the seventh grade, she let me sleep on her couch when I had my ulcer and the pain was too unbearable to go to class. We went to Savannah this year to see a famous violinist, Mark O'Connor. But that wasn't the highlight of my trip. The ride home with Ms. Hovis, Katy, Richard, and Laurel was the best part. We all sang along with the Beatles and told ghost stories.

Sometimes I felt that Ms. Hovis was a little too hard on me. But she only wanted me to succeed. And I wouldn't have, if it had not been for her. A lot of people get satisfaction from different things. But I got my satisfaction from playing a piece of music that we worked hard on and seeing Ms. Hovis smile. At that moment, I saw how proud she was of us, and I couldn't have been more proud of myself.



Erin Haggerty

I came to this school the year it opened as a lonely little girl struggling to define herself. After never having really stellar friends, I was hoping to settle in with a few people that I would feel comfortable with.

In the sixth grade, I met Crystal Garner and Kate Covington, who were both strings majors. Neither were very popular, and both were considered to be quite different from the rest of the students. Crystal was one of those girls who did not seem to follow the social guidelines set by her peers. She dressed as she wished and wore no makeup. She always had something interesting to talk about and showed rather interesting perspectives at times. Kate Covington was an energetic girl and a phenomenal violinist. She could switch from hyper to focused in seconds when it came to music. Kate was also a wonderful source of conversation as she had many incredible

insights. Neither Crystal nor Kate continued at the School of the Arts, and I have not heard from them since, except for Crystal calling me two summers ago to say she had moved to Reno, Nevada. I look back and wish I'd made better efforts to keep in touch, because I hate not knowing how they are doing.

I kept the same group of friends throughout seventh and eighth grade. By then, my personal style had begun to change. I had finally ditched the clothes my grandmother thought I looked nice, and began to wear what I thought I looked good in. With a good set of friends, my self esteem was heightened and I felt more free to express myself through my dress and attitude. In seventh and eighth grade, I still received verbal beatings from several peers at school and even squeezed out a tear or two. My main problem all along was that I'd become so sensitive to people's rude remarks and could rarely stop others from hurting my feelings.

Eighth grade brought an old friend of mine to the School of the Arts, and I spent that year with her and another friend that I surprisingly still had from the year before. Our small group of three had begun well, but by the end of the year, I was ready to call it quits. I finally did just that as a freshman in high school at SOA. I was able to make a slide from one friend to another, as the new school year brought new students to SOA. Emily Moebes was my great find that year.

I remember the first day I met Emily. We had Physical Science together and she was sitting across the room from me. I remember glancing at her and thinking, "Snob. Prep. Beauty Queen." I knew at that moment that I could never be friends with her. Our personalities would clash. I found it interesting to hear from her later that her first impression of me was that I was a "punk" and probably didn't hang out with people like her. Our views on each other were allied in the next class, as we were paired together with Ms. Tisdale. Emily and I were paired together in an exercise that would "help us get to know each other." As it turned out, Emily and I had quite a lot in common. She and I have been friends since. I realized a little later that Emily Moebes had been friends with Emily Wahrer, who had come to SOA the year before, for many years. Emily Wahrer and I took another year or so to come to an understanding.

Somehow I have managed to keep both Emily's as friends for the past two years, even though I often wonder how the heck I ever had any interest in the "weirdos."

Still, if I'd never come to SOA, I would have never made such great friends

Kimberly Cozart

Although I have not attended School of the Arts since its inception, the school has had a profound impact on me. When I first moved to the Charleston area and had no creative outlet, I was miserable. I wanted a place where I could learn and grow as an artist and as a person; then I discovered SOA. What attracted me to the school as an outsider looking in was the open environment which encapsulated both the academics and the arts. The camaraderie at SOA created a true feeling of family which has yet to diminish.

Attending SOA has made me realize how much I value singing and how fortunate I am to be surrounded by talented students who are as dedicated to their art as I am. Few realize the creative energy and endurance required to become a competent artist; it takes hard work, determination, and the support of inspiring teachers to share their abilities. The teachers care about molding the student body into productive, talented artists who will contribute to society. I have yet to meet a student, teacher, or faculty member who I have not felt genuinely wanted to be there.

SOA has made me a better person and has left a lasting imprint. I have gained valuable knowledge which will aid me in future endeavors. As the palindrome class of 2002 embarks on the great journey of life beyond high school, I am glad SOA was more than a pit stop.

Question of the Month



"I'm going to Rome."
-Elizabeth Johnson, 7th grade



"I'm a counselor at Camp Ferndale."
- Inez Washington

What are
your
summer
plans?



"I'm spending my whole summer at band camp, sound exciting?"
-Luke Reed, 10th grade



"I'm cruising the Bahamas."
-Melissa Mosier, 11th grade



SOA Dancers
Congratulations & best wishes for the future to the five best dancers in Charleston. We will miss watching you perform.

Love,
Mom & Pop DeNicola

Lori DeNicola
Congratulations to Lori Denicola. We wish you the very best of luck, for a happy, healthy, & successful future. Follow your dreams, have confidence in yourself & you will always succeed. We are proud of you & we love you very much.

Mom, Dad, Michael, Vinny & "Peanut"



Theater 2001-2002

Two words: Senior Thesis by Allison Orvin

Roaring applause echoed through the buildings on the nights of March 26, 27, and 28. These standing ovations marked the finale of the senior theater majors thesis shows.

At the end of our junior year, **Mr. Locklair** asked for us to turn in ideas for our one-person shows. Topics were thrown around and finally settled on. By the fall of our senior year we sat down to write scripts ranging from avant guard pieces to biographies. We were told that ten pages equals thirty minutes and we had to enlist a mentor and a junior to be our stage managers.

It wasn't like we were thrown to the wolves though. We had Mr. Locklair, Block'O Wood (as we affectionately call **Mr. Wood**), and **Mr. Younts** to guide us through this artistic process. After we wrote our master pieces, I think we forgot we had to actually memorize all of it. Weeks were spent pacing the hallways, getting frustrated and yelling at each other. Finally, the shows went up. We had the "Motley Crue" night, "Worship Night", and "The Love Fest Night".

All juniors and seniors were backstage every night and we circled up and sung our theme song "All night, All day". Hugs were exchanged and pictures were snapped to chronicle this important event in all of our fourteen lives. Each of us went on stage after the warm and tearful welcome from Mr. Locklair. Our peers, families, mentors, and teachers filled the audience and supplied support. Our seven years of fine theater training showed through as we closed yet another chapter in the book of our lives.

I think all of the senior theater majors will agree that the experience was nerve racking, but worth it.

"Josephine Baker, Une Vie de Toutes Les Couleurs; A Life of Many Colors," was excellently performed by **Sharmetta Sheppard**. She sauntered on stage as the great entertainer, capturing the audience with music of the 20s. Sharmetta said her favorite part of the experience was "Performing it and being able to work with my stage managers Tawana Tolbert and Mallory Lipton."

Mr. Locklair had to say that "This year's were successful and we are growing every year." Yeah, Lock we know we're the best.

Rissa Hanagriff lightheartedly expressed that her attitude turned when she realized "The moment I was actually going to do this in front of people and that it wasn't going to suck." And her show "AIDS, Love, and Other Four Letter Words" certainly didn't and had a powerful message of awareness and acceptance.

Of course we got this comment out of **Blair James** on her performance "I think Janet would be pleased." Blair James performed a dedicated piece to her idol Janet Jackson "Janet Jackson, InCONtrol: A tribute to my idol", complete with power point and media.

Tamera Carroll's show, "What's Next?" informatively dealt with the rapture and explored other religions. Tamera said the best moment of her show was when she said her last line and saw her mentor smiling back at her from backstage.

"The final scene where the spotlight was on me and I had signed what I had learned all year," was **Angela Shaw's** favorite part because she actually incorporated her love of sign language into her show "Where Do We Go From Hear?" and made this a step in the direction of her career as an interpreter.

Kelly Blohme's show "Don't Tell Me No," a dramatic show about Susan B. Anthony and the fight for women's rights, commented that all her hard work paid off and her show sure showed it!

When asked what was the most painful part of the shows, I knew to track down **Caroline Bailey** who was transformed into Andy Kaufmann for her show, "Andy Did You Hear About This One?" "Ripping off those horrible side burns for an hour and a half backstage hurt just a bit." The things we do for Theater!

When my dad came on stage after my bow and handed me a bouquet, I knew that I had made him proud and that my show was for him and for the music that he loves. My show was "Wanna Take You Higher: The Spirit of Woodstock."

All of the seniors are happy we did it but extremely glad it's over, especially **Daniel Earnst** who performed "And All Was Well: with **Bacon Batten** and **Bubba Bryant**, a heavy show dealing with psychology and schizophrenia. "I'm glad it's finally over and I really enjoyed the experience, except I wanted to kick Bubba over and over again." He is such a funny guy!

And then the other limb of the tree of fools, Bacon Batten, "I liked being in my underwear on stage. Bubba almost single handedly ruined our senior thesis, but I beat him to it." These kids!

Courtney Coan's comedic drama, "It Takes A Village To Raise A Child" dealt with parenting and family problems, such as teen pregnancy. I felt relieved and that a load was off my back," Courtney said after she was done.

Tommy Aspinwall, when caught for a comment after his show "Untitled" was done exclaimed, "I'm alive again!" Take it or leave it, gotta love him!

Mallory McLane learned a little something from her directing experience of "Dirty Laundry", a show in which a man is in love with a washing machine. "Yes, I know now that I am not a director, I'm a techie!"

Kayla Morrisey, a junior, who was in Mallory's show said, "We all had a good time. It means a lot that I got to work with the seniors before they leave."

"By seeing the seniors perform, it made me realize that I'll be up there in two years and I am scared silly!" responded sophomore **Cora Butler**.

Ivan Flood, a junior, was in Courtney Coan's show and helped out as always, "Seniors this year got me fired up for mine next year!" I couldn't tell if he was being sarcastic.

Jasiri Whipper, a visual arts senior, said that he was very proud to see his friend's work come together

The senior theses are finished and we are almost finished at School of the Arts. We've learned so much about theater, but most importantly about life and how to deal with hyper-active Bubba, how to laugh when Mr. Wood is a screaming mimi, how to just yell and pull your hair out like Tommy. To my Theater teachers, I thank you in our lessons of life, and to my fellow classmates, GET 'EM!



Seniors Reflect



Elizabeth Skuhra

...To a New Beginning

Walking into St. Andrews Elementary School I was nervous. This was my first audition and I wasn't quite sure what it involved. As I carefully played the last notes of French Folk Song on my red stained, less than perfect violin, I wasn't completely pleased with my performance; I was no virtuoso violinist. Weeks later I received a letter in the mail that I was accepted. They thought I was good enough, after only about four months of violin lessons.

Sixth grade was exciting. Every Friday, last period, everyone was pretty much free to relax and have fun. I would go outside with my friends while we ran around and made

flower crowns and talked about getting our ears pierced. I felt special being somewhere that was so new. Of course there were the occasional critics naming School of the Arts "the song and dance school" but it was more than that and it only took time before they were proven wrong. Each year that I completed at SOA, I excelled at the violin while also being challenged by the slightly more difficult classes. Teachers propelled me to think abstractly and to examine different view points of all areas. I gained the experience of being involved in three major productions including Oklahoma, Guys and Dolls, and most recently, Peter Pan.

SOA tries to give its students the feel of a real middle school and high school experience with pep rallies and cheerleaders, even though we had no football team to cheer for; however, it was not like a normal high school and couldn't compare. SOA provides an atmosphere where students can excel in what they love to do during school and show others what they have to offer. I am now about to graduate and soon attend The College of Charleston. The experience is bittersweet; I'm glad to be graduating but sad that I'm leaving a place that has been my life for six years. I won't be attending The School of the Arts anymore but I am honored to have had the chance to be part of such an admirable school and will be always watching from the sidelines.

Bubba Bryant

When I first arrived at this school, I found that education isn't just a sometime thing, it's an all time thing. I have always been learning things since the day I stepped foot inside the School of the Arts. I value all of the knowledge I have gained about theater and all the other subjects I have studied at this school. If I could go back and start this school over again at the sixth grade, I would lobby to make School of the Arts an athletic institution as well as an art one. A teacher that has had a strong impact on me would be Mr. Pezzeca. Not only has he taught me the difference between tenophores and jelly fish, but he has taught me the life long lesson to be happy in whatever I do. He also sings Ricky Martin really well and looks like him. In ten years I hope to be pursuing a career in National Geographic picture taking. I have always been intrigued by the Norwegian Larks flight. I hope to specialize in their photography. I plan on making this happen by years worth of dedication to my camera and my keen eye for spotting the swift fowl. In my years of attending this school I have learned many valuable lessons, many of which have passed my memory, but all of which have had some affect on me. I am a Pegasus for life. Go SOA.



Marina Parol

I remember the first day of school. It was only nine months ago. I would have arrived in the United States four hours ago.

I arrived at the front of the school. I saw the big sign "School of the Arts". What? Art was synonymous with imagination, creation, the extreme, inordinate, special, different, outgoing, extravagant.... I didn't want to go there. As a French exchange student, I was already different. I was scared.

I walked into the garden surrounded by cactus made out of recycling, flowers made out of plastic....Strange...I opened the heavy door. I was surprised. No electric doors...I thought that America was the most advanced country in technology...Where was I? All my thoughts about school and technology fell into a black hole after two minutes. I was at the entrance, still thinking that it was a nightmare. A lady saw my anxiety. She talked to me. She was asking me all these questions. I just answered to one of them, hopefully. I was sure that she was asking me about my dog. So, I told her my last story with my dog. The one when a crepe fell on my head (it is another story!), and my little dog jumped and ate it, but he probably liked it so much that he began to eat my HAIR!!! My story made no sense. First, I was speaking in French and second, she wasn't talking about my dog, but about my schedule. After a while, I went to class. Here is another story: I was in the 9th grade. I WANTED TO BE A SENIOR!!! I was getting crazy.

As you can see my first day at SOA wasn't THAT great. All the more so since I took the wrong bus to go home... I could qualify that experience as disastrous. But each experience was good to take. I learned something important from each of them. I don't think that I would have learned as much at another school. I have gained so much maturity, I understand human nature better, and I am more tolerant...

This is thanks to all the people from SOA. Each student and each teacher taught me something. SOA students are great. It's true that they are extravagant, open and different, and this is the most wonderful thing. Also, everybody accepts the difference at the point that I never felt THAT different. I was accepted from the beginning. For me it was a shock to see all these nice people! On the contrary of my first day, I lived a dream all year long! So I thought that it was the same in all American high school. No...SOA makes people this way. This is magical to know that you are welcome even if nobody knows you. This is a sign of opening, generosity, kindness and warmth...

As for my teachers, they are so different from my teachers in France in the way that they can teach you and at the same time be nice, make you laugh, be tolerant, be easy, be cool...

Well, I had a really good time here. I changed a lot and I think in a good way. Now I feel creative, imaginative, special, outgoing, extravagant...just great...just an SOA student!!!



Congratulations to SOA Class of 2002 Salutatorians Katy Hovis and Mary Ann Snyder



Congratulations SOA Class of 2002!

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Charleston

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Class Code: SACR2099

Preparation for the 10/12/02 SAT

1	Mon 6/3	9am
2	Tue 6/4	9am
3	Wed 6/5	9am
4	Thu 6/6	9am
5	Mon 6/10	9am
6	Tue 6/11	9am
7/Test	Wed 6/12	9am
8	Thu 6/13	9am
9	Mon 6/17	9am
10	Tue 6/18	9am
11/Test	Wed 6/19	9am
12	Thu 6/20	9am

Charleston

1650 Sam Rittenburg Boulevard

Class Code: SACR2098

Preparation for the 10/12/02 SAT

1	Mon 7/8	9am
2	Tue 7/9	9am
3	Wed 7/10	9am
4	Thu 7/11	9am
5	Mon 7/15	9am
6	Tue 7/16	9am
7/Test	Wed 7/17	9am
8	Thu 7/18	9am
9	Mon 7/22	9am
10	Tue 7/23	9am
11/Test	Wed 7/24	9am
12	Thu 7/25	9am

Congratulations



Kelly Blohme

Kelly,
CONGRATULATIONS!!! We are so proud of you. Life is a great joy because of you.

We love you!
 Dad and Mom



Ellis Bradford

Ellis,
 As you take you last curtain call and gracefully bow out of SOA, know that your inspired choreography of thought, deed, and action will continue to make us proud as you perform the dance of life.

We applaud you!
 Love,
 Mom, Dad & Reed

Lisa Harvey

Lisa,
 It's hard to believe graduation day is really here and you'll be heading to college in a few months. We'll miss you when you're a Carolina Girl. We are so proud of you and wish you happiness and success in the future in whatever you choose to do.

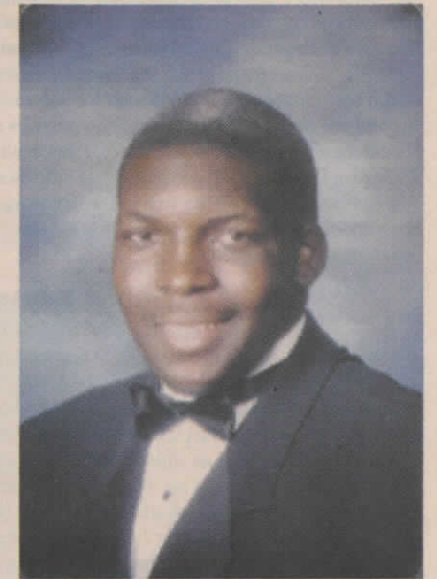
Love always,
 Mom & Dad



Rodney Lewis

Dream what you want to dream
 Go where you want to go
 Be what you want to be
 Because you have only one life and
 One chance to do all the things you
 Want to do.

May God Bless You Always
 Congratulations! Rodney &
 Class of 2002
 Love Mom, Dad
 Jerell & Kendra

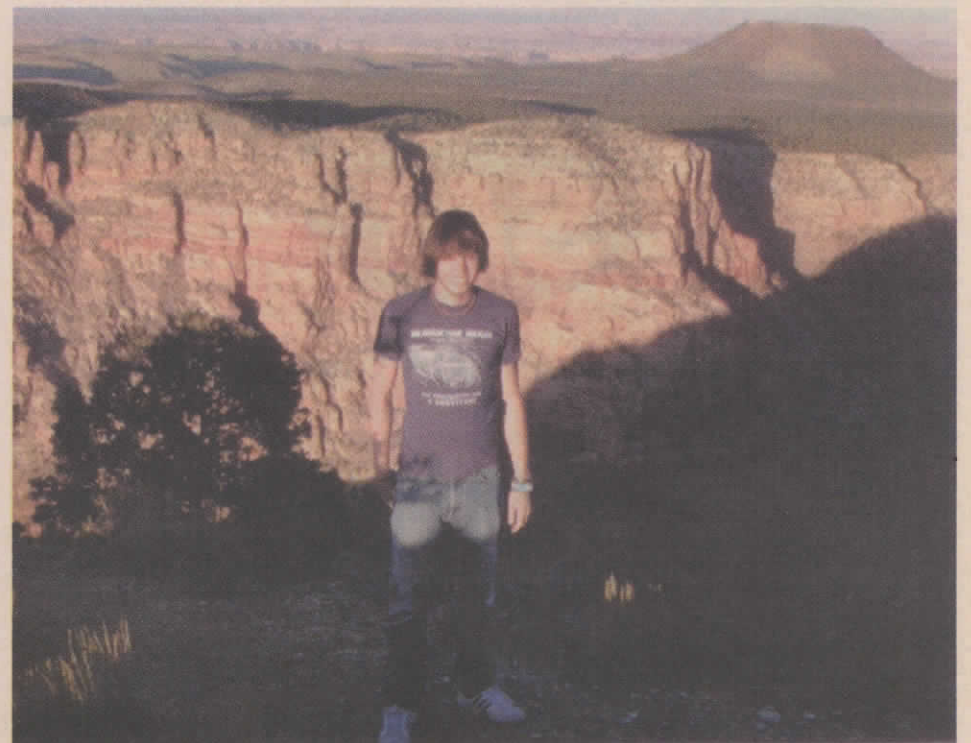


Allison Orvin

Allison,
 In the blink of an eye my little 1st grader, now a beautiful young woman on the way to U.S.C. cherished memories of our time together. Congratulations! I am so proud of you.

The world is out there - Your future bright - Enjoy!

Love,
 Dad



Joel Hamilton

Joel,
 Thanks for giving us such an incredible adventure of joy and discovery as we have watched you grow into the awesome person you have become! Thanks for your honesty, integrity and courage as you have chosen to be yourself every step along the way. You have made us better people being our son and brother. We love you always.

Dad, Mom and Jessica

Emily Moebes

Dearest Emily,
 Congratulations to a beautiful young lady who started life dependent upon others and is now independent and free-spirited.

Love,
 Mom andDad



Congratulations

Tamerlyn Greene

To Tamerlyn, a wonderful daughter and sister. Time has passed so quickly, from your being a beautiful baby, with everyone wanting to hold you, to your blossoming into a beautiful young lady.

Your sweet personality, intellect, and behavior have always made us proud and we know you will continue to strive for the best.

We are truly proud and blessed to have you in our lives. Our strength and love will always be with you.

Love ya,

Mom, Dad, R.C. and Sherri



Kristen Gaetke

Kristen,

Know that we are your biggest fans, always cheering loudly. Today you have brought us to our feet! BRAVO!! We are proud beyond measure.

We love you, Mom, Dad, Shannon, Nick.

Congratulations! We love you and are very proud of you!

MaMa and PaPa



Suzanne Justice

Congratulations to our dear daughter, Suzanne. We are so very proud that you have successfully reached one of your goals in life. Thank you for being the person that you are and thank you for sharing your love with others along life's way.

We love you very much. Always,

Mom and Dad

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

-Matthew 5:16

Angela Shaw

Angela,

May God continue to bless you on your life's journey. Keep smiling, be yourself, and know we love you always.

Love,

Mom and Dad



You make us proud!

Love, Terri, Jay, Shaun, Steph, Angie, Brett, Matt, Johnny

Always remember God is there for you. He loves you and so do I...

Love Nana

Lydia Sisson



Lydia,

"...don't be satisfied with stories, how things have gone with others. Unfold your own myth..."

-Rumi

We love you!



Seniors Reflect

Sharmetta Sheppard

"We know who we are, but we know not who we may be." --Unknown.

That is exactly how I came here at the School of the Arts in 1995. I was a young girl about ten or eleven years of age, scared about coming to a new school and having to start all over again developing new friendships and having new teachers. I didn't know what to expect. It all happened so rapidly. August 1995 came with all the usual; an abundance of yellow buses, teachers, students, and a school. Students from all over the Charleston area came: West Ashley, Mt. Pleasant, North Charleston, Downtown Charleston, James and Johns Islands. Everyone excited about beginning a new school, a new experience.

Looking back over the seven years that I have been at this school, I can say that we have come a long way (the school itself and the students). I can remember the middle school days when we were young, goofy looking kids with not much sense of direction. No one knew each other with an exception

of students who came from the same elementary school with one another. I, for example, knew Monica Fields but it didn't matter much because we weren't in the same homerooms; yet, it didn't take us long before we got out of our comfort zones and many friendships blossomed. I often sit down with my friends in class and at lunch and laugh at some of the things that went on at the School of the Arts. For instance, the time when all the girls in sixth grade acted as if they didn't like me and made me cry, and how my best friend Tamara Butler cried with me although she didn't know why I was crying, or when a group of kids in my art class got in trouble for being loud and disobedient, and even when we had our school dances in the cafeteria during school hours (1:00 PM to 3:30 PM) and we would get so hyped about them, I must say we were whack, not just typical middle schoolers back in the 1990s.

But a lot has surely changed. Coming to the school in 1995 there was only two grade levels, sixth and seventh grade and of course as we grew, the school had to grow also. At one point the school was operated in two buildings but now we have another school (Berry Elementary) and trailers. If you came to our school today and see all the students that attend here and try to picture 200 students just in two buildings, you wouldn't believe it. The School of the Arts may not have everything that all the other high schools have, but we have gotten used to it and have learned to love the school and all that is within it.

We have grown up. No more pigtails or ribbons and for some no more big glasses. We came here as immature kids and we are leaving as mature young adults. Being at the School of the Arts, I have learned valuable lessons such as the importance of my education and the importance of friendship. I get sad at the thought that I'm about to graduate and leave the School of the Arts after all that I have been through and experienced here. It happened all too fast. It seems like I was just in middle school sharing with my friends that I can't wait to graduate and go off to college and now that the time is near I wish I could take it all back. The hard tests/exams, the projects, the plays, the disagreements among friends, the dances/proms, and the teachers that have inspired me to always do my best. I'm really going to miss those days but with pictures and yearbooks to look back over, the memories will forever stay in my heart.

Suzanne Justice

In ten years, I have plans to be a psychiatrist and be finishing with medical school. With plans to go to the College of Charleston, I will major in psychology which will take about four years to get a degree. During this time I plan to live downtown with my good friends Daniel Erickson and Joel Hamilton. Hopefully my new living arrangements will not distract me too much so that I can keep at least a 3.0 GPA to keep the LIFE scholarship. I am confident in myself that I can work hard and do well in all of my classes with a lot of focus, studying, and help from God, my family, and my friends.

While I attend the College of Charleston, I hope to get well acquainted with my professors so that they may consider me for scholarships in the psychology department; moreover, if my professors are pleased with my hard work and passions for the field of psychology they may help me to receive funding for medical school at MUSC. I have been told that if you are highly recommended by your professors, MUSC will offer internships to seniors in college. This would be a dream come true for me, to be able to work in the psychiatric department of a hospital with children.

Assuming I do well through my first three years of college, and receive great praise through recommendations and scholarships from my professors, I hope to have an internship set up at MUSC. If all goes well there, I will most likely be offered a "free ride" to MUSC medical school. However, this will be a deal, that if I accept this funding through my four years of medical school I will work for them afterwards for anywhere from two to five years. This would not disappoint me in the least. Working with children in the psychiatric department each and every day would be one of the most fulfilling gifts I could give. Later on, I may decide to create my own practice, but I see that happening another ten years after graduating from MUSC.

The future cannot be known to anyone, but if I were to choose a future for me this is the life I would choose. Helping others is something I live for because when I change a life for the better I then know that God's love is in my heart. I live each day for God and with His help I can accomplish anything, my dreams, my hopes, and all the plans He has for me to change many lives through His love and my success.



Emily Moebes

What do you intend to be doing in the next ten years? This is a question that teachers begin asking in the sixth grade, yet it doesn't seem to get easier as those ten years get closer to six years and two years. I hate to be fickle, but it would be presumptuous of me to say what I will be doing in ten years. When I was in the third grade I wanted to be a veterinarian, in fifth a fighter pilot, in sixth an Egyptologist, and in eighth, well, all I wanted to be was a ninth grader. Over the last four years, I've narrowed it down; however, there is no way to predict anything for certain. Who knows, I just may be a fighter pilot. For now, at least, I'm leaning towards the low pay, high respect, world of criminal justice. This is broad I realize, but after four years getting a bachelors and three years getting a law degree I should be able to choose between the FBI, CIA, or ATF, all ideal career venues. Who wouldn't love chasing criminals in Italian pumps, driving a Crown Victoria and brandishing a federal issued Smith and Wesson? Essentially I've always known I wanted to go into criminal justice. I didn't know what it meant when I was ten years old and watching "Murder She Wrote" and "Matlock" religiously, and playing made up spy games. Now it's like a giant signal. Despite my career in law enforcement, I hope to be living in a condo with my current boyfriend, possibly as Mrs. Emily Moebes Raffield, and paying someone else to clean my house while I fight crime and work on my fifth criminal justice novel. As for where I want to live, my boyfriend and I want to live near the beach, and I hear the valley has great law enforcement uniforms, so LAPD here I come.



Lydia Sisson

My senior year began with complete bliss. I was only thinking about the wonderful experiences

I would have in the coming year. Classes seemed relatively calm and I didn't feel very nervous about anything. I think summer was still lingering in my soul. Then reality began to set in and I realized why Keeverlee hated me all last year. Senior year is incredibly confusing. You don't know if you should stay or go; try or slack off; grow up or stay young. Everything within me was pulling in different directions. I wanted to break away from my parents, but at the same time I needed them more than ever. I spent hours talking with my dad about colleges and I finally decided that



I would apply early decision to Vassar. I rushed to take all of the tests that I needed (SAT, ACT, and SAT IIs). Spending almost every other Saturday morning at Wando was not my idea of a fun filled senior year. Finally the testing was over and I felt that my year could begin. I started enjoying life. Never going home, driving hours to spend time with friends, and contra dancing as much as possible. Some of my favorite times were the late night drives home with my windows down and music blaring. Everyone (except for Rissa) who drives out to my house thinks that this is the most depressing drive, but I began to love the loneliness I felt. I was able to think; probably too much, because I managed to over think quite a few things that would have been better left to the stars. These drives on my deserted highway were calming for me. I allowed everything to stream out of me through my tears. I was able to work out most of my confusion in my car, poor Penny has listened to more of my problems than my friends have. I began to see clearer and life seemed to be working out well for me. Then to make everything wonderful in my life seem one thousand times more wonderful I got into college. When I found out I practically killed Jessica by falling over, but she accepted the bruises with excitement. Winter break came and went, but second semester changed everything inside of me. I never thought my life could be this confusing. I never expected to be so lost, especially after feeling like I had found everything I was searching for. Classes were a struggle. I felt completely unmotivated because I felt like my future was set.... I'm going to college.... was the only thing that I could run through my head to keep me excited.

This past semester has kind of floated by me, certain classes more than others, but now I am regretting my lack of motivation. I began this year with so many goals and I know that I have let some fall by the wayside. Yet, I see how much I have grown in certain areas that were never before my priority. AP English has been wonderful. Talking about literature is now my new fascination (thanks "DJ Custais"). Astronomy has been a learning experience for us all. Mr. Murray, you have been so supportive, especially recently, since I have kind of developed "seniorities." Mr. Smyth, I know you love me. No matter how hard you try to be mad at me I know you care. Ms. Hamilton, I think you have "utilized" us all. Ms. Emory, you have always listened to us and tried to help us be a little less stressed. Mr. Kerr, "pack 'em up," thanks so much for teacher monitor classes and helping me realize that I really do like playing the flute. All of my teachers this year have been really understanding, and I just want to thank them. I want so badly to feel like I have succeeded in my last year in high school. I just hope that I can make these last few weeks count. I have been feeling emotionally overwhelmed and school is starting to wrap up, which means that teachers are doing everything they can to fit things in. They know that we need their classes to graduate and I think they are using it to their advantage. I can't describe how incredible this year has been. Everything that has happened to me has left a very deep print in my personality. I have made some of the most wonderful friendships (with my teachers and classmates) and I have managed to really screw up some really beautiful friendships too. I don't regret anything, but "sometimes I think God should erase all memories to change the way we deal with times like these." (Geoff Farina) I wish you all knew how much I appreciate everything you have brought into my life. Especially the people who have made me think about who I really am (French class has been my therapy... thank you girls, you mean the world to me.. Jessica you are wonderful.... I know that you will always listen to me.). Thank you.

Congratulations SOA Valedictorian
Kristen Gaetke

Dance 2001-2002

Performances:

- Out Reach performances at Alice Birney Middle, and Chicora Elementary Schools
- Senior thesis and Composition concerts in December and May
- Middle School Christmas Concert in December at North Charleston Performing Arts Center
- Dance Department Performance at the Sottile Theatre in March
- "Attack," choreographed by Dwan Miller, performed at the Governor's School in Greenville as part of the South Carolina Dance Festival 2002
- "Ralph," choreographed by Leonard Anderson was performed at the Peace Center in Greenville as part of the South Carolina Dance Festival 2002
- Middle School informal performance of 8th grade solo works in May
- Middle School end of the year performance at West Ashley High in May



Highlights:

- South Carolina Dance Festival 2002 in Greenville
- Christian Von Howard, guest teacher
- Adande African Dance Company

Looking towards next year:

- Even better performance at the Sottile Theatre
- Bigger classes
- American College Dance Festival
- Guest Choreographer and Artists in residence
- Performance at the North Charleston Arts Exposition
- Dance majors' trip to Paris!!!!!!

Monica Fields



I have choreographed two theses. My first thesis is titled, "Tribal Occurrences." My second thesis is titled "Done." I consider my first piece as my thesis as well because I worked just as hard on that one as the second piece.

"Done," is a unison dance consisting of five females. My main development is to show consistent repetition with the dancers as well as the movement.

In choreographing and doing improv, I tend to focus more on fast pace movement as well as big traveling steps. This time I decided to work with something I'm not used to doing. I keep my dance more compact.

I've learned how to use my movement on other dancers as well as adjusting my movement to fit others, and learned a lot about technical work as well.

Dwan Miller



"The World of Dance," and "Attack" are the titles of my theses.

"The World of Dance" shows how different cultures around the world move. It shows how they move differently, but you can always find things alike. "Attack" was to reflect on the events of September 11th. It was based on my feelings of war, and how I don't want it.

Developing "The World of Dance" was a piece that took a lot of work because I had to research each culture to gather what movements they do. And basically putting everything together. Developing "Attack" was a lot easier because I choreographed movement that shows emotion, so everything just went right in place. What I have gained from this process is putting my work on others, which I like a lot because I see what I created. Also, I learned how to work with big groups

of people. I have found a deeper love for choreography; this is something I will try.

* Dwan Miller has been accepted to UNC in Greensboro, and has been awarded the Allain Charron College Scholarship.

Ellis Bradford

The title of my Senior Thesis Is "Nyah's Lament."

My thesis focuses on a girl (Nyah) who feels pressured by society. She finds that the people around are one-dimensional, have no emotions and want her to conform so she can be the slave.

This experience has been a stressful one. This was my first time working with a larger group. It's so hard to get a uniform movement out of every dancer. I've enjoyed it, though. I wanted to learn how to use a large group before I left S.O.A.

I have learned too many things through the past two years to mention all of them, but the thing that sticks out the most to me is that you have to be creative and confident when making your dance.

Lori DeNicola

"Hidden" is about self-conflict. This piece is a solo. The dancer is the only one who can satisfy her need for whatever it is that she is struggling with.

Developing my thesis was definitely a learning experience. I started off with the same theme but a totally different idea of how to portray it. Overall, I am very happy with the current progress.

I've learned how to work with larger groups as well as on solo pieces. I've grown through my choreography as well. It has helped me for the future because I plan on becoming a choreographer in the future.

* Lori has been accepted to and received a scholarship from Columbia College



Lisa Harvey

The title of my senior thesis is "Falling Apart," and Anna Crowder, Lindsay Shatzer, and Ryan Whitehead performed it.

Throughout my years at School of the Arts, I have made many close friends. As graduation nears, we have all realized that we must go our separate ways. My senior thesis reflects this important change in our lives. As my friends and I went through our years at school, we all did the exact same things together, just as the dancers moved together. When the end nears we all begin to move on with our lives, just as the dancers split away from each other.



Band 2001-2002

Band highlights

by Mary Antley

Mr. Kerr addressed the band his very first day five years ago, "I plan to take this opportunity given to me to not only make this one of the finest bands in the region, or even the state, but one of the best in the entire nation." This was followed by rounds of sarcastic laughter at the man's insanity. However, in the last two years Basil Kerr has proved to the band and the nation that he was not as crazy as that group of eighth and ninth graders thought. The band took a trip to Chattanooga, TN to one of the three most prestigious band festivals in the nation, the Grand National Adjudicators Invitational. To even be allowed to participate, the band had to be invited by a council and they also had to do well in one of the regional NAIs as well. The band had normal troubles during the performance, but came out with straight superiors and one of the highest ratings



of the day.

The band also received straight superiors from the regional concert festival held at West Ashley High School; one of three to achieve this at the level of music they entered at for the entire weekend. The Jazz Ensemble received straight superiors at the regional jazz festival held at Newberry College. They were also featured on Channel 4 and many banquets as well. The Jazz Ensemble will be releasing their second CD soon in which all of the members got a first hand taste at a real professional recording session. The SOA brass ensemble was chosen as the official brass quintet of Spoleto Festival, USA and performed at the State Music Educators Convention this year..

Mr. Kerr annually gives out very prestigious awards at the end of the year, including: best band member in each class, senior awards, and most improved band member. This year the best freshmen is Jonathan Hershenson, the best sophomore is Luke Reed, the best junior is Andrew Pearlmen, and the best senior is Zora Johnson. The most improved in the band is Colleen Campbell, who is sadly moving to Florida this summer. The two most prestigious awards is in part awarded by a long running music magazine. The Duke Ellington is for the top jazz player, which was voted on and given to Daniel Erickson. The John Philip Sousa award is given to the band member who best displays the characteristics of a good person and team member, not necessarily the best player, which was voted to be Taylor Silver. Congratulations to the band and another amazing and successful year.

The middle school has had another wonderful year. For the fourth time, the middle school Symphonic Band received a superior rating at Concert Festival and was given the Outstanding Performance Award by the state. Since Mr. Ritchen has decided to go into retirement, Mr. Ken Foberg has been given the position. The middle and high school bands had a final farewell for Mr. Ritchen when they gathered together on May 9th and played under his baton one final time.

Vocal, the year

by Tiffany Talley

It has been a very harmonious year for SOA Vocal Majors. Middle schools SOA Singers have rocked their way through the year under the direction of Rockin' Robin Rogers. Totaling to about 75 members, the Singers have performed numbers such as, "Big Spender", "Psalm 67", "What Would I Do Without My Music?", and "I Am but a Small Voice" for crowds ranging from Celebrity Golf Tournaments to Disney World., where they placed 2nd with a superior rating. The trip took place on April 11, . The Singers concluded the year with a magnificent Spring Concert on April 18th at the North Charleston Performing Arts Center.

While the Singers rocked their way through the year, SOA's High School chorus the "Chorale" busied themselves with challenging pieces of music using their well known technique "solfege". Well, something must have gone right, School of the Arts Chorale placed 29 of 30 auditionees in the South Carolina All-State Choir. Fifteen of the 29 students received "Top 10" scores in their respective classifications, more than any other school in South Carolina. SOA has proven, once again that despite having on 60 eligible students, they can compete successfully against programs with enrollment of 4 and 5 times greater. In May of 2001, the Chorale participated in the North American Music Festival held in Canada. There they competed against Jazz Choirs from around the world. The Chorale overall qualified as a "Top Three Member" and in addition the choir had the top score of all the ensembles participating in the event! Congratulations Chorale!



Harmony, a vocal jazz ensemble started by High School Vocal Director Mr. Victor Varner. It includes 14 selected participants from the Chorale ranging from 10th grade to the 12th. Performing songs from Duke Ellington to Phil Mattson, Harmony, with its astounding blend of rich voices performed on April 1, 2002 at the famed Carnegie Hall Isaac Stren Auditorium. Participating in Phil Mattson's Vocal Jazz Festival at Carnegie Hall, Harmony delighted in an uplifting program celebrating jazz standards by Ellington, Gershwin, Mercer, and others. The Festival included a series of workshops on vocalizing, Solo Jazz Singing, improvisation, vocal jazz, rehearsal techniques and vocal jazz history. The workshops were conducted by Phil Mattson, director of the School for Music Vocation at the South Western Community College in Creston, Iowa. Harmony has become well known throughout the Charleston area performing at various venues for a wide range of audiences.

Concluding the year with a blast the Chorale, Freshman Ensemble and Harmony kicked off their Spring Concert at the Garden Theater on May 1 and 2. Selections like "Birdland" of the Manhattan Transfer and "HandyMan" by James Taylor were featured. Sending off 20 seniors, the Chorale expressed love and affection by honoring them at the end of the concert. Other events that the Chorale have participated in are the State Choral Festival where they placed 2nd, the American Choral Directors Convention, and the South Carolina Music Educators Conference. Congratulations to the Middle and High School Vocal Majors on a very successful year!

College Choices

University of South Carolina

Lisa Marie Harvey, Dance

Senior Thesis: Falling Apart

Caroline Elizabeth Bailey, Theatre Arts

Senior Thesis: Andy, Did You Hear About This One?

Teresa Christine Karr, Visual Arts

Senior Thesis: My Former Future

Emily Nichole Moebes, Creative Writing

Senior Thesis: This Thing Of Ours

Allison Elizabeth Orvin, Theatre Arts

Senior Thesis: Wanna Take You Higher

Rebecca Jennifer Paul, Vocal Music

Kai Ayanna Revels, Vocal Music

Keegan Patrick Reynolds, Visual Arts

Senior Thesis: Things of Importance

Katherine Elizabeth Rikard, Vocal Music

Megan Katherine Utsey, Strings

Emily Wahrer, Creative Writing

Senior Thesis: So I was Thinking...

Thomas Elliott Aspinwall, Theatre Arts

Senior Thesis: untitled

Laurel Aubrie Coons, Strings

East Carolina University

Shrieka Elizabeth Gilliard, Band

Furman University

Deas Manning Richardson IV, Visual Arts

Dillard University

Carol Elizabeth Jordan, Band

Senior Recital: "Concerto in F minor" -G. P. Telemann

University of North Carolina at Greensboro

Dwan Kevonna Miller, Dance

Senior Thesis: The World of Dance

Tennessee State University

Monicanne Fields, Dance

Senior Thesis: Done

Contesia D'Savoy Gadsden, Vocal Music

Clafin University

Ira Kent LaRoche, Visual Arts

Morris College

Sharmetta Aqueena Sheppard, Theatre Arts

Senior Thesis: Une Vie des Toutes les Couleurs

Wheaton College

Carissa Layne Hanagriff, Theatre Arts

Senior Thesis: AIDS, Love, and Other 4-Letter Words

Morehouse College

Jasiri Lerato Kamau Whipper, Visual Arts

Winthrop University

Tamerlyn Lavette Greene, Band

Senior Recital

Zoe Blair James, Theatre Arts

Senior Thesis: Janet Jackson: InCONtrol

Ashley Latrice Rowe, Vocal Music

College of Charleston

Kristen Nicole Granet, Vocal Music

Joel Thomas Hamilton, Band

Kathryn Anna Terrell Hovis, Strings

Stacey Lynn Jarrell, Vocal Music

Emily Suzanne Justice, Band

Richard Sigurd Larson III, Strings

Amber Clare Rosintoski, Strings

Angela Nicole Shaw, Theatre Arts

Senior Thesis: Where do we go from Hear?

Alwyn Taylor Silver, Band

Senior Recital: "Horn Concerto #1" -Richard Strauss

Elizabeth Tarrant Skuhra, Strings

Nicole Elizabeth Stasko, Creative Writing

Senior Thesis: Swallowing Tulips

Rachel Elizabeth Taylor, Visual Arts

Senior Thesis: Representations of Jazz

James Collin Ulmer, Visual Arts

Senior Thesis: Illustrating Middle-Earth

Kimberly Virginia Anderson, Creative Writing

Senior Thesis: Albedo: Poems to Find a Surface

Brian Daniel Batten, Theatre Arts

Senior Thesis: And All Was Well

Kelly Anne Blohme, Theatre Arts

Senior Thesis: Don't Tell Me No!

Barbara Ellis Bradford, Dance

Senior Thesis: Nyah's Lament

Guy Richard Bryant, Theatre Arts

Senior Thesis: And All Was Well

Haley Elaine Campbell, Band

Senior Recital: "Syrinx" -Claude Debussy

Kimberly Marie Cozart, Vocal Music

Katya Demcheva, Visual Arts

Daniel Cauley Earnst, Theatre Arts

Senior Thesis: And All Was Well

Daniel Kenneth Erickson, Band

Kristen Amber Gaetke, Creative Writing

Senior Thesis: As the Curtain Falls

Jessica Lauren Gaskins, Creative Writing

Senior Thesis: The Ellipses Cocoon

Ashley Elizabeth Gaston, Strings

Senior Recital

Mary Ann Snyder, Vocal Music

Newberry College

Stephen Ray Soles, Piano

Savannah College of Art and Design

Mallory Blanton McLane, Theatre Arts

Senior Thesis: Dirty Laundry

Tristan John David Murray, Visual Arts

Anthony David Norris, Visual Arts

South Carolina State University

Courtney Nicole Coan, Theatre Arts

Senior Thesis: It Takes a Village to Raise a Child

Columbia College (Chicago)

Vanessa Jean Panerosa, Vocal Music

Benedict College

Alicia Marie Taylor, Band

Anderson College

Meghan Rebecca Braswell, Vocal Music

Rodney Lyn Lewis, Vocal Music

Charleston Southern University

Jeremy Daniel Goodwyne, Vocal Music

Staci Yvonne Oliver, Vocal Music

Lander University

Erin Marie Haggerty, Band

Vassar College

Lydia Lawrence Sisson, Band

Columbia College

Tamera Lynn Carroll, Theatre Arts

Senior Thesis: What's Next?

Lori DeNicola, Dance

Senior Thesis: Hidden

North Greenville College

Elizabeth Danielle Buck, Vocal Music

Xavier University (New Orleans)

Tamara Tiesha Butler, Creative Writing

Senior Thesis: Breaking the Kaleidoscope

Trident Technical College

Stacy Louise Kinard, Vocal Music

Carrie Denise Baker, Vocal Music

Elon University

Joshua Tharin Garr, Visual Arts

Howard University

Zora Kinshasa Johnson, Band

Senior Recital: "Prelude and Minuet" -Arcangelo Correlli

Loriel Brown, Vocal

Congratulations to the following students who are graduating with honors:

Kristen A. Gaetke, Katy A. Hovis, Mary Ann Snyder, Jessica L. Gaskins, Kristen N. Granet, Haley E. Campbell,

Carissa L. Hanagriff, A. Taylor Silver, Lydia L. Sisson, and Tamara T. Butler.

*These students earned an A average in honors level or AP classes.

Seniors Reflect

Caroline Bailey

In 1992, I looked in my second-grade yearbook and saw my graduation year in the corner. 2002. It seemed so far away. Now I'm being asked what I see myself doing in 2012. It boggles the mind the way that year doesn't seem too far off. But I think I'll give a shot at it, just for a little fun. Unfortunately, I've only been able to narrow it down to two scenarios...

Scenario one. I glance at the backstage clock. 9:52 PM. If I hurry backstage after curtain call, I'll be able to meet him in the lobby by ten o'clock. The stage manager whispers to me, "Caroline, you're on in ten seconds." I say nothing, but just nod and walk center stage. Moments later, the curtain rises and the audience stands, cheering. My moment in the spotlight is now. Before then, I had only been a chorus girl in the newest Broadway production. I was the understudy for the main character, who was always there. But tonight, oh tonight, she didn't make it. It's my turn. The curtain drops, and I run to the dressing rooms. I stop after ramming into the director. "Caroline, you did a fabulous job tonight. Would you like to do that again?" "Sure, until she comes back." "Oh, she's coming back for the next show. But how about beyond that? That girl was getting a little tired of her role anyway." Water wells up in my eyes. "Thank you, sir! Thank you!" I make my way into the dressing room, eyes shining with happy tears. I wipe off my makeup, put on my street clothes, and walk through the lobby exit. He's waiting for me there, and congratulates me on my big break. "I heard what your director said. I completely agree." "You won't mind the extra time they'll need me for rehearsal?" "When I promised you together until death do us part," he says, "I meant it."

Scenario two. I take off my glasses and rub my eyes. I notice some black on my hand where snow-pale skin used to be, cheap mascara that just smears too easily. The monitor is getting blurry at this time of night, and my head is pounding. The aspirin doesn't work as well as it has been. I glance at the program script beside me. "Final Fantasy XXIII." "How can they call it 'final'?" I mumble to myself. The other workers left hours ago. Some of them are working on a new windows program. Others still have their new Macintosh AppleShare programs open. I chuckle as I wish there was a power surge and all of their work destroyed, then realize that mine would probably go as well. I glance over at the clock. 3:00 AM, and am I ever lonely. I decide that my loving husband has waited long enough, pack up my things, and walk down the sidewalk to our New York City apartment. It's been a long day, but fixing a few bugs in a best-selling game makes it worth living, I suppose.

If either one of these works out, I'll be happier than a Cheshire cat, but I suppose none of us will truly know until 2012. I can wait. I've already grown up too soon.



Stephen Soles

When I first came to SOA I felt like a well grown uprooted plant, put in foreign soil. The people and environment were well enough, but that might have been part of the problem. Everyone is so perfect it takes the luster from yourself. I came to SOA in the tenth grade, after being well settled with friends and environment at another school. Coming to SOA was a culture shock. Everyone shone so brightly that it was hard for me to make a place at SOA. I was very shy towards people, which hindered me from feeling welcome. I wasn't used to trying. Usually it just came to me. People recognized me and respected me. But here I was an average normal kid. So I didn't try and people often questioned "How long has he been going here?" and "He hasn't been here since 6th grade." The second year was closely followed by the first until I had that bad fortune of dating a non-reputable figure around school. This, with no stable character established, gave people a false sense of what I was like. Being a senior has given me the opportunity to feel open and able to act like myself. I have just now started to find a groove and feel open, which leads me to want to go back and know how to fit in and form real friends. At SOA the point is not to shine brighter and be more popular. It's about appreciating the talent surrounding you and enjoying it, and learning from it to improve your character and establish friends.



Joel Hamilton

If I found myself once again going to this school of arts as a sixth grader I can assure you right now that I would not change anything one bit. Regret is one thing that I can say I have none of. Sure, I mean there have been some points in my life that were not so pleasant and some things I have done that may be questionable, but I have learned so much from every one of those circumstances and I wouldn't give up my knowledge through experience for anything in the world.

The most interesting part about our school is definitely the people that you come in contact with... students and teachers, and anyone would agree. Every single person seems to be unique in their own way and that is what makes it interesting. Personally there are a lot of people that have had impacts on my life but that is common at a place where you spend most of your time, these impacts being good for the most part, and I suppose there is the potential for some to be bad, but it's the connections that count.

Another interesting thing about our school is the subject of cliques and the way people treat everyone. While there are cliques, they are not nearly as defined as in other schools and you could even argue that there aren't cliques at all. Regardless, everyone treats everyone else equal and there's basically no one that I feel uncomfortable with talking to. It is very rare for someone to be singled out or picked on because if it starts there is always someone to defend and when defense is laid down the hammering always stops.

All in all I conclude that my experiences at this school of arts have been meaningful and unforgettable and I could trade them for nothing. I have, in fact, been here since the school opened. I was in the sixth grade and it has helped to shape me into the person that I am now.



Jessica Gaskins

When people used to ask me what school I went to, I would mutter under my breath "School of the Arts," so quiet that they would have to ask me again. Then they'd reply, "Oh. The special artsy school." Now, seven years later, I can proudly say that I am going to graduate from one of the most unique, challenging, interesting, and self-developing schools in Charleston.

When I first walked into the paint-chipping halls of SOA in the sixth grade, it was the scariest thing I had done in a long time and my bus was late so I walked into homeroom just as everyone was already sitting down. I soon found a seat next to Elizabeth Skuhra who, to this day, is still one of my best friends. It was an intimidating time for me, since I was shy to begin with, but my new teachers and classmates pulled me out of my shell and helped me become the perhaps, too, outspoken person I am today.

The academics have always been a challenge for me, more so than what I knew my friends were getting at Wando for example. My courses have allowed me to use my mind without totally oversteering me. I have been able to, with some hard work, move to the top of my class.

Creative Writing has been a huge part of my life and I'm sure it always will be. No other school could have offered me a class that would become like family to me - I feel like I have six sisters now. This major has allowed me to embrace what I'm good at, as well as perfect it until I could produce me 112-page senior thesis, a goal I never would have thought possible before I came here.

Yes, most of us here are a little odd, but hey, it makes for a very interesting day, every day. There is never a dull moment, whether it's Mr. Wood in drag, the Seniors perusing across the campus in their cars, or the classic afternoon announcements.

If I had the option to do it all over again and pick a different school, I wouldn't change a thing. I love who I have become at this school and I know that if I had attended a huge basic High School, I never would have had the individual attention that I get, and love, now. It has certainly all been worth it.

Everybody remember my bumper sticker, "Geld 'Em."



Rodney Lewis

An SOA education is unlike any other kind of education. It is different because unlike other high schools we get the better of two worlds. One is the fact that we get to work and learn in an area of art that we love. Secondly, we get to be around people that have the same ambitions, hopes, and dreams that we have. This is what makes an SOA education unlike any other.

For me, I enjoy going to vocal every morning and learning something new every day. At most high schools choirs only meet after school hours. We here at SOA have an appointed time in which we can sing. This is an opportunity that nobody else in Charleston County is getting!

Secondly, the staff here at SOA is not like others in Charleston County as well as the state of South Carolina. These teachers are so dedicated to what they do. They take time out of their busy schedules to help individual students to achieve their dreams and hopes. Ms. Marshall, who as my 11th grade English teacher, taught me how to appreciate a good book. Before I came to her class I never liked to read books. She introduced me to John Steinbeck's *Of Mice and Men* and I immediately fell in love with it. Since then, I have read that book three times, and I enjoy it every time.

In my major, the person who taught me the value of an SOA education was Mr. Varner. He stressed to us that we would never know how blessed and privileged we are to be at a school where we can do the things we love every day. He also told us that to just be around people who share our dreams and hopes is a blessing all by itself.

After being here at SOA for seven years, I can truly say that I now recognize that value of an SOA education. I only hope that this school will be around long enough so that my children along with future generations will be able to feel and get the same kind of education I received.



Carrie Baker

It is difficult to comprehend the impact this school has unless you've been here, and you have an even better understanding if you've been here through it all: The First Day, Art Smart, Recreating the scene of the Giver, POWs and the every Friday recitals the music majors participated in. This class has got the tone of SOA. No matter how different we may be, the people here all have a connection, art. We have learned, grown, and shared together, and the creativity has overcome every one. Who knew we would be here for six years, having accomplished so much? There is room to be yourself when you find your true self. The number of people has never been large, but I don't think that has been a disadvantage, in fact I think we're stronger for it. This school isn't traditional, so we missed out on a lot of "the high school days," but we gained something equally important, or at least I know I have. We have been pushed every day to strive to be the best at what we love the most, and in the long run, we'll come out on top. No one can take what we have learned and experienced away from us, and even though we probably won't pursue our art in full, it will always be with us. There is a part of me who has been aching to get through high school, but there is a part of me who never wants to let go. There are so many memories I couldn't possibly capture them all by myself. Just get our class in a room, give us this topic, and we could converse for hours. It saddens me that I'll lose contact with most of you, some I already have, but y'all will always be in my heart (and scrapbook!). I've had the privilege of attending SOA since 6th grade, and I wouldn't have gone anywhere else.



Writing 2001-2002

Creative Writing Senior Thesis

by Jessica Gaskins

It's been seven years now since we first walked into School of The Arts in its inaugural years, the chipping paint and moldy carpets becoming our habitat for creation. Starting with ten students, we have now narrowed to an entirely female class of seven. Boy is it interesting, as I'm sure many of you who have come in during our period know. We are very open minded and discuss everything from books to bras. We have helped each other grow as writers and offer encouragement as well as advice on our pieces- this year especially. And through the various grades (minus 6th), we've had the same teacher, Mrs. Miles. She has become not only our teacher but much like our mother, listening to our problems, giving both school and personal advice and laughing and crying with us.

This year, we had to break away from her by working with a mentor to produce a 100 page thesis of any genre. At first it seemed intensely overwhelming because the thesis had deadlines and required meeting with your mentor monthly as well as weekly journals, reading documentation, and the final planning for the binding of our books. With our final page deadline on March 22, we were able to relax a little but are now deep into the process of revisions and the

Tamara Butler: "Yesterday"

Her fist
curled out
into five brown
fingertips across his back.
Glossy beige, white
fingernails
traced his neck,
drawn
across two soft shoulder blades,
back into the space between them
and slowly,
index,
middle,
ring fingers
slipped within the canal of his spine.
Mold his skin,
humid, pulsating
with round rigid fingertips.

planning of our bindings. We get to create our own covers, introduction, dedication, ect. For the most part, everyone in our class is doing something a little bit different. I'm doing pure short stories in my thesis "The Ellipses Cocoon," Kimberly Anderson is working on a poetry collection titled "albedio- a surface looking for light," Emily Moebes is writing a novel called "This Thing of Ours," Tamara Butler with "Breaking the Kaleidoscope," Nicole Stasko with "Swallowing Tulips" and Emily Wahrer with "So I was thinking of slitting my wrists the other day..." are doing a mixture of short stories and poetry, while Kristen Gaetke is doing something a little different from all of us. Her thesis, "As the Curtain Falls," is actually 90 pages of mixed works to go along with her accompanying dance choreography done with Robert Ivey.

Our mentors were chosen personally by Mrs. Miles and they have freely given their time to assist us for which we are infinitely thankful. I work alongside with journalist and fiction writer Sandy Lang Quick. Emily Moebes works with Susan Sully who has written several books, Fish out of Water and Charleston Style. Emily Wahrer mentors with

Kimberly Anderson:

I am smoke
undefined and grey
like opening moth wings
so I will fade
disperse in your breath
twist out of visibility
linger in your crevices
the corners of your room
a ubiquitous nothingness
losing myself in the air to find that curve of your
jaw
seep into your lips
unnoticed
like whispers and dreams and faery wings
fire is easier for you to believe in but smoke remains
clings to your clothers
I am not jealous of flames that outline
your eyes
make your pupils drown- I will be with you in the dark- we
will dilate- slip around each other like smoke.

Marjory Wentworth who is a poet that studied at NYU alongside Galway Kinnell. Tamara Butler works with

Josephine Humphreys, a well known local author, gone international, who has written Rich in Love, Dreams of Sleep, and the Fireman's Fair. Nicole Stasko's mentor is Jerri Chaplain, a poetry therapist as well as a writer for S.K.I.R.T. magazine. Kimberly Anderson is partnered with Jeff Schwarnar who is an author as well as a publisher and owner of "The Great Unpublished." Kristen Gaetke has two mentors, Dennis Styles (a past poet in residence at the Gibbes Art Museum and past president of the South Carolina Poetry Society) and Robert Ivey, owner of Charleston Dance Studio, and is the professor of dance at College of Charleston.

While sitting together for our morning coffee, attempting to wake up those creative juices, I was able to get a little feedback on experiences with our 100 page minimum Senior Thesis. Kristen says "it was a very good experience but one of the hardest to do because you have to squeeze all possible ideas out of your mind. I know I must have used every possible thought or even dream I've had in the past year." Nicole expressed that she "thought it was going to be a lot harder that it really was because there are so many things to write about." Personally, I found the creation of my thesis to be proof that I have grown as a writer and I am capable of developing my voice and expanding my thoughts and experience onto paper. And, for your enjoyment, I will now present you with excerpts from some of the theses.

Kristen Gaetke: "When the World Ends-I"

Frost believed
the world ends
in fire and ice.
Sitting in hard pews
on a Sunday mornings
tells me that
I cannot
hide in the mountains
from the consuming,
dancing,
heat.
Fire like lava,
melts steel and skin
until all combusts,
man,
earth,
universe,
in one silent explosion.

Emily Moebes: Part of her novel "This Thing of Ours"

There wasn't a single shard of light in the deserted warehouse, yet there still seemed to be shadows within the shadows that moved with hasty perception. Heavy footsteps drudged on the muddy ground and maneuvered around boxes that couldn't even be seen. Bam Bam. Footsteps weren't the only sound, though. In between the steps was something less familiar, more ominous. A scrrrape scrrape sound. Something being dragged across the course concrete floor, the sound of death hauling the damned into the abyss. Bam scrrape, Bam scrrape, this pattern was interrupted by the unusually loud squeak of worn, rusty hinges, when the scrape became resistance and the resistance became a struggle, the bams exchanged for stomps and blows. Grunts were the only sounds close to wrods, and as these grunts became closer to the ground, they became gasps, deadly rasping gasps. When the gasps had stopped, there were a few seconds of proud silence, then the heavy footsteps resumed. Only the load of the person to which they were attached seemed lighter, and they barely made a sound at all.

Besides working on our Thesis, we (along with the 9th, 10th, and 11th graders) have also entered Scholastic, Creative Communications, and Gibbes Poet and Painter contests. The Creative Writing Program has the most regional winners in Scholastic than any other school in the area, an accomplishment that shouldn't go unnoticed and has, in the past, placed us in national spotlight. Senior winners were Nicole, myself, and Emily Moebes- all of our pieces went on to National Competition. Junior winners were Sara Harper, Amy EuDaly, Jennifer Haycook, Meghan Lee, Lindsey Jones, Sara Saylor, Jenny Cowen, and Thomas Rowell. Sophomore winner was Tedra Coakley while Freshmen winners were Rebecca Bevins, Shayna Dykema, Rachael Goldstein, Rachael Maes, and English Tompkins. Middle school winners were Eric Allen, Jessica Atkinson, Anna Dunlany, David DuTremble,

Olivia Henderson, Addison Howard, Sara Johnson, Robert Singleton, Victoria Smurro, and Tiera Rouse. As it turned out, our National winners were as follows: Anna Dunlany, Jessica Atkinson, and Victoria Smurro. Creative Communication winners are too long to list with 55 individuals spanning from 6th all the way to 12th grade. Gibbes Poet and Painter winners were for gold, Jessica Atkinson, Ashley Chaplin, Victoria Smurro, Jennie Cowan, Meghan Lee, Sara Saylor and silver winners were Chrissy DiNicola, Anna Dunlany, Ashley Hunter, Rebekah Bevins, Rachel Goldstein, and Emily Moebes.

There is no denying that it has been a very productive year for all grade levels of creative writing. I know I'm stoked that my class is finally graduating and it's incredibly exciting to know that we've done this together, not only as a class but as sisters and friends also. Mrs. Miles is extremely proud of our focus, artistic growth, and the final product that each of us has produced. Laughing she told me "I feel like a mother that has given birth to seven daughters!" What more can be said.

Seniors Reflect

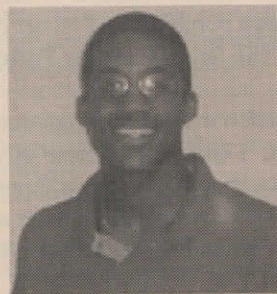
Ellis Bradford

In 1995, a group of eleven students came together and started a new section in a new school. These were the sixth grade dance majors at Charleston County School of the Arts, and I was one of them. I have seen lots of changes in our department, I have seen lots of people come and go, and I have seen it grow continuously stronger. Having witnessed these changes, I nor any of the five remaining dance majors, will leave S.O.A. without an overwhelming sense of pride for their Alma Mater.

In sixth and seventh grades, there were eleven dance majors, ten girls and one boy. Initially, we were a diverse mix of individuals. Who varied greatly not only in our formal dance training, but also in our personalities. There were people, in that first class, who had been taking dance lessons for years, and there were some who had never set foot on a marly floor before. Still, we came together and under the direction of Mrs. Slowinski we found a middle ground. Those first two years were the base of our dance training at S.O.A.

Our eighth grade year was a year of change for us. That year we merged with the upper grade and started to take class together. At first it was rather intimidating for our two grades to assimilate themselves, but soon we warmed up to each other. We added a new teacher and new style to the dance program that year with the modern teacher Mr. Esposito. He taught us to truly appreciate the creativity and form that is involved with our art. We also lost many of the original dancers that year, but received a ray of sunshine with a new comer, Lori DeNicola.

Going into high school, our dance class seemed as if it was going to be the same as the past, but it wasn't. Our eyes were opened to many new perspectives and techniques with the addition of Mr. Anderson. With his coming, once again, there were more departures. During high school our class was reduced to five dancers. It didn't effect us though because now our group is better than it ever has been. We started to grow as individuals. We all joined dance companies outside of the school, we all have different styles or aspects of dance that we pursue individually, and we all have improved in our technique. I have watched Dwan Miller grow from the little girl who didn't know what a plie was, to an absolutely amazing dancer and choreographer. Monica Fields now has the best leg extension I have ever seen; Lori DeNicola has become so graceful and fluid; Lisa Harvey, without a doubt, has the most beautiful arabesque. We haven't grown alone though; we have grown as a group too. Not just a group, but now we are more like a family. We have laughed, fought and cried together. Every one of these girls is like my sister and holds a special place in my heart. I will always remember my times with them at S.O.A.



Jasiri Whipper

I came to know Mrs. Kay much against my will. During the last months of eighth grade, my mother discussed with me her dissatisfaction with my performance in math. After bringing the issue to my father's attention they felt that their only option was to have me placed in Mrs. Kay's Tutorial General Studies class, also called Resource. The idea of being in a Resource class conjured up isolated, grade school memories of children who were teased about their learning disabilities and

idiosyncratic behaviors. I can recall when someone did something that was considered odd by the other students they would yell out "LD, LD" or cry out in mocking autistic voices, "Resource, Resource". The children of Resource were a stigmatized group and I had no desire to be associated what that inaccurate stigma of incompetence and behavioral instability. I found it even more distasteful that I had to be removed from my P.E. class at the beginning of the second semester in ninth grade to be placed in Resource.

I cannot recall my first day in Resource, now known as 'Mrs. Kay's class', but I do know that Mrs. Kay's vibrant personality quickly assuaged my worries about being a part of her class. I found that this class, led by a good-natured, short, dark haired, woman, was more than a class of remediation. It is a class where we learn more about life as she tells stories of her own. We are often captivated by her tales of a young Jewish girl growing up in Queens, New York trying to find her way as one of three children. We have heard the funny stories of her family's cross-country summer drive, to the tense often disturbing accounts of her teaching years in some of New York's most intimidating, averted schools. I recently had the pleasure of meeting Mrs. Kay's affable mother and learned that it is from this woman, who is quite the griot that Mrs. Kay's inherited her gift of storytelling. Perhaps, one of these stories has saved a student from himself.

In the latter months of our relationship, Mrs. Kay has become more of a mother figure to me, often giving me rides home and I have even started calling her "Mama Kay." It is a peculiar, but beautiful relationship. I often use the car rides as an opportunity to extract from her knowledge on Jewish culture and customs. In my times of distress, she is a comfort during these brief drives to my home. These are a few things I will miss about this woman who has been such an integral part of my life. I understood the true depth of Mrs. Kay's caring only a few weeks ago. I invited her to a ball that celebrated my completion of "Rites of Passage" program; there Mr. and Mrs. Kay were among my family and other close family friends sharing in this momentous occasion. Just her presence made that night even more of a memory. As a measure of someone's importance in my life I will often ask myself "Would I be who I am today had I not known this person?" Where Mrs. Ellen Kay is concerned I can say entirely without reservation, no.

Ashley Gaston

"I can't remember all the times I tried to tell myself to hold on/ to these moments as they pass." It all began on that memorable August Thursday. I walked into a seemingly large hallway, a freshly turned eleven year old with violin case in my unsteady hand. But "the days go by so fast," and here we all are today, seniors, seventeen and eighteen. Soon our high school diplomas will be received into even unsteadier hands as we walk across the graduation stage into the unknown. "So it goes."

Some of us are veterans. Some of us remember the free Friday afternoons in middle school spent prancing around the playground, GLURP, *The Giver*, when the art room was once the cafeteria, Peace Posse. We remember faces and voices and eyes. We remember Mrs. Yatsco: "Ooooh Moon" and reproductive health (good god, as if we didn't know already) Mr. Rivers' endless games of "nukemm" (is there a correct spelling for that?) Ms. Kizer's endless attempts at spelling, Ms. Hamilton in AP European History: "England have a navy, France have a navy, but WE don' have a navy!" and again in Government and Economics: "Have I omitted anyone? Do you see the orange and purple persons located in the rear?" We remember History Day, Science Fairs, Geometry gardens, math journals, Mr. Smyth's "Oh wells" and Mrs. Phillips' accordian Christmas serenades, Mr. Murray's life lessons, Mr. Cusatis's "Hey none of that" talk about "country matters" and understanding the "literal meaning of stories." And then there's French V- we'll recall our girl time when we bashed our boyfriends (Kari), and changed clothes (Lyd), received quarters (Katy), watched the fashion show of faux fur (always, Muffy), ate good food (Mary Ann), laughed at endless humour (Riss), and were stunned at my own endless basket of sarcastic commentary (mostly about llamas). Oh, best friends, girls.

We all know who we are, what we are, and why we are this way. We know we're different from everyone else. We have that inner something that sets us apart from all the stereotypical elements of high school. We know the last names and middle initials and birthdays of each other. We know each other's pets, likes and dislikes, shoes- whether we're best friends or not. It's our little artsy community. I think that a part of us stays. Our face smears are still on windows, our tire tracks in the parking lots, our fingerprints on doorknobs.

So maybe this coming August could be classified as our real "August and Everything After." But I think I'd like to count that first August Thursday in 1995 as my everything after. "I guess the winter makes you laugh a little slower, makes you talk a little lower." We knew it was coming, tried to hold back, prolong our childhood. We knew that it would just seem like one more day, and everything would be a maelstrom of decisions and frustration. There won't be any summer reading this year. There won't be any more of those double entry journals. "I can't remember the last thing that you said as you were leavin', how the days go by so fast."

"Maybe this year will be better than the last," but apart from the bad memories that seem less important everyday, I know that I personally can leave this school with a sense of direction. I've exceeded my own musical expectations. I know who I want to be, and I'll go out and be that person. I've the foundation for a musician, and this experience proved to me that that is who I must become. There is too much to say here, too many people to thank, too much to remember- but I know that this school gave me a lot of opportunities that I am very grateful for, most importantly a deep appreciation for the arts and humanities. There are some things I never would have learned, known existed. These last moments at SOA are some of the most frightening moments I have ever experienced, but ones I will always care to remember. "It was the best of

Zora Johnson

I have spent seven long years at School of the Arts--all of which have been years of knowledge and learning. Ever since I walked into the block building in 1995, I knew that this would be an experience I would never forget. Sixth grade was the year I learned that life isn't always what you want it to be. I was the new girl in town, different from everybody else, trying to find my way. True friendship was hard to find because I was way too focused on trying to obtain it. Big Mistake! By the end of the year, I had learned that friendships will come when they come. You can't force them.

In seventh and eighth grade, I spent my time trying to focus on academics and growing into a totally different personality as a way of regaining my pride. I was more relaxed. I made my way up the friendship ladder and excelled at my work.

In ninth grade I was still learning in terms of academics, but also in terms of young love. The whole ninth grade year, I was known for my relationship with a certain someone also in the senior class. We grew up as a couple and also as really good friends. Ninth grade was also my first year in high school. So, as most freshmen do, I thought I was grown, and took every opportunity to prove myself socially by attending every party and by engaging in late-night phone calls until I could hardly see straight, knowing that in the morning I would be no good in school.

Tenth and eleventh grades both seemed like a blur. All I know is that these two years went by very quickly and that I matured a great deal while still maintaining my crazy, outgoing demeanor that I was known for- hence my election as class clown. Once twelfth grade hit, I was just ready to get out. I tried to keep still long enough to complete English papers, Biology projects, Statistics experiments and music theory part-writing. Most of the time I succeeded, but sometimes I said, "I cant miss the party, I'll get up at 2 am and finish." Yeah right! Here I am, a month away from finally being done, and I realize it was well worth it. So, I would like to thank all of my academic teachers-too many to name, you know who you are. I would like to thank Mr. Ritchen and Mr. Kerr, the best band teachers ever, and last but not least, my friends and family, who have made me who I am. My life wouldn't be the same if it wasn't for all you people and SOA. I love ya'll and will miss you a whole lot, always remembering the good and bad times at School of the Arts.



Seniors Reflect



Carol Jordan

I walked into this world, known as School of the Arts all alone, uncertain of what to expect. Through the doors lied enemies, associates and friends. As I walked down the halls eyes stared, and people talked wondering who is the new girl. The "New girl" suddenly became my name. I was no longer in the comfort zone of knowing my surroundings. I walked into Mrs. Fairchild's classroom for homeroom and took my seat. All by myself; I wondered who could I talk to, who would show me the people to trust and those who would deceive me. My eyes began to look for someone like me, the black kid. I knew I could relate to them, much better than anyone else. Well I was wrong;

my all Black world was now gone. I stayed to myself watching and listening. Adapting to these people, who hugged and kissed each other because they were excited to see one another again.

Unknowingly, these strangers watched and listened to me, as I watched them. Taking my insecurity for cockiness, and rudeness; conclusions were quickly drawn. No one cared for me very much, and I didn't care for them. Those who I wanted as friends, listened to others, and kept talking. My attitude was now negative, unwilling to allow anyone to know the true me. A guard was now up and it wasn't coming down; I had no friends to back me up. In class I listened, to the remarks others said about me, some expected and others a shock.

The year grew closer to an end, but friendships were just beginning. From simple classroom activities Aqualia Galliard and I became friends. Through this relationship, I was able to embark on a friendship with Ashley Rowe. Aqualia and Ashley were the first to give me a chance. Tired of being the outcast, I was willing to give friendship a try. They were inseparable; their relationship was somewhat intimidating. In the beginning our friendship only consisted of short conversations about our weekend; no match to their constant letter writing, and never ending conversations about: boys, their family, and life. As our trust grew stronger and stronger, they began giving me advice about who to watch and who to be trusted. Whenever there was a confrontation they were always there to help me through. Over time I no longer felt like I was apart of the friendship, but as the third wheel. The experience was much needed, and enjoyed. But, it was time for me to find my own. The year finally ended and Carol finally replaced the "new girl."

Stacy Kinard

I wish I could take back time. I would go back to 1995 when School of the Arts began and I would become a part of it. However, I can't. I have only been at SOA since tenth grade. I was immediately welcomed with open arms. I never thought I would be so sad to leave a place where I had to work so hard. At both of my former schools I was never happy. I didn't want to participate in anything I didn't have to. But when I came here, I felt like people accepted me for me and I didn't have to be someone I wasn't. The memories I have made at SOA are ones that will last me a lifetime: all-day rehearsals, cramming for tests, class parties, and of course pep rallies, performances, and plays! I mean, at what other school can you get serenaded at lunch or do you get excused from class to go listen to a volunteer army band play? Nevertheless, it's always fun to fall and sprain your ankle on a class vocal trip.

I am truly going to miss getting up and coming here-- every morning at 8 AM and trying to beat the train that comes in the middle of rush hour traffic. I'll miss the juniors who I have grown so close to and enjoyed laughing and struggling with in class. I'll miss going to the office to talk to Mrs. Mandy whenever I got a free moment, trying at the last minute with Sharmetta and Rodney to cram for Ms. Hamilton's "parties" at the last minute, and of course stressing with Tessa in French over what verb we just learned.

Though I have struggled here, I have learned so many things as well. I struggled and mimicked that Al "toes" to learn solfeggio and keep up, and I shared all of my thoughts with Kristen, Amber, and Keisha in our "leadership class." I have built lasting friendships here and grew in ways I didn't know I could. Coming here was the best decision I made. I'm grateful everyday for the chance I got to be a part of this.

Lisa Harvey

My journey through SOA began in 1996 on a school bus full of kids I had never seen before in my life. Seeing the same people in the same place for six years was hard, but I would miss them if I did not have that. Having the same best friend since third grade has been wonderful. Going to all the Art area

performances, driving around with my friends, going to the dances every year. My most treasured memory was going to New York City with the ninth grade class. Now as I am about to leave it all behind I realize how very lucky we are to have each other for so long.

The one teacher who has helped me through the years has been Mrs. Slowinski. She was always there to push me even harder when I really did not want to dance. She never gave up on the dance majors, we were her children. She spent all of her spare time doing things for us, having parties at her house, choreographing dances, or making costumes. She was there through thick and thin unlike the other dance teachers. When I leave I will miss begging her to get me out of class and just having fun in dance class. As I look back at me, Ellis, Lori, Monica, and Dwan, I see five young girls who grew through the years into beautiful young women with the help of Mrs. Slowinski.



Christine Colon

When I first came to SOA, I thought it was going to be a nightmare like Drayton Hall was.

The first day at school I remember everyone coming up to me and making me feel welcome. On the same day I found a group of friends who have been there for me through high school. The funny part is that all five of us were new to the school.

I've been at SOA for four years and I've never seen a fight or seen a "popular" group. It has been as if we were one big family even though we might not get along all the time.

When I leave SOA next year for college, I know I'm going to miss walking down the halls looking at people I know and care about, hanging out with my friends at lunch (by the tree), going to different performances for my friends, and being able to be myself, knowing no one is judging me.

My best day here, in the past four years, has to be the day I got the letter saying congratulations, you have been accepted into SOA's theater group. I think I still have that letter. And then when I decided to "betray" my theater friends and switched to vocal. I couldn't believe Mr. Varner when he said "Yeah, go get your schedule changed so that you can start today."

The one thing I'm going to miss the most is all the memories that were created here. Like Mallory choking on chocolate pudding, and Staci's face when she told me she was dating Richard. Amber; I won't forget the day we went to the movies with David and Gavin and ended up downtown in summer clothes in the middle of winter. Emily, your great taste on clothes will always make me smile. Then my sophomore year I started hanging out with the boys; Sean, Andrea, Alex, David, Richard, and Phillip.

I'm going to miss the wedgies and having to buy new clothes, oh and best of all, tossing Mallory and me around like we weighed nothing. But seriously, I'm going to miss smiles and bubbly personality that could brighten my day any day. I'm just going to miss every single person in this school because whether you know it or not, everyone of you has touched my life in a different way and I appreciate it. Believe me, "Daddy knows." (Love ya, Mr. P.)

Hey Class of 2003; I wish you the best of luck next year and in the future.

I love you all at SOA and thank you for the best four years of my life.

Love Always,
Chrissy



Tristan Murray

Throughout my years at School of the Arts, many teachers have impacted me. All of them I would consider to be strong influences; however there is one teacher that impacted me the most. I was only in his class for less than one year, but in that time he greatly motivated me to do my artwork.

Many different people would describe Mr. Kowalski with multitudinous words. He was strict and pushed us to work a lot. Mr. K was always yelling about our lack of work ethic. Which made me strive to work harder so he wouldn't yell at me as much.

Often times I thought his ranting was just because he was tired of us or irritated by us. Some of the time I'm sure that was the case, but I believe most of the time it was because he cared for us. Mr. Kowalski wanted us to be the best artists and wouldn't settle for anything less. He pushed us farther than we thought we could go and guided us with a fatherly hand.

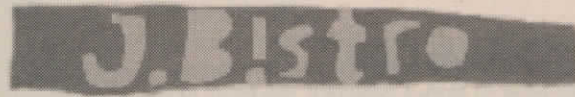
Mr. Kowalski's teachings are still with me and always will be. I've grown as both an artist and as a person through the guidance Mr. K. has provided. Through every school and every state I've lived in, Mr. K. has impacted me the most as a teacher.

Tamerlyn Greene

When I reflect on the seven years that I've spent at SOA, I realize that a great majority of the time was about self-realization. When I entered the school in sixth grade, I had no idea that attending SOA was going to be one of the best decisions that I would ever make. I also had no idea what my transition from childhood into adulthood would be like, as most people don't. I was at a new school in an unfamiliar environment, with different students than the ones I knew before, all with very strong personalities. No one knew much about me and I made my first and only sixth grade friend half-way through the school year. I began to change socially, however, in the seventh grade, and I became good friends with a lot of very different people. From this I found that I was very open-minded and that my interests were extremely diverse, unlike a lot of people I knew. Knowing others eventually led me to knowing myself. From 8th grade up to the present, I discovered my strengths and weaknesses, interests and dislikes and decided what I wanted out of life. I learned that it is o.k. to miss one or two homework assignments to go to a party, friendship is essential, and love is bittersweet. While all of my experiences at SOA weren't wonderful and glorious, I learned from everything that I experienced here. SOA helped give me the foundation that I need to become the successful woman that I plan to be. I love and am going to miss a lot of people (Mr. Ritcher, Mr. Kerr) and wish that I could have known some people better, so I hope that this reflection helps satisfy the people who wanted to know me. 967225247826697427638823926 -I LOVE YOU GIRLS!



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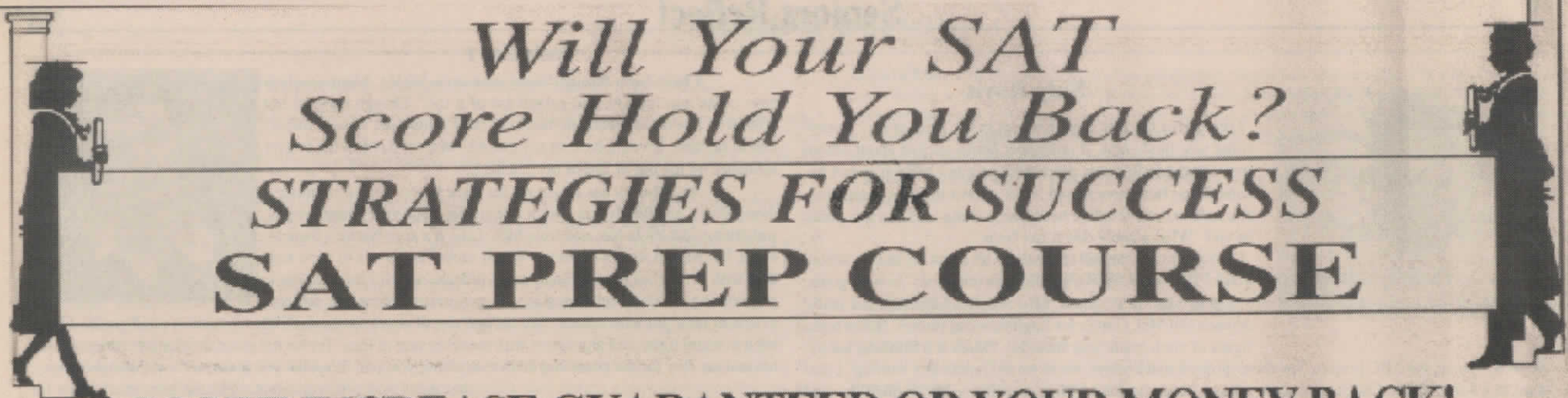
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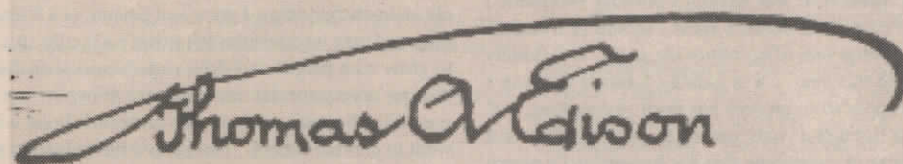
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Congratulations 2002 Graduates

Seniors Reflect



Katy Hovis

I remember the first day of school in the sixth grade. Everything was fresh, new. I remember being excited about school and coming to this new place with people I had never met before. It has been seven years and is almost time for graduation. It's hard to believe we've been here so long, and that it is going to end. What a crazy ride it has been.

Looking back, I can still remember a lot about my middle school years. They were filled with fun and excitement. In sixth grade, I was in Mrs. Bell's class, 6B. We had Mrs. Bell for math/science and Mrs. Graves for English/social studies. Some highlights of sixth grade year include: "Math is a thinking habit,"

the M & M man, the ABC project, The Giver project, and Fridays where we did practically nothing. I also went to a Jump, Little Children concert, a band which became a huge part of my life through the past seven years. Seventh grade was a little different. We actually had a different teacher for each subject. Some classes we had different teachers for the same subject (science...Mrs. Frazier, Mrs. Gerbec, Mrs. Woolfe). We had Mrs. Graves again, for social studies; Mrs. Newell was our English teacher, and Mr. Rivers was our math teacher. The eighth grade was probably the best year in middle school. It was almost time for high school. I remember being really excited about the Wallflowers concert, movies in SC history, the roller coaster "science project" in Mr. Leverette's class last quarter, and eighth grade graduation.

It seems as if high school has just flown by. I remember entering the ninth grade; it was a hard year. We had Mrs. Yatsco for English. Even though it was a difficult class, she was wonderful, and I learned a lot. Ms. Tisdale was our World history teacher. Some highlights were history day and Egyptian day. Mrs. Rickson was our geometry teacher, "go run around the tree." We had Mr. Shaw for biology, "vocal quiz, section review, chapter review." P.E. class with Mr. Rivers was interesting at times; I remember when we started to try and play nukem, and nobody could catch (hello, we don't DO sports!). By the end of the year, however, we had gotten pretty good at it. This was also the year we went to New York, which I have mixed feelings about. It was very exciting to go to the big city, but I wish we could have done more things. Jump, Little Children release Magazine, and I remember going to countless concerts and events (not just freshman year, but all through high school).

In the tenth grade, I took AP European History and AP Music Theory. Both proved to be very influential and important to me. I learned the skills in these classes that will probably help me through the rest of my life. We had Ms. Kizer for English, "suBtle, Don't pronounce the B." Mrs. Tilton was our Algebra II teacher, "Nerdy Norm!" I remember Dr. Price's chemistry class and the lab experiments (Hey Lyd, HOW many grams was that one???) Mrs. Byars started out as our AP European History teacher, but then she had to go and get pregnant; Ms. Hamilton took over. We learned a lot from both teachers, "Columbus was a fool who did not know what was going on around him." Mr. Kerr was my AP Music Theory teacher. Music Theory was a fun class, I was the only sophomore. I'll never forget the dictation and sight singing. Ms. Emory was our French III teacher, oh the trailer! In the tenth grade, I went to England with the Youth Symphony.

Eleventh grade was a stressful year, but it was still fun. Mr. Murray was our physics teacher, first semester=bad, second semester=much better. Ms. Marshall was our English teacher, I really enjoyed that class. We had Mr. Smyth for Pre-Calculus, Hello Mr. Sneaky One! I had Ms. Hamilton again, for AP US History. Oh the DBQs and the orange and purple people in the back of the classroom! Again, Ms. Emory for French (IV). The Italy trip was junior year, and it is probably one of the most memorable experiences of my life. I also experienced an *NYSYNC concert; it was Kristen's birthday (normally I wouldn't admit to this, but this is a reflection essay on my past seven years, I guess I should be truthful).

Now it is senior year, probably both the best and worst year of my entire life so far. It definitely takes the "most stressful year" award. At the beginning of this year, I was looking forward to being a "senior". Now I feel like I am ready to go. The college application process has been aggravating, but, thanks to Ms. Marks (thank you thank you thank you), I got through it (well, getting through it). This year has been hard for me academically and emotionally, because of everything that has happened. Concerning certain unpleasant events of this year, Mr. Murray told me, "If it doesn't kill you, it makes you stronger." It's true. Classes this year have been amusing, and each one is unique. We had DJ Custais for AP English, "Have you heard of the English poet William Idol?" I am Mr. Custais's teacher monitor, and a part of the journalism class ("Jess, we've got to go type in Mrs. Miles room"). Mr. Murray is teaching Astronomy (helly ASTROPHYSICIS!); a class I will never forget...Astronomy brings everything together ("Do they touch themselves?"). Ms. Hamilton (yes, two and a half years!) is teaching Government and Economics (Would you like a strong drink? Perhaps you would like to share it with the orange and purple people in the back of the classroom). For AP Calculus, we have Mr. Smyth, "Oh well!" (The trailers are now considered the MAIN BUILDING... the main building is now the ANNEX...for obvious reasons). Ms. Emory is teacher French V, or my therapy class, this year; I love you guys. That Christmas party was AWESOME. To Mrs. Miles and the Creative Writers, thank you for letting me "invade your space."

I have neglected to include my major in these previous paragraphs, because I feel like it deserves its own. Music is an integral part of my life, it always will be. I am pretty sure that I'm not going to be a concert cellist, but this doesn't sadden me. I have loved playing the cello; All-State, concert festival, solo and ensemble festival, trips, musicals, etc. I feel like I have grown musically over the past seven years (that would be the point of this school, eh?). I want to thank my mom for being an excellent teacher; I love you.

This is my reflection on my past seven years at SOA. Even though I'm excited about leaving, I feel like my time here has been a positive experience overall. From the experiences to the friendships, I won't forget SOA. I would like to thank everyone at this school that has helped me, especially through this last year. Without my parents, friends, family, I don't know what I would have done. I love you.

Josh Garr

I have been through many classes at SOA. Many teachers have come into my life, and passed out of it too. Though they are not around or I never see them anymore, all have taught me lessons important to my life. I would have to say that Mr. Murray has had the largest influence on me out of any of my teachers.

Mr. Murray has taught me for three years: first in chemistry, then physics, and finally this year in astronomy. Each year I have learned something new about him and from him. Life, it's not what he's there to teach, but he still somehow shows us our reality and ways to cope and deal with it. He has been through many ordeals, which I found a few I was relating to. One such ordeal is with my parents. We never see eye to eye, at least not with school. My parents are all about the grade; I have to make a good grade. I have been in many fights and arguments with them because of this. Try for the grade, is what Mr. Murray made me realize. Try for the grade and learn everything you can. It's what you learn, not a number on a paper, that gives you your education. The teachers aren't there for handing out numbers, they are there to ensure you learn something that at some point could be even remotely helpful to you. I have grown to love and respect Mr. Murray for what he has helped me learn and is continuing to teach me. He has definitely had the largest influence of all my teachers here at SOA.



Amber Rosintoski



Over the past few years, I have sat in many classrooms with a variety of different people, and even though I hadn't had him until my senior year, Mr. Murray's Physics class has had a huge impact on my life. Physics class has taught me the value of hard work, motivation, and determination. Physics

has been a struggle from the beginning, and one that I will always care to remember. The reason that Physics stays fresh in my mind is because it was not a simple class. It presented many challenging problems; however, Mr. Murray's constant sarcasm and replies to your endless worry about five-question tests always came in the form of "Well LRG (LPGI), I guess you're just doing school again."

Mr. Murray, I would like to tell you that I have thoroughly enjoyed our Physics class this year. I don't believe any other class has someone quite like Bubba in it to explain the way the world works, or Megan and I giving up every other day. Also, there was throwing bowling balls off the side of the white storage area, which was one of the times all six of us were actually in class. Well, we've laughed and we've cried (after getting our tests back), but through it all I've never grown to have so much respect for someone. Your intelligence and what you have to offer people is profound and I will miss having you for a teacher next year. Thank you for everything you've taught me, which has been a lot more than just Physics. Oh, and by the way Mr. Murray, all those times I said I didn't care, I lied.

Ashley Rowe

I remember the first day of school. We were all assembled in the cafeteria which is now the art room and the teachers were dressed in beach wear. The cafeteria was decorated with summer fun and I was excited to begin what would be the next seven years of my life. As I reflect on those years, I think about the many changes I went through along with the school. As our school grew with new people, new teachers and new buildings, I grew as a person, as a friend and as a musician. I learned how wonderful it felt to have a family. It's a wonderful feeling to grow with people and share experiences with them. The chorale has become a very special union for me. When we are together, we have a great time because we have this incredible bond with music. This is a family that I never would have if I went to another school. This school has helped to make me the person that I am. I'm a better musician, I have many friends from different races and backgrounds, and I am over all a better person. I have a family that I've loved for the past seven years, and will continue to love for the rest of my life (you know who you are). And although there were bad times, really bad times, the good outweighed the bad.



Lori DeNicola



Friendships, relationships, family ties, teachers, performances, rehearsals, musicals, broken toes, dress code violations, short term vacations, snow days, and heat waves. These are all memories that I hold from my past five years at SOA. But the thing I will always remember most will be the bond among our friends.

It was August of 1998 when I walked into Mrs. Caldwell's homeroom. Fearful and shy, I knew no one. I remember being welcomed with open hearts and smiling faces, my fears were soon at ease. As I entered dance class, my stomach became queasy again.

The girls looked at me as though I were foreign. These strangers soon became more than friends. We became family. Through the years the dancers formed a bond stronger than any other major. We applauded each other through everything and when one of us was down, we picked each other back up. We've shared tears, laughter, clothes, everything through everything. And who can forget our adopted senior Deirdre, who is just like one of us. I will miss her incredibly next year as much as I will miss Dwan, Ellis, Monica, and Lisa. Mrs. Slowinski has not only been our teacher, but our friend. The dance studios hold so many memories and as each of us go our separate ways after graduation they will always be my best friends and will forever hold a special place in my heart.

Visual Arts and Piano 2001-2002



By Keegan Reynolds

by Emily Schwimmer

This was the busiest, but by far the best year for the Visual Arts department here at School of the Arts. However, it would have not been possible without the help and guidance from the middle school teacher, Mrs. Nichols, and the two high school instructors, Mr. Moore and Ms. Jaycie. With their support throughout the year, the students worked extremely hard to produce their artwork, as well as develop and improve their artistic talent. Competitions played a major role in the department's success this year. Whether it was the exhibition at the Coastal Carolina Fair, the TA sponsored Reflections or the nationwide Scholastic competition, every student's talent truly shined through the pieces they entered. To top off such a wonderful year, the art department put together the biggest gallery show ever for SOA, where just about every Visual Arts student showcased some of their work for the school and the community. So here's a recap of those wonderful highlights and accomplishments of SOA's very own Visual Arts Department and much more.

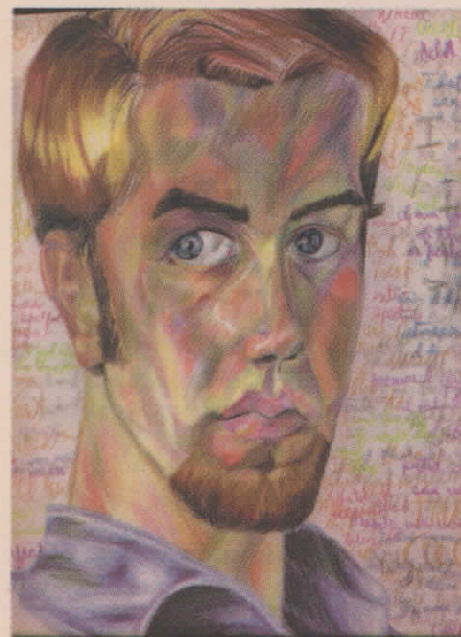
The year may have gotten off to a slow start, but it gradually progressed as students got back in the groove and worked on their pieces for the Coastal Carolina Fair. About thirty students (middle and high school) entered pieces and out of those thirty, twelve took home awards. Every year, School of the Arts does well at the Fair, but this year we blew away all the competition. Next, was the Charleston Artist's Guild show. Out of all the pieces entered, Junior, Sean Larson's piece was honored with "Best In Show" and Senior, James Ulmer took home the "Francis Bennett Award" for his piece. The PTA sponsored competition, Reflections was the next major competition for the Visual Artists. This was the most successful competition of the year with almost all the entries winning awards. The middle school winners include: Zack Collins, Andrew Smith, Allison Smith, Alex Corsaro and both Zack and Andrew went on to win at districts. From the high school, the long list of winners include: Lane Arthur, John Folly, Josh Jourdain, Robby Olson, Carolyn Hodo and Emily Schwimmer. Both Lane Arthur and Emily Schwimmer won at the state level. "Honorable Mention" was given to Lane Arthur and 1st place was awarded to Emily Schwimmer, as well as the 3rd place position at Nationals. Not too shortly after Reflections entries were submitted, students started to work on their pieces for the nationwide Scholastic competition. Middle schooler, Bailey Clark and high schoolers, Sarah Haynes, Jessica Fink, Lane Arthur, Gregory Swinton, and Teresa Karr were the state winners from our school. They all went to the National level, but were unfortunately not awarded for their talented works. However, it was still a great honor and achievement to be chosen to go on to

Nationals. The middle school visual artists were busy with other competitions, as well. Works from Eliza Morrissey, Camille Pompeii, Toni Jenkins, Rachel Epstein and Melissa Hensch were chosen to be showcased at the Gibbes Art Museum for their "Poets and Painters" exhibit. The "Jr. Duck Stamp" winners for the state of South Carolina included Cameille Pompeii (1st), Sarah Haynes (1st), Alice Gaynor (2nd), Haannah Trusler (2nd), Brent Sagan (3rd), Saretta Gray (HM), Hannah McClusky (HM), Adrian Brian (HM) and Rachel Taylor (HM). Finally, the last competition for the middle school students was the "Reel Art Competition." Second place was awarded to Sarah Haynes and Thomas J. Jones was awarded with Honorable Mention. Therefore, congratulations to all those students honored for their hard work and talent.

After all the competitions were over with, the hard work certainly did not stop. The Visual Arts Department had to get ready for their biggest gallery opening ever. Students worked long and hard to get their artwork finished in time for the show. All three teachers worked even harder to make sure those works were put in the show and make everything run smoothly. The Visual Arts Department unveiled the artwork on the evening of April 19, 2002 at the IMAX theatre. The walls were brought to life with the bright artwork from most of the Visual Art's students. The gallery was full of people from School of the Arts and all over Charleston. It came to life as everyone "oohed" and "aahed" at the talent we have here at SOA. There was not one person at the show that I don't think was quite impressed with what they saw. The gallery opening was a huge success and a great way to close out the year. Thank you to everyone for all their hard work helping to pull it off.

Senior Thesis

As we have come to end of the year, SOA will be saying goodbye to our second batch of seniors, the Class of 2002. Among this class are ten Visual Artists graduating. For their senior thesis, the AP Visual Arts students have to create an art portfolio, consisting of and no more than 29 pieces. The portfolio has three sections: 1)Quality - excellence demonstrated in original works 2)Concentration - an in-depth, personal commitment to a particular artistic concern 3)Breadth - a variety of experiences in using the formal, technical and expressive means available to an artist. The Quality section of the portfolio is a total of 5 pieces and the Concentration and Breadth section both have 12 pieces. However, only half of the visual arts seniors are in AP Art. Therefore, they are the only ones doing this type of portfolio. Teresa Karr explained her thesis: "Each piece is a moment in my future, drawn so the viewer see from my perspective, with a focus on hands." She said, "At the time I chose my topic, I had very strong ideas about what my future would be like and I thought it would be interesting to visually represent that. Over the months I worked on



By James Ulmer

my thesis, all my plans fell apart and I am left with an interesting representation of a life I could have had." From her thesis, Teresa hopes to gain AP credit and have more faith in her artistic ability. Another AP Art student, James Ulmer, titled his thesis Illustrating Middle-Earth. He said, "I'm illustrating Middle-Earth and designing scenes and objects from The Hobbit and The Lord of the Rings." About the developing process of his thesis, James said, "Three concentrations later, my thing worked and I stuck with it. I work in a sort of cinematic style. I design every aspect of each picture after a lot of research." He also said that his thesis, "gave him insight into medieval life and warfare, and an intimate knowledge of Tolkien literature. Rachel Taylor, chose to create a portfolio and titled it Visual Representation of Jazz Music Using Color and Line. She explained her portfolio: "Basically I listen to jazz and paint what I feel from the music. I picked four colors that I always use: black, blue brown and yellow ochre." Rachel also said she "had a lot of problems trying to come up with ideas. There was a period where I had an extreme artists' block, but I really enjoyed coming up with the ideas and I loved experimenting with things like texture and different kinds of paint. It took a while to get all my pieces looking similar." However, she has found a new respect for certain materials and rediscovered her love for art. Rachel has now decided that she wants to study art in college. Good luck to these seniors and the other graduates. I'm sure everything will turn out great.

Piano Highlights

by Alex Collier

Throughout this year our piano department has achieved many of their goals. Mrs. Benson and Mr. Clarke have done an incredible job teaching and supporting our piano majors. For first year teachers at The School of The Arts they have done a magnificent job adapting and teaching the new and the old. Adding a new class, Jazz piano, was a first for the School of the Arts. Mr. Clarke is one of Charleston's best known Jazz pianomusicians performing around town. This new class was hard to some students because it was not only new to them but it also takes time to teach and prepare. The goal for the Jazz piano was to show them a different approach to modern piano that teaches them the ability to analyze chord symbols such as G-m7. Not only analyzing them was a goal but to know how to play them and why they are played. Examples are why does G-m7 follow C7 and Fm7. This is a working knowledge of the circle of 11th. Until this Jazz course was taught it was a really acute diagram. The jazz piano students who are anticipating on going to AP music theory with Mr. Kerr will have little trouble with this lesson. Thanks to Mr. Clarke they are ready to succeed in the world of music theory. Another lesson that Mr. Clarke taught this year was how to arrange and put together music by writing it out and listening to it. This is a tough thing to do. You would have to know the range for a lot of the instruments in order to get the sound you are looking for. Again thanks Mr. Clarke for your time and knowledge.

The Classical Class with Mrs. Benson has accomplished many goals and won many awards. This year twelve students went to solo ensemble festival April 20th. Out of the twelve students nine received superiors and three received excellent. The duet ensembles also revived a superior. Without Mrs. Benson these accomplishment would not have happened. Mrs. Benson is a very good teacher, say her students, and a Very fine pianist. The sweet sound of her playing fills the room and the halls of the arts building. Mrs Benson is working with Steven Soles who has an audition at Newberry college on May 10. He has worked very hard and we know that he will do great. Good Luck!

Jessie Rumph, who is an incredible piano player, has an audition for the National Guild audition. She has to have 10 prepared pieces able to play from memory. This is her 5th consecutive year participating in this audition. If she passes the audition, she will be written up in the *Guild* magazine. Jessie is looking forward to graduating with a high school diploma for piano. This is an hour long audition at the Grace United Methodist Church on May 31. In college Jessie wants to major in Music Therapy and minor in piano performance. Good Luck!



By Teresa Karr



By Katya Demcheva



Stephen Soles

Orchestra 2001-2002



Amber Rosintoski

I first walked in the doors of SOA my freshman year of High School. Within minutes, I made one of my first and last friends at SOA, whom eventually ended-up being my stand partner as well, Liz. She walked me to my new homeroom with a group of people that have grown to become a part of my family. Music has had a large impact on my life in the fact that every emotion, good or bad, I'm feeling that day go into the music adding my personal touch. The past four years have been a roller coaster, but I will be walking away a better person because of all seven of my Strings family. I will be attending College of Charleston this fall and I would like to wish you all the luck on your new paths as well, and may we only remember the good times when we meet again.



Elizabeth Skuhra

Orchestra has been my main focus while attending SOA. The Senior Strings class has become much like a family, seeing each other every morning for the last six years. From crazy bus trips and hotel incidents to just goofing off in class, we have grown closer and ultimately made lasting friendships. When I look back at SOA, this class will stand out the most because it is the reason I came and stayed here. I would like to say to Amber, Ashley, Katy, Richard, Megan, and Laurel: I will miss you; keep in touch.

Richard Larson

Becoming a strings student was a decision I made in the 5th grade. Ms. Susan Hovis came to my elementary school at an assembly we had and the choice was offered to all 5th grade students. I'm not sure why I chose the viola, maybe because it sounded so strange. I don't know. It was a good decision, I believe. In my opinion, any stringed instrument where frets or keys do not apply is the hardest instrument to play simply because you must hear the note before you actually play it. This has given me a keen ear for pitch and helped me to grow so much more musically in all aspects. Beginning to play the guitar became a fairly easy transition as well as singing and sight reading. I've been playing the viola for nearly 8 years now. It's built a lot of character in me. Strings isn't really considered the coolest major. It's especially bad when you play the viola because you're the joke of the orchestra. It's pretty bad when all your orchestra friends make fun of you too, including the conductor! But it's ok. This character has helped me to become not as shy on stage, or any place for that matter. In the future it will help me in what I aspire to become (a nurse at MUSC Children's Hospital; Children love music!) I could come in and sing or teach. From what I have seen, children love to learn and start to do things on their own. If I could teach them to make music it would be beautiful. This is what I plan to major in, nursing, at the College of Charleston. I want to continue my education at MUSC. I have the life scholarship, but no others, as I thought it would cover my full tuition- Nope...not even close. But in closing, music will always be a part of my life. It's the universal language, speech of the soul.



Ashley Gaston

A twist of fate has led me to attend College of Charleston in the fall to study with Dr. Lee Chin. Playing the violin has been an off and on type of passion throughout my life. As a musician, there are times when you absolutely hate your instrument, and then there are also times that you absolutely love it. This year, my love hate relationship with my violin has turned into something I want to do for the rest of my life. I came to that epiphany this past summer, and I realized that I wouldn't be able to let go of my musical talent.

I have made a lot of musical progress this year. I was concertmaster of both the Youth Symphony and our school orchestra, and I participated in Senior All-State Orchestra, ranking third in state. Most importantly, I won the annual concerto competition and will play the Brunch Violin Concerto May 19 with the Charleston Symphony. I have also prepared a senior recital to be performed in June. Next year will be even more productive- I hope to play more in chamber ensembles and do a lot of individual work to better my musicianship.

I'm also double majoring in either Arts Management or English next year. I hope to transfer at some point, depending on how serious the violin becomes during the next year or so. I also want to live in a foreign country for a year or two as an exchange student.

But anyway- I want to say how much I love my fellow senior strings majors...and Andrae and Charity. Katy, Richard, Meg, Amber, and Liz- I will miss you all- but since we're all going to College of Charleston or USC we can have little Vanguard Overture revivals. No thank you. Hey you guys, we've been together forever. It's hard to think about not seeing you every weekday morning.

Thanks to Ms. Hovis, who's been there since the beginning. Without you, I wouldn't be where I am now.



Katy Hovis

It is going to be strange next year not being involved in the Orchestra program at this school. For the past seven years, I have gotten up around 6:00 in the morning to come to this school to major in Strings. I know that if I didn't come to this school, I wouldn't have gotten the same training attending another school (thanks Mom). At the time, all of the Essential Elements, Muller Rusch, and Master Theory seemed tedious and trivial, but it has greatly improved my musicality. All of the experiences, good and bad, have made me a stronger person, and I'm glad that I made the decision to come to School of the Arts. To my fellow senior strings majors: You guys are awesome and good luck next year! Keep in Touch. Next year, I will be attending the College of Charleston Honors Program, majoring in Arts Management.



Seniors Reflect

Brian Batten



In ten years many things can change. Sometimes that's good; sometimes it's not so good. Hopefully ten years from when I graduate I will have either started engineering and producing records or be in a working band. My passion is music, even though I have attended School of the Arts for Theater. This school has changed the way in which I view things. Now that I'm finally through, I feel that I am more capable of analytical higher-level thinking. This has not only changed the way I view music, but life. An SOA education is very useful for any walk of life.

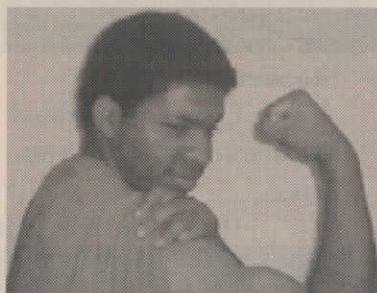
Hopefully just by continuing to write music and perhaps getting some sort of recording or engineering degree I can achieve my goal. I guess I don't really care what I'm doing in ten years as long as I'm happy. That's pretty much all I care about. School of the Arts will

have hopefully assisted me in having a happy and successful future.

Anthony Norris

One class that has had a strong impact on me was my last year's US History class with Ms. Tisdale.

It wasn't so much the history that made the impact, but the group of people that made up the class. We did a lot of fun things in that class. The one part of class I like the most, even more than the in-class projects, more than the movies, but not more than the field trips, was the community circle. We were a big class, so we got a little loud sometimes, but I'm sure my fellow seniors would agree it was the part of class we looked forward to the most. The interesting thing was Ms. Tizzy actually participated, too. Now, for those of you who don't know, community circle is when we would all stand up in a big circle and Ms. Tisdale would give us a topic and we'd go around the circle taking turns expressing our feelings on the topic. On topic, for example, would be "I feel sad when..." and we'd all either answer or use our right to pass. Some topics were a little complex so we would all pass for the most part. This little morning ritual made me feel as though I were a part of a group, because I learned things about my fellow classmates as they learned things about me, and if given the chance I would do it all over again without changing one thing.



Kimberly Anderson

Eight women in a room together for one hundred minutes five days a week nine months a year for four years lose all boundaries. While in some ways we are bounded by the roles we tend to play, we exchange these often enough. We are able to talk about everyone's uterus, everyone's love life (giving Nicole's extra emphasis), and mostly about underwear (fabric and size). We have it figured out, how the world works and doesn't. One morning on the couch, Mrs. Miles and I used the whole period trying to express our thoughts on the cause of evil. It ended with me looking out the window in an attempt to keep from crying. It didn't work, and I spent the rest of the day swallowing thorns in my throat, but I would not have spent that morning any other way even if I did not have my English homework finished that day. Mrs. Miles allows us to relate to her not only as student to teacher, but as human to human, woman to woman, mother to daughter. As for the way we were with each other, we were brutally honest. The dynamics between the five girls in the nook, Tammy, Nicole, Kristen, Jessica and me, escape any explanation. So goodbye to the time in the nook with the most influential women I will ever know. Goodbye to the naps on the couch, goodbye to laughing to tears, goodbye to the talks that left everyone sinking, and the ones that left us floating.



Loriel Brown

As I look back on my years at SOA, I'm amazed at how fast they have gone by. The most rewarding memory of it all is watching my peers grow. One of the interesting things I've noticed is looking back in the yearbooks from previous years. I see tremendous physical changes. People who were chunky, glasses wearing sixth graders are now nice figured, contact wearing twelfth graders, who present more self-confidence in their art major.

When you know someone personally and think of them as a friend, you tend to forget the amount of talent that person has. For example, as I watch the creative writers work on their senior theses I think, "those are my friends." When I read their writings, I look at them and I am confused to where all their imagination and ability to look at the world from an outside perspective comes from. I feel this way about all of the majors. It's unbelievable that "my friends" are the ones that are the most graceful dancers, and can choreograph the most difficult pieces. "My friends" are actors that have stage presence that can light up the world. And most importantly "my friends" are singers that can pick up a piece of music and sing it, have been in the top-ten at All State Chorus for the past three years, and sing six part harmonies in tune, with good tone quality, and without accompaniment.

When I reflect on my years at SOA I think about love, unity, and talent.



Kristen Granet

Throughout the years there have been many changes made at Charleston County School of the Arts. I've been in attendance for seven years along with numerous others who have helped to lay the groundwork, and shape our school. I can remember the very first day of school in sixth grade when everyone was nervous about leaving their friends with whom they had gone to school for countless years and venturing out into the unknown where no one had gone before. We were the first, but definitely not the last to make this bold journey.

In sixth grade I can remember having class with Mrs. Ambrose and reading *The Giver* and having to act it out; I can still remember the lunch song and mirroring and Art Smart. Then, in seventh grade I can remember sitting in continents in Mrs. Graves' class and having Mr. Rivers call Traci "leamur" because she was climbing in trees. In eighth grade I remember Mrs. Leverett reading us a book about where we came from (and then, crying) and dissecting a pig and various trips to the "Ghetto Recreation Center"...AKA the big ditch on Iroquois. Then ninth grade came and we were officially in high school. I can remember Mrs. Yatsco and her "O Moon!" apostrophe, Mr. Shaw (PShaw) and his "grade busters" (or what he liked to call "grade boosters") and the voice box with his little princess saying: "Raise the roof!" And, how could I ever forget the school trip to New York!!!! (Need I say more?) Or even *Oklahoma!* Then tenth grade came and it was the first year I had Mr. Murray as a teacher. (Do not mind all the horror stories you may have heard about him...He's one of the best teachers I've ever had and has taught me about more than just school but also about life.) I remember being inducted into the National Honor Society and it was scary when the Juniors came to "tap" us; no one knew what was going on and we walked down the hall like the secret service or even the mafia. Junior year, what a year. I can remember staying up late having to finish my homework; this must have been the toughest year. I remember Leadership class with Amber, Stacy, Lakeisha, and Kimberly; here we learned about being leaders and handling tough situations...but mainly we vented. And Community Circle, how could we ever forget that?!?! Teaching the class in English and having seminars with Ms. Marshall will also be something I will never forget. This brings us up to the current year: Senior year. I can remember Astronomy class where Mr. Murray learned the course along with us and Kimberly Anderson reminded us that binary stars "touch themselves." I can remember Ms. Hamilton's class where she couldn't get through the roll without...well, you know. I can remember AP English where everything is either about sex or made to be about sex...don't ask guys, "twelfth grade." I can remember AP Calculus ("How did I get into this class?" was a question I found myself constantly asking.) and the many failing grades (right Libby?!?!). This year has been grand ("Priimo Grandè"), however I am extremely happy that it is over because now I am able to go on to even bigger and better things.



As I reflect upon my years at SOA, I am somewhat saddened that I must leave it. I will miss everyone greatly. Only at SOA can you see true artist's work displayed through the halls, skilled dancers dancing through the halls, vocalists singing down the halls and everyone joining in, or even actors reciting lines for that show the following night. SOA has a unique atmosphere that will be hard to replace.

Katya Demcheva

Looking back at the two years at SOA I remember brushes, canvases, plays, dances, performances, and a lot of talented students. SOA is a great school for talent and a good school for friendships and of course great academic programs. SOA offers a variety of majors, electives, and AP courses. The studies have shown that SOA's test scores had been the second highest in Charleston County, but the talent always scores first. SOA supports students in their creativity by selling tickets for the plays that our students perform, raffle tickets to support the Visual Art gallery and lots more. SOA is a great school if you have talent and want to make friends.

During the two years at SOA I have made more friends than in fifteen years of my life in Russia. At SOA it doesn't matter if you are foreign or local, black or white or with a different talent, all students are welcome. And everyone wants to be friends, of course

students at SOA have disputes and arguments, but everything works out in the end. No one is left out and there is no such thing as a popular group. At SOA everyone is equal yet all are different in his own unique way.

At SOA all majors have a connection to each other. For example, if a theater major is having a play, visual arts majors will do the backdrop for the play, vocal will audition for musical, dancers will dance in plays, and so on. In this school all majors come together and the creativity begins. Which leads into the great performances, trophies, and a great way to show the world that you are talented and creative.

Some students have been here since sixth grade which shows great commitment towards their talents and dreams. Thinking that I could have gone to SOA when I first came here from Russia in sixth grade to show my talent to everyone else, makes me want to turn back time and start all over. Instead I went to Drayton Hall Middle School in which no one was interested if a student has a talent or not. School of the Arts showed me that you don't have to be the same as everyone else. You can be different and creative as much as you want to be. SOA is a school of free expression to show your talent and creativity, without anyone else criticizing you as weird and different.



The School of the Arts is featured in the latest issue of Charleston Magazine.

Katy Hovis



Dearest Katy,
Your graduation has finally arrived along with all of the feelings, thoughts, and emotions you are having as you end one phase of your life and begin another. I wanted you to know that I am so proud of your academic and musical achievements, but most of all of the beautiful young woman you have become. You are honest, kind, loving and accepting of all people. I am so thankful you are my daughter. I will always love you and be there for you. You are the greatest gift of my life.

Love,

Mom

Rissa Hanagriff



Rissa,
You came here shining, and the light got brighter, and brighter. As you set sail, I know that light will lead you right. My little hi-beam.

Send me no flowers... just my little girl.

1st Mama

Sharmetta Sheppard

To my sister, Sharmetta Sheppard,
Congratulations on your graduation from High School. I wish you much success and luck as you continue your education in College.

Your sister,

Carmisha

Sharmetta Aqueena Lashay Sheppard,

I knew the day you were born that you were very special. It is truly a blessing and a joy to have you as a daughter.

Congratulations and best wishes for a job well done. May you strive to reach all of your goals to the highest!!!

Love,

Mom



To my lovely Granddaughter Sharmetta Sheppard,

Congratulations on your graduation from high school. You have finished the first phase of your education. Always put Christ first in your life and He will direct your path. May you continue to achieve and reach for the highest goals in life, as you continue your education.

May God forever bless you and keep you in His loving care. I love you very much.

Grand Mama Florence

Stephen Soles



Stephen,

Congratulations! From there to here in the blink of an eye. We are so proud of you.

Love,

Pa Pa and Grandma Soles

Stacy Kinard

Stacy,

You have been a blessing from God since your birth. Hold true to yourself and values. Congratulations!

With Our Love Always,
Moma and Daddy

