

Applause

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Charleston County School of the Arts, North Charleston, SC

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Congratulations



School of the Arts
Class of 2003

Editor's Page



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Applause is a student produced publication of the School of the Arts. We can be contacted at soa_applause@yahoo.com or 843-529-4990.

Editor's Note



Welcome to the special graduation edition of Applause. During this past school year, the staff of four students has produced seven color issues and now this triple issue. I would like to personally thank this awesome staff, Bekah Bevins, Tim Smith, Bea Heyward, and the big man Emory Frazier.

I would also like to thank all the seniors who submitted their essays and completed surveys for this issue. I want to thank Mr. Davis in particular for being an awesome assistant principal and for all his help through the years. Dr. Cusatis, thanks for giving us the freedom to make this paper into our own. Congratulations to all graduating seniors. It seems like yesterday --not seven years ago-- we were all arriving at this school for the first time. The years have flown by faster and faster every year. Good luck to all seniors in the future and always remember to have as much fun as you can! Party at Mr. Davis' house after graduation!!

Sincerely,
Cody Palmer
Applause Editor

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A note from Mrs. Myers



Most of you came to School of the Arts as members of the sixth grade the first year we admitted 125 incoming students. Many of you had come from the Ashley River School when I was principal there. Others of you joined us along the way...all together helping to create a dynamic senior class. You have contributed to the 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 that you will enjoy a level of accomplishment and fulfillment just 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.

Some words from Mrs. Caldwell



First of all, let me thank you for helping me in my first year as an administrator. I taught many of you in "Eighth Grade Land"--the block building we inhabited together in 1998-99, and it has been a pleasure to see you again as members of the Senior Class. It has been wonderful to become acquainted with those of you who came to SOA as high school students.

The School of the Arts is a special place because of students like you. Take with with you the magic and joy of your time here. In a few years, you will see the learning and growth that came even from difficult times. You were chosen to be a part of this extraordinary school because you are extraordinary people.

I wish you a lifetime of learning, of success, of happiness and love. You deserve it all.

A message from Mr. Davis

Congratulations to the Class of 2003! Always remember all the good times you had and friendships you made during your years at SOA. May the very best come your way and always follow your dreams.



Congratulations



Bubbie,

Over the years, through the many struggles life has dealt you, you have been an inspiration of hope to our family. At fifteen months doctors wondered if you were strong enough to live through the fight of a lifetime. Your strength to endure and determination to succeed has molded you into an accomplished artist, a strong academic student, a passionate athlete, a loyal friend, a caring brother and a remarkable young man. There are not enough words to describe how truly proud we are of you and the hope of life you bring to our hearts.

We love you,

Dad, Mom, Elizabeth, Michael and Emily XO



Deirdre S. E. Middleton

Where did the time go? Seems like it was yesterday. You have made me very proud of you. Love, Happiness, Success, and GOD'S BLESSING.

Mommie

Deirdre,
Congratulations, I'm Proud of you. Continue to keep up the good work. Stay sweet, and strong. Praying for continued success in your life.

Love,
Jody

Deirdre,
We are proud to have you as a niece. Continue to excel in everything you do, because you are the future.

Uncle Bobby-Aunt Sylvia

Deirdre,
Preparation is the first step in achieving your goals. Success belongs to those who dare to try-go for it.

Much Success,
Kenneth-Zandria Wilson

D, always remember to put Christ first and He will direct your path. Keep up the good work. We love you!

Aunt Brenda and sons



Ivan ,

You are your destiny. Remember that God is the strength beneath your wings.

I Love You!!!

Congratulations!!!

Mommie

Ivan,

Let God order your steps in every move that you take, and you shall continue to shine

We Love You!!!

Granny and Papa

Courtney Barrett Dix,

You are beautiful and talented. We are so proud of you! It's time to move forward and prepare for the wonderful life ahead of you.

Mom, Ralph, Dad and Cindy

Sean,

We're so proud of you and your accomplishments. God has blessed us with a wonderful son and brother.

Congratulations

Love,

Dad, Mom, Richard, and Garrett

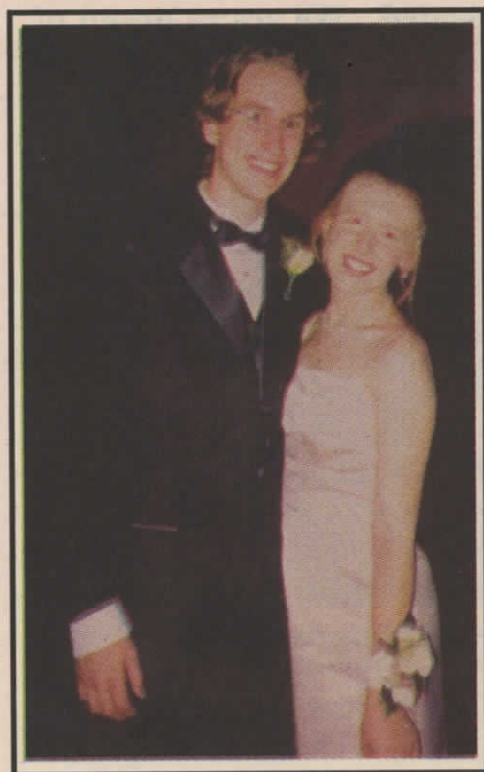
Devoe,

Congratulations on a job well done. May God order your steps and lead you into a successful future.

Love, Momma

Recent Events

*School of the Arts
Junior / Senior Prom
April 26, 2003
Stern Center
College of Charleston*



Seniors Reflect

Jenny Parnow



One cannot put a value on an SOA education; it is unlike any other. I came from a "normal" high school—one where an artist was considered a "freak." No one understood the importance of art and beauty in our culture and society. I grew up in Charlotte, and lived there all my life. I was happy and had many friends that I had known forever. Suddenly, I found myself uprooted and replanted in South Carolina—kicking and screaming the entire way of course. That summer was awful. I hated Charleston and I resented being dragged away from my life. Then, the summer was over, and I trudged off to school. And it was

there that I figured out "who I am," so to speak. The School of the Arts turned out to be one of the best experiences of my life. I was thrown into an environment where everyone was talented and everyone had a voice. SOA kids may be "different," but it's a positive difference. So the dancers run around in leotards, the visual artists always have their hands covered in charcoal and paint, the theatre majors strip in front of one another, and the vocalists sing down the hallways...but is that really so bad? In a typical high school, few people learn to find their own voice. They're a flock of sheep, ready to follow the herd. They don't know how to be their own person. The atmosphere at SOA is completely different. Quite the contrary, actually; everyone is fighting to have their own voice heard. It's a constant struggle to be on the top. SOA kids care about their grades, they care about their art, and they care about their life. The teachers at the School of the Arts have learned that we are not the typical bunch, and that they have the same character as the students do. This is an important advantage to the students, because we need the kind of attitude that relates to our own. And we do have attitude. Our art major teachers have a special way of communicating with their students as well. From yelling, "What's that you got there? PUT IT AWAY" if one has candy to asking the philosophical question, "If I were a prostitute, how would I sit?" I wish so much that I could have had Mr. Wood many, many years ago. He's been a wonderful inspiration for me. If I could go back to sixth grade, I would have moved up here a long time ago and not wasted my years

where I did. I may not have the same view on the School of the Arts as those who have gone here since sixth grade on, but I can say that an SOA education really is like no other.

Lorena Jordan



What can I really say? The three years that I have been a part of this school have flown by so fast and I still can't believe I am at the point of leaving this school. To sum it all up, my three short years here have been fantastic. Thinking back at all that I have accomplished and participated in, and all the friends I have made makes me proud to have been a part of the SOA "family." There are so many experiences I have had from being here, and although I can't share each one, some very important ones come to my

mind.

When I left Ferndale Baptist and came to SOA in tenth grade, I was pretty nervous, especially when I first walked into Chorale and didn't have a clue what was going on. However, I quickly learned the routine and our way of doing things, and it has taken me on so many adventures since. The best memories I have of my SOA career is when the Chorale went to Canada. Not only did we get first place in the jazz competition, but we had many memories such as our "exuberance" on the bus and the "party" at the Hard Rock Cafe. Those memories are among the best of my life. Eleventh grade brought us to a new level as we said goodbye to the seniors and hello to new members. As always, our concerts were fantastic and we got second place at the State Choral festival that year. Eleventh grade also brought everyone back to a frightening reality as we realized how close we were to leaving SOA ourselves, especially at our ring ceremony that year. During eleventh grade I also had the wonderful opportunity to assist the Junior Advisors and the Junior Council. When this year came along, I not only had to choose a college, but also attempt step up my volunteering in everything I was involved with, even Chorale. Our winter concert was great, our state festival performance was great, and our togetherness as a team grew stronger. I got into All-State Women's choir this year, which was an experience. This last semester has been nothing but a blur with finalizing college plans and keeping up in my major and academic classes. I finally see why last year's seniors said enjoy being a junior while I could! This year and my other ones at SOA have been everything I could have imagined and more.

I would like to thank and recognize all of the teachers who have had the "pleasure" of teaching me. If I have not thanked you for all your work, I want to do it now. It is truly because of each of the teachers and their own style of teaching in various subjects that helps to establish SOA as the well known place it is. I also want to thank all of my fellow graduates for allowing me to become a part of the class of 2003. To all underclassmen, I want to leave you with some advice: have faith in all that goes on here. The teachers and school officials know what's going on. From my personal experience in vocal, if you put your trust in those who are leading you, you will be happy with the results. My years at SOA have been nothing but fun and I will miss them and look back on them with happiness.

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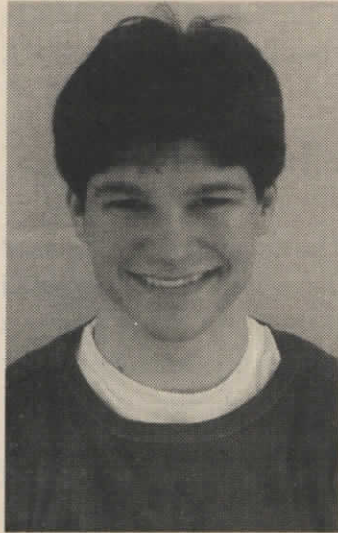
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Seniors Reflect



Robert Olson

Over the past four years that I have spent here at SOA, I have made some very interesting friends and experienced several memorable experiences. The first two days of school were perhaps the most memorable. On the first day of school I had Visual Arts first period and there was a new teacher. His name was Mr. Buggle and he kept us in the art room for both first and second period because he was under the impression that we had art and art history on the same day. Of course there weren't enough stools in the art room for everybody so we spent both class periods standing. After this first mistake I proceeded to my 4-5 class but when I got there I found out that I was supposed to be in my 6-7 class. Luckily Mrs. Yatsco found me in the hallway and helped me get to my class and explained to me which building was which. That day made me wonder if I had in fact made the right decision on attending this school. However, the second day of school went more smoothly. I ended up showing up for all my classes on time and was able to attend lunch for the first time. Of course I really didn't know anyone so I sat by myself at a table. A few minutes later Tracy Cantwell came up to me and asked me if I wanted to eat lunch with her Ashley, Brandi, and Jessica. I continued to eat lunch with them for the rest of the school year. My first two friends, aside from the junior ladies, were Justin Lynch and Greg Swinton. This just so happened to be because we were all the new kids and we sat at the same table. Later, I would befriend Carolyn, Eliza, Hannah, Jenny, Maggie and Sherard. I went home feeling much better that day and decided perhaps I had made the right decision after all. Other than not knowing my way around and being invited to eat lunch with juniors I remember winning the Garden Design Project in Geometry.

In the tenth grade, Harper joined the circle and this was also the year that the Visual Arts department went to Italy. This trip was definitely the highlight of my sophomore year and it allowed me to become closer friends with some more of the people in the art class. I ended up rooming with Harper and Alex. With Alex as our guide it was impossible to get lost and we were even able to locate some locations our guide didn't even know about. We came to grow extremely attached to a beverage known as Fanta. Through Harper, I was able to become closer friends with Lane. While we were there in Italy, I was able to experience all of the great pieces done by the Renaissance masters.

My junior year was relatively uneventful but fun none the less. Luckily, there was always Photography or Ceramics to turn to after any academic class. There were many sculptures that went unfinished and many that were broken just for the sake of venting. I will never forget when Alex Parker sculpted a log cabin and during the drying process it began to crack really badly so he took the liberty of destroying it himself.

As for my senior year, it has been a rather nice break from the academic portion of school, seeing that I only have two academic classes because I completed all of my required classes aside from my last

English credit and Government/ Economics credit. I have been spending my A days in the art room and half of my B days in the art room. This has given me plenty of time to concentrate on my art work and allowed me to fully understand what it is like to devote my time to several pieces that revolve around the same theme. Overall, I feel that my years at SOA have been well spent and worthwhile.



Paul A. McCrae

My education at SOA has been challenging, productive, and eventful. Looking back on the past seven years, I realize how truly valuable our school is to its students, faculty, and community. SOA has not only fostered excellence in the academics, but also provided students with the opportunity to develop their artistic gifts.

Someone once said that the more a child feels valued, the better his values will be. Teachers have encouraged us and instilled a deep appreciation and respect for the arts by allowing us to express our own individuality. As we enter the real world, we may realize that, perhaps, the greatest gift SOA has given us is the value of a professional work ethic. This discipline has afforded us opportunities to showcase our talents not only in the school environment, but also in the community. From this, SOA has gained a formidable reputation.

Creating and sustaining an arts school was a difficult task. However, we are all the beneficiaries of one woman's passion and persistence. I'm forever grateful to Mrs. Myers for her vision and tenacity. She inspires us all to follow our dreams!



Andrae Raffield

There are lots of things I intend to be doing in 2013. One of these things is getting my student loan paid off by teaching music in a low income school for five years. After that I will probably continue teaching music in schools, and also performing and writing music in some way or another. No matter what, music will be involved in my life. I intend to accomplish this by attending Appalachian State University and double-majoring in music education and performance.

I also intend to be living on the coast somewhere while still owning a home in the mountains near a ski resort. I plan to accomplish this by selling my internal organs on eBay. Since that probably won't be enough to pay for everything, I will also have lots of children and sell them into slavery. These two plans will allow me to be a professional musician and have a relatively comfortable lifestyle.

Seniors Reflect

Courtney Dix



In some way I feel as if I should take this seriously and write a commentary on the education received at SOA, how wonderful and focused I have become not only in my art area but also in my academics. However, an SOA education has really taught me to never take anything too seriously and therefore I shall address this in my own, lighthearted, comedic way. Instead of focusing on all of the academic achievements I felt I have made I will focus on

the life lessons that I've learned. Someone once said, "You learn everything you need to know in Kindergarten," but personally I think I've learned everything I'll ever need to know here at SOA.

In the sixth grade, I learned many valuable lessons. One: stretch pants are never a good idea. Two: even though a teacher might tell you he is not your friend, in about seven years at your prom he will be the first one to dance with you and, lets face it, everyone else, as though you're life long pals. Three: yuk words are evil. Four: if you aren't fat in the sixth grade, don't make fun of the fat kids... it will come back and bite you in the bum later on.

In the seventh grade, my education was heightened. I realized that just because you have worn slims all your life does not mean you won't end up being a fat hog later in life. Also, I found out that Art Smart is really just a gyp to get you to dress like an eighties pop star and dance around on stage to "Tribal Dance".

In the eighth grade I found out that just because you throw orange soda on a boy doesn't mean that he won't ask you out. I also learned that Mrs. Anne Marie Fairchild is quite possibly one of the greatest math teachers and one of the most amazing people in the world. And just in case you were misinformed, Mr. Cohen's mustard pants are definitely not something he wore to amuse himself, but something he wore to amuse the entire front row of his morning class (Jacquelyn Glover and yours truly).

In the ninth grade, I learned a number of things, which can probably be narrowed down in to two very important statements. "The prepared will achieve success", and "Don't be nervous".

In the tenth grade I learned that Miss Egleston, though she always knew the right answer, never saw the need in hurting a students feelings by pointing out that they were wrong. Instead she simply muttered one word that's intonation was very encouraging: "Maybe?" Dr. Price taught me that I should never pursue science as a career by almost failing me.

As a junior at SOA, I learned that "Daddy Knows." I also realized things like Ms. Marshall means business, Ms. Tisdale has distinctive gestures, you should definitely be in Video Production, and if you know what's good for you just wait until senior year to take Mrs. Hamilton's class...again!

As a senior this year, I have learned some of the most important lessons of all. Mr. Cusatis thinks everyone is goofy, Ms. Tisdale's distinctive gestures are easily absorbed and very hard to lose, the yearbook is a lot of stress but in the end you like that fact that you got to advertise all your friends, Mrs. Harvey doesn't want to be filmed and gosh darn it,

don't call her a southern belle, and Mr. Wood really should consider adopting us all because he's a great mommy!

All in all, the value of an SOA education is much higher than life itself. If you haven't learned all you need to know about life after attending SOA, then you haven't been paying attention. In all seriousness, I will truly miss SOA and all of my friends, including teachers who swore they would be the opposite. This school is full of passionate artists and I can only hope that everyone here can make their dreams come true. An SOA Education is the beginning of a life long journey.

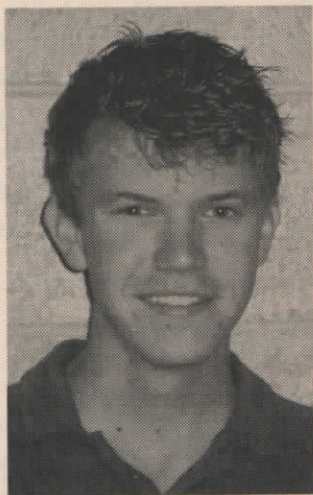
Samantha Church



I really can't write this. I have no idea how to sum up SOA in an essay. All I can say is that I really really love this school, and that it's different from every other school in a thousand good ways. It's wonderful that in Dr. Price's class I broke approximately eight crucibles with (*my good friend*), Ben Neuhaus, and she never got angry or told me I wouldn't succeed in life or even made me pay for them. It's wonderful that Ms. Hamilton has the most random posters in her room--such as the one that

reads "No Detention, No Failure--Making History." It's really wonderful that there is an unusually high number of attractive male teachers at our school. I love that I don't have a single friend that isn't incredibly witty and clever and brilliant--we're the only people I know that can take a "your dad" joke and somehow tie it into the Scarlet Letter with a surprising amount of intelligence and wit. I love that this school has given me standards. While I recognize that I'm somewhat of a snob, I really do take a guilty pleasure in being able to see a play and recognize why it's not any good, then simply look at the friend that went out of their way to take me there, or squeeze them on the wrist, and they know immediately that we're sharing a joke and what that joke is. I love that SOA is a place where everyone is good at something, and we're encouraged to do what we're good at, but that the brilliance of everyone else you know puts you in your place and keeps you from getting cocky. I love that I have friends who write novels and poetry, or full length musicals that are meant to be a joke yet still contain beautiful music and intelligent dialogue. I love that when you walk down the arts building you see masterpieces on the walls while you listen to the vocal majors climb up scales, reaching impossibly high notes, and are not unlikely to see a girl dancing down the hallways to the piano music in the room down the hall, and it's all so gorgeous that you simply feel disgusting because it's just too perfect--seriously, that was my first experience at SOA when I auditioned for the school--I didn't know what was going on. And then there's theatre, which holds a special place in my heart, obviously. As I once pointed out, theatre majors can act, and sing, and do taffy pulls and do wet tee shirt contests. That's special. I love the obstacle courses and the pictionary, and playing hang man, and I love our theatre teachers. They are soooo brilliant. I don't know what they're doing at a public school in the ghetto, but if we're lucky they won't come to their senses anytime soon, because they're wonderful and they're professional and they know what they're doing and you can trust them. I encourage everyone to take advantage of their brilliance. Everyone at our school is wonderful. I don't want to leave. Ugh, now I'm depressed. Thanks a lot. I only wish that next year I was going back to school....back to school...to prove to Daddy that I'm not a fool...

Seniors Reflect



Ben Neuhaus

To reflect on my years at SOA is a big job. I mean, whoa guys, seven years, thats a lot. Seven, like seven sheets of paper! And there are so many aspects to reflect upon, teachers, students, guess that smell, sleeping, questioning anything and everything. I think the thing to do is to reflect on my interactions with students of the other grade levels, after all, its not just about the seniors, lets not forget the little guys.

Sixth graders, well the only sixth graders I really know are the theater majors. Let me just tell you, I hope that when you are seniors you have to do your show for the sixth graders, so you can know the terror I felt at having a room full of hostile children sit and not laugh at my show.

You know seventh graders, I think its time to let you in on the big secret. Last year, when Mr. Wood was gone, so we got to teach you the opening to West Side Story, remember that, yeah well we were pretty much just using your innocence for our own sick humor. It really isn't a good objective to want gum, at least not for the entire cast. Oh and Tiara (I hope I spelled your name right) you are most delightful, don't ever forget that.

Hmm, eighth grade class...wow, its hard to believe that I could know so little about a group of people who had theater right next door to us all the time. Well, uhh, I hope you guys do well with yourselves.

Ahh the ninth graders. Leigh, sweet Leigh, my delightful P.A. You have more style than you know what to do with. You know ninth graders, I know a lot of you did not want to attend the Senior Thesis shows, and thats alright, I understand. The important thing was that the tenth and eleventh graders took you down...took you down to china town.

Which brings us to the tenth graders: Jenny K. Magoo, and Tabatha whose shining white teeth are like a beacon to us all. Paul and Jake, even if I wasn't invited to your birthday party, and you were invited to mine, you're still two cool dudes...too cool soapy dudes. For some reason I feel a special kinship with some people in the tenth grade class. For example, Taylor Schaberg, for a while there I thanked you for having a girlier car than me, but then you got rid of it, and the kinship was lost. Others of you I knew only from our writing back and forth on Mr. Cusatis' board, only unfortunately you didn't understand the humor (See she was reading a book called A Good Man is Hard to Find which was funny because...oh never mind). Oh, and before I move on to the eleventh graders lets never ever forget when Jeanne Albinger said the word, "peene". Those were some good times.

Eleventh graders, nobody knows the stress you are going through right now better than us. My advice to you is not to stress too much about getting your applications in on time as you never know what is going to happen. I applied to all my schools in October and ended up attending the one I did at the last minute in January. Go

Figure. Anyways, Juniors, I think the whole senior class feels a special kinship to you guys, after all we share many classes with you. In fact we share many answers to impossible quizzes with you guys...you know who you are :) Anyways, you guys are such an interesting group, it seems like in the past year you have all matured so much...and by mature I mean become a little bit sketchy. There are so many of you that I know the names of but I have no idea who you are, and so many that we have had to make nicknames for because nobody knows your names. There are Juniors that I love, like Emmy and Bessie who have always stood by me, and Juniors who hate me for no apparent reason, like Brian Dobsen.

But my true evil brethren are the Seniors. Gentle Senior Class, what fond memories we have as a whole. The time in Eighth grade when the school was flooding and they told each grade level where to go for safety...except ours. Or the time when they put the school supply lists on the internet for every grade...except ours. Wait a minute, I'm beginning to think they never liked us. But don't worry, if Ms. Hamilton's class has taught me nothing else its that whenever you start to think too much you should just start clapping. So this is for all you guys -APPLAUSE-

Alexandra McCarthy



Being at one school for seven years is a very long time, especially if you haven't enjoyed it. Lucky for me, I've enjoyed every minute here. From GLURP to my lovely speech class, "number 7" to Elsa's, School of the Arts has been my artistic haven since I graduated elementary school. All of the people I've shared my memories with will always hold a special place in my heart. I can't believe that graduation is just around the corner. I've waited for this moment to come for the past seven years and now it is nearly here. In some aspects I almost don't want to leave... almost. I

know that going to college will be a wonderful experience. The day I step on campus will be the first day that I start to make the decisions that will truly impact my life. I'm going to a fabulous school that I fell in love with the moment I arrived there to visit, but now the moment has come to say goodbye to my home and it is a lot harder than I thought it was going to be. But what's ahead of me is all that matters now. No point in looking back because those wonderful memories are just what they are: memories. They will always be near and dear to my heart. I'm going to mooch for a second, stealing a quote from Pippin that was quoted by Ben Neuhaus in the year-book, "Oh it's time to start living."

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Seniors Reflect

Rebecca Toms



We all sat on the hard floor, me in my horrible floral dress, Ben in his big T-shirt, Ashley in her vest and stirrups. We stared up at this intimidating man named Mr. Locklair, who reminded us that he "wasn't here to be our friend." All the girls instantly fell in love with Brian Funcik and his long blonde mullet. It was the first day of theatre class in sixth grade, and I didn't know a single person. Little did I know that those strangers around me, minus a few that have come and gone- well, a lot that have come and gone, would come to be my most favorite

people in the world. Even those that have joined us in the past few years have become close friends.

Let's start with sixth grade, the year of Josh Bennett and Beach Party. Ashley, Ben and I--uh, I mean, Mr. Locklair, wrote a fabulous play based on Pandora's Box, Ashley gave us a life lesson on how to properly open imaginary doors on stage, and Kayla, Madison, and Christina performed their award-winning original musical, Tea for Three ("I'll get my ballet slippers!" Or just some socks painted pink.) And who can forget the infamous Hanson concert we all planned to attend...oh...wait

Hot pink workout outfits, leg warmers, and spandex. All I have to say about 7th grade. Why didn't anyone tell me my pants were jacked up that high???

Mrs. Clark was our teacher in 8th grade...yea, she definitely didn't like us too much. But we do have some great memories from that year, such as when Alex Allman stood up to say his monologue..and then just sat back down. Or those excellent radio shows ("Oooh Dr. Crudezic, may I interest you in a refreshing Pepsi?").

If there's one thing we learned from Class Acts in 9th grade, its that our class as a whole has a chair dragging problem, and that Ben cannot carry Chauncey for the life of him.

Anyone remember *Our Town*. in 10th grade? Yea, that's because only like nine people came to the performance. And they were all Mom's. But hey, no hard feelings. It was a quality show, you missed out (not really). And we all learned that a leather belt thing around Ashley's jacket can and will be used as a whip (I can't help it I look stupid when I do it, I'm tall, okay!!!)

Della's Diner in 11th grade was by far, the best thing ever. I will never forget the day Mr. Locklair made us audition by seeing who could wrestle with the stuffed animals the best. And the time that Kayla walked into the black box and all the sixth graders started applauding. As horribly boring as teacher monitor was, it was also the best class ever. Ben, I'll forever cherish getting banished from the office with you, so we had to sit in the hallway, eating Neccos and playing the "finish the song" game. I love you!

Senior thesis. What to say about senior thesis? It was an experience. I've definitely learned the most this year about many things: script writing, time management, responsibility, and most importantly, how to

construct a kick butt obstacle course. That maze man, whoa. But it wasn't all fun and games. We read some serious plays, such as Joe Turner *Come and Gone* (THE BONES!!!) and the "Social" *Dance*...hahaha. I still ask myself daily, what IS the meaning of this corn. But seriously, I'm so proud of everyone's senior theses and the work that went into them. This year has brought us so much closer, if that's possible. Oh sellin' birds please...

A fun game we often play is to imagine what we all would be if we'd gone to a normal high school, because let's face it, SOA is far from normal. I, for one, love the way SOA has shaped me, and am glad I didn't turn out all "Wandonian." SOA is a place where we appreciate everyone for who they are and the talent they possess. I've made some of the most amazing friends here in these seven years, and I have to do something as difficult as saying goodbye to them.



Christie McNally

I know this is going to sound cliché, but I'm going to miss constantly being surrounded by the immeasurable talent of my peers. I remember one day earlier this year walking through the halls of the Arts Building during 2-3 and hearing the band practicing, seeing the dancers and violinists warming up in the hall, smelling paint as I passed the Visual Arts room. I was just overwhelmed by the skill and ability that everyone at this school possesses. I haven't been here since sixth grade like most of my classmates, but I feel like I've

been around them forever. The students here at SOA are so accepting of each other and they really know how to appreciate one another's art. It's so amazing that I came here not knowing anyone, and now I've got friendships that will last a lifetime.

I've always been an open-minded person--always open to new ideas. I have encountered some of the brightest minds in the country here. Not only are SOA kids artistically talented, they're intelligent. They're able to see things differently than others and combine their genius. I wouldn't be surprised if some day we take over the world!

I've also come across some of the most inspirational teachers I've ever met. Mrs. Miles, my creative writing teacher, has become my second mother, and I love her as such. Mr. Cusatis shares my passions for literature and music, and I learn something new from him every day. Then there's Mr. Murray, one of the few teachers left that cares about learning as well as education. I have great respect for all of you and thank you all for the knowledge you've given me. I am eternally grateful.

To my fellow seniors, I wish you success, happiness, and peace. May you live everyday as if it was your favorite. To the senior creative writers, you are some of the most beautiful people I've ever met. I love you all, and I know you have what it takes to make your dreams come true.

My time here has been well-spent, and I am a better person for it. That is all.

Seniors Reflect



Marty Washington

School of the Arts has truly prepared me for all of my future endeavors, both mentally and socially. I feel very strong about all of the lessons that I've learned and SOA has prepared me for whatever comes my way! When I go to college, the thing that I will miss the most is all of my friends and the stuff that we went through during our SOA years. It was my friends like: Danielle (Shoo-bee), Deirdre-Dee, Wana, Jonathan (Jay), Lauren Smalls and Ferguson,

Charity, Husain, Christian, Sean, Jonisha, Tiffany, Bo-Bo, Emory, Pierre, Steele, Caleb, Steevan, 'Nigel, Lanice, My Steppers, Jocelyn, Cousin Mike, and everyone else who made SOA worth it! These are my friends that I love and will never forget! They have prepared me socially for all that is to come. Whatever I went through, they was right there behind me! We have been through so much during our SOA years! I'm going to go back and highlight some of the most memorable times to me:

6th Grade- the vocal majors at the "Cavallero", parties, "I Can't Feel My Leg" (Thanks Shoo-Bee), the caved in ceilings, Josh Bennett, Donnell's asthma on Florida trip

7th Grade- our big "fight", Ms. Ambrose's projects, Mrs. Graves feet for candy (Yuck!), "Shake the Jelly Off", Cafeteria groups, Food fights, fights over Kia, Tiffany slam Fitz on ground playing Football, Me and Omega

8th Grade- Truth or Dare, Danielle and Jonathan, Tiffany's second home: Mrs. Bastian's Office, Mr. Cohen's Class, The Dating Game (Pick a name out of a hat to kiss), 8th grade party w/ high school, Antione and Jonathan fight over cheese, Jonathan and I getting into fights, Tawana and Seabrook, Deirdre and Diamond, Lauren and Xan, Jack and Jill, Lap Dances, Rockin' Up, "He Never Failed me Yet" (Christian & Tiffany)

9th Grade- Sherard and Danielle, Ms. Hamilton's class, "In The Garden Project", "Mustang Sally", Me and Deirdre in Geometry class, Mr. Varner, The Clicks, BROOKGREEN GARDENS (Deirdre and Kia), Antione and April Jennings

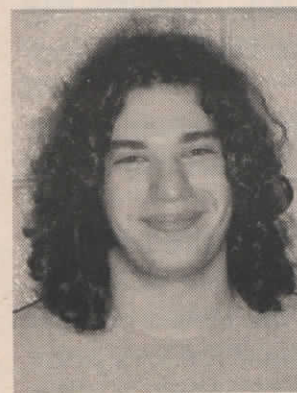
10th Grade - Kickin Chickin', Kissy-Kissy' (Deirdre), Steevan and Co-Co fight, Me and Sherard against Tyrone, The Holocaust, Spacial (Christian), "To the Extreme" (Jonisha), All-State Chorus, Husain and Caleb in Canada, "Under the Sea", Mrs. Miller's room, Sugar Frosted Flakes, The Train, Mr. P's homeroom, Deirdre jack up Albert on wall

11th Grade - SAT Prep Class, SOA Steppers, 2002 Prom, Deirdre and Diamond, Chemistry Class, Danielle and Tiffany Fight, U.S. History, Cotton Club Performance (Deirdre and the Dancers mess up), My Ghetto Paper, Charity and Robbie to Prom, Jonisha and Ivan to prom, Christian and Emory to Prom, Me and Cora to prom, Charleston Magazine

12th Grade- SOA Steppers, SOA Gospel Choir, All-State Choir, Winter Formal, Deirdre and Diamond and "everyone else", Deirdre and Steele, Government/Economics, 2003 Speech Quest Competition, Lauren and Pierre, Honey Buns, Class of 2003, Senior Pictures, Senior Ring, Prom Drama, Deirdre laugh and pass a gas at the same time, "I'll Put it Down for Ya!"

These are all of my memories at SOA that I'll never forget! These will go with me forever! One of the best things that happened to me during

my time at SOA is that I found my Best Friend and brother, Justin, at my church. I will always remember that I was at SOA when I met him 4 years ago. We are #1 Boyz forever and we support each other in all that we do. I thank God for him because when school puts me down, he's there for me to bring me back up! This is something very important that we share and something that all friends should treasure. Jus, I want you to know that I'm always here for you and I love you bro! To all of my teachers, I thank you for all of your time and knowledge because now I can go into the world and know what I'm doing. You have lain a foundation in me and I will take that with me forever! None of you will ever be forgotten because you all cared for me and my success and had faith and confidence in me and knew that I could do it. I apologize for any trouble I have caused you in the past, but that's a part of growing up. We make mistakes sometimes! But, again, I say thank you for all that you've done! You all are great! To all of my friends, I want to wish you the best of luck in all that you do! I will always be there for you, so don't be afraid to give a brotha' a call. We've had some good times and bad, ups and downs, but through it all, we still at the top! I love you all very much and wish everybody good luck in the future! Kala, cousin will miss you a lot! Stay sweet and off the chain! Cousin Mike, tell Brittany Spears I said what's up and hold down the fort! Jocelyn, stay sweet and don't forget our promise because I'm looking forward to it! Steele, Steevan, and Nige', you'll will forever be my boyz! Keep puttin' it down for Biff aight! Shoo-bee, you know you my #1! Love You forever! Tee & Dee! Jonathan, now you know we been through A LOT these 6 years! You know what though? I want you to know that I will always be there for you in the future! You still my boy and forever will be! Peace Out Bo'! Well, Peace Out everybody! It's been great but it's time to roll out! Look out for my CD coming out in a couple of years! I LOVE YOU ALL!



Harper Marchman-Jones

I'd say the class that has had the strongest impact on me is my major Visual Arts, due mostly to the teachers I've had. When I came to SOA in sixth grade, Mr. Kowalski was there to reeducate me and change my conceptions of art and drawing technique. He built a strong classical foundation for the entire class of 2003, and I don't think I've improved nearly as much or quickly as I did that first year with Mr. K.

While the first few years of my art education were filled with drills, exercises and laborious still-lives, it was during high school, and especially during my senior year that I was able to develop my unique voice and style as an artist. Mr. Moore and Ms. Rappold helped me immeasurably in this, introducing me to new media and allowing me to expand my understanding of art into the realms of graphic design, photography, sculpture and pottery.

It was this year that their skills were most appreciated. I chose to use my thesis as an opportunity to challenge myself as a designer and artist, and though sometimes I struggled, Moore and Jaycie provided me with no shortage of advice, ideas, instruction on new techniques or the ever-necessary constructive criticism. Without the guidance of my art teachers, I wouldn't be half the artist or person I am today, and I am extremely thankful.

Seniors Respond



Devoe Sullivan

I cannot believe that the time for me to graduate from SOA is finally here. Although it has been a really long road I've finally come to the end of it. However, even though I sometimes don't want to admit it, I will miss SOA. Now don't get the wrong idea, I will not miss the boring classes, those particular annoying students, or Mr. Smyth's attitude, but I will miss the great friends that I've made over these seven years. Cody and Kyle Palmer, Mohsen

Roudsari, and Tim Smith, my four best friends. It feels like I've been through everything with these guys. From faking nosebleeds to get out of class, to throwing water balloons at the underclassmen, we've probably done everything imaginable. Because of all the great times I've had with these guys, I can honestly say that meeting them has been the best part of my SOA education. Even though I sometimes question whether or not I should have come to SOA rather than a regular school, I know for a fact that it was one of the best ideas of my life.

I would never have met Cody, Kyle, or Tim if there weren't an SOA. Since we all live in different places we would have all attended different schools, and I would have a different group of friends that probably wouldn't be as close as my current friends. So, if I could pass any information to the underclassmen it would be: don't worry about the fact that you go to SOA, just remember the great friends you have. However, if you're one of the loser kids that go here, and there are a lot of them, AND YOU KNOW WHO YOU ARE, get out of SOA, you're just bringing everyone else down. You weren't cool at a regular school, and you're not cool here. I wish the best for everyone else.

Congratulations
Andrew Bentz
SOA Class of 2003
Valedictorian
&
Jennifer Haycook
SOA Class of 2003
Salutatorian

Sara Saylor



When the survey asked about my most memorable moment at SOA,

I found myself looking past the angst, bitterness and

senioritis that has plagued me and clouded my perception, scouring a rich and wonderful series of memories dating all the way back to sixth grade. All of my complaints seemed to dissolve as I considered the abundance of bizarre moments that have made life at SOA not only tolerable but sweet: Mr. Rivers' Board of Correction and Brick of Truth, a brief and unsuccessful bout with athleticism during 7th grade "Wave ball", the slam book that wasn't, the priceless artistic productions (we remember despite Mrs.

Ambrose shredding the film to ribbons and stowing the tapes in her attic), our unacceptably barnyard-animal-like behavior in Mrs. Hamilton's 9th grade class, and action-packed field trips everywhere from Medieval Times to the Penn Center, where we saw Mrs. Miles in her true form.

How, I wonder as I look back on these, could we have become such snarling, jaded creatures at the end of our last year? Surely, the teachers and administrators who have suffered endless mockery and torment at the hands of the class of '03 wonder the same thing. With apologies to all, the transformation was inevitable. The class of 2003 has overcome the hurdles of high school with the invincible, fiery sword of sarcasm and the shield of skepticism. No teacher or assignment has gone unscathed. We have maximized every possible flaw and milked it for all it was worth in rampages of venting. Spite and scorn have become habits, means of affectionate conversation and coping. However, I believe the important thing for all of us to remember during these final, potentially beautiful days, is how much we have truly benefited from our experiences here. I entered in 6th grade with the hope of advancing beyond stories about talking animals and becoming, in some way, a real writer. Thanks to Mrs. Miles, Mr. & Mrs. Schwaner, Mrs. Hart and numerous others, I have finally reached a point of being somewhat pleased with my own writing. I have found mentors and friends in teachers like Mr. Pezzeca, whose kindness and faith in me have consistently been an inspiration. Most importantly, I have found a group of loving, affectionate friends without whom I would certainly not have made it through.

As I move on to college, I hope to experience some of the same exhilaration I felt upon first entering the frighteningly large SOA halls, but somehow I doubt that I will ever feel quite the same way again. Personally, I plan to continue with a mix of skepticism and hope, cherishing all I have learned and experienced here. I will look back over the senior pages of the yearbook and the mockery-laden cartoons all over my notebooks with equal fondness. Above all, as I move through obstacles and disappointments in life and try to make something of myself, I will always adhere to the wisdom expressed in my favorite Simpsons quote—"It's still good! IT'S STILL GOOD!"

Seniors Reflect



Lauren Ferguson

Upon first reading the question "Reflect On My Years At SOA," I laughed because I thought it would be impossible to sum up all the events that have taken place during my experience here. Then, as I really thought about, it I began to feel a little tug at my heart, if you will, because all of my crazy times here are coming to an end. I'm going to miss everyone so much because so many people that I've become friends with have helped shape me to be who I am now----and if you really know who I am you'd be laughing at this line right now instead of feeling sad because I am often described as a loud, psychotic, humorous, cynical person. I like to think that I am loving, caring, kind, all those stupendous adjectives. Before I really begin, I would like to let you know that this "essay" can definitely be categorized as a 'stream of consciousness.' Ah, anyway, I've always been one to speak my mind, but in meeting everyone here I have really learned to assert my opinion whether it concern: which guy had on the best boxers during the "Boxer Game" on Fridays, letting "all the girls" know how I felt during our ohhhh so wonderful times in seventh grade (weren't we one big happy bunch?), asking why the seventh grade Mr. Cohen felt the need to tell us about eating rotten eggs buried in the ground for two months straight, telling my Greek Myth group in Ms. A's class how we were all going to fail our project if we didn't do some work.....and then going and ordering pizza and taking a two hour break. The list goes on and on. Oh, and who can forget those special projects we had to do which always seemed to be assigned around the same time and due on the same day. Wow, you have to love how certain things always seem "to work out" and "go exactly as you planned." As far as my academic classes teaching me how to assert my opinion, I must say that all of my teachers have done a wonderful job in developing this skill! Now, on to being a dance major in middle school! Wow, this experience really taught me a lot about my character. I honestly love all my dance major girls (and guys) because we went through a lot of things that no one else will understand. After we decided to not hate one another anymore, we became very close and did a whole lot of crazy things that yes, yes, we surely paid for (unitards, hamburgers and air conditioning, parties in the dressing room, our modern dance experiences, tight jazz pants, York town, eating at the Gourmatisserie, just everything! Oh, and the work ...center work, barre work aghhhh) It was all worth it though----and it was really hard leaving you all. I am so proud of you guys who still remain. Now, on to my fellow vocal majors! OHHH what can I say? I LOVE you guys. Without a doubt you have shown me it's alright to be crazy because I think everyone else is crazier than I am.....I think....hahaha. I am going have to write a list of our memories, and you all can laugh with each one. Soooo let's go back to: "How Bout A Hand for the Hog!", spaghetti suppers, the dread of being called on to sight read the melody on the board, CANADA, New York, Harm Harm, Columbia competitions, bus trips that were always out of control and you could never fall asleep, palazzo pants, running to class every morning, practices for everything, rehearsals, food after concerts, just Mr. Varner himself who is an awesome director, and how could I forgot our beloved SOLFEGE!! YEAH, Vocal forever, man.

I've left out so many things, some of them purposefully, but these things have sent you far enough down memory lane because I am so sure everyone is ready to go (even if you're crying). Seniors, always remember that hey-- if we can make it here, we can make it ANYWHERE. Oh, the truth behind that. Seriously. Well, I shall bring my piece of work to an end even though I believe I have merely caught a glimpse of all I've wanted to share about my experience here at SOA. I love everyone and I wish you all much success. A word of advice: always remain happy above all! Life should be a fantastic thrill! Alright, congratulations Class of 2003!!!!

Drew Lambert



When I first heard about SOA, back in 5th grade, I heard that it was some school in some old mechanical shop where all the "geeks and freaks" (or artists) went to be "individuals." It really sounded like a joke. Like most people at my elementary school, I went on to Laing Middle School, planning on doing the normal school experience. While there I joined the school band, and immediately found a new love and passion. A friend of mine asked me if I had heard about SOA and I told him that I had, still keeping my initial impression. Well, he dragged my parents and I to come see the school, and from then on I was hooked. Sure the school's location wasn't of the finest places to be, and the building was falling apart, but there was something different, some new experience that was occurring here. The next year I came to SOA, just to try it out, and it really has been something special. I have received an education and experience that I could not receive from anywhere else. Yes, we are the "geeks and freaks" of other schools, but we are proud of it. This school has given me the best possible opportunity to grow in my art area, and as a person.

When I came here, I just wanted to play saxophone in the band. Since then I have not only done that, but learned several new instruments including bass, and found a true love for the jazz genre. In fact for the next couple of years, I am planning on continuing my education in jazz, and music as a whole. This school has really helped develop my love for music, and created this passion to express myself in ways I never knew were possible.

Along with growing as a musician and student, I have grown as a person. It has been through my years at SOA that I have truly found myself. For this I am forever thankful. This school has provided an environment, where students can be who they are, and be around other people who respect them for who they are. Is this not how we all desire our world to be? While on a global scale this might not occur, I have received enough acceptance and support from SOA to successfully develop into who I truly am, and truly want to be.

Congratulations to American Legion participants

Ben Pooser, Greg Colleton, and Ben Fine have been selected to attend the American Legion Boy's State educational program at the Citadel. Bea Heyward and Nikita Johnson have been selected to attend Girl's State at Columbia College. Each participant becomes a part of the operation of his local, county, and state government. The program runs from June 1 to June 7.

Question of the Month

What are your summer plans?



"I'm going sailing around the Charleston harbor."

**Erik Ling
11th grade**



"I'm going to a wedding in Sonoma Valley, California. We are going to tour the wine country, go to a spa for some much needed pampering, and finish up in San Francisco for a couple of days. Other than that beach-boat, and a little bit of bad golf."

**Ms. Miller
Guidance counselor**



"I'm going down to Mississippi to see my family and I'm going to a youth conference in Virginia."

**Ashlee Elliott
7th grade**



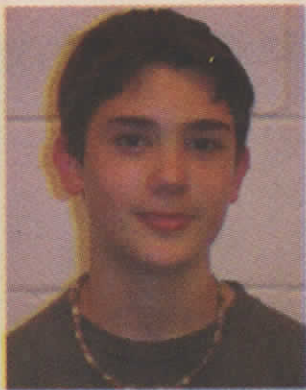
"To go to the beach, swim on the swim team, and just hang out."

**Jessica Wood
8th grade**



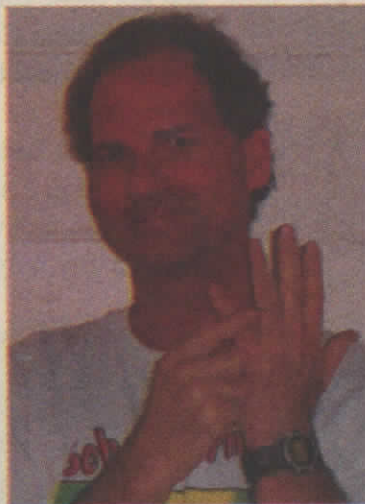
"I'm going to camp Look-up-lodge and the beach."

**Jessica Funk
8th grade**



"I'm going to California to see my aunt and I'm going to ride my dirt bike."

**Nick Bates
6th grade**



"Entertaining the wife and adjusting from bachelorhood. Change is on the way! I'll be cooking, cleaning, moving, and groovin'."

**Mr. Orvin
History teacher**



"To go back to my hometown of Georgia and visit all my hommies."

**Jocelyn Roper
10th grade**

Theater 2002-2003

Senior Theater Majors

1) Describe the experience of being a theater major at SOA

Ashley Carrier- "Being a theater major has shaped me not only as an actor, but as a person. As an actor, I was given many opportunities to explore theater individually. Because there were so many grade levels to work with, ours was often left to our own devices. And while we did our fair share of homework, eating, and sleeping, we also pursued theater outside of school. In addition, working with this particular group of actors gave me a great deal of character inspiration as well as helping me to overcome my inhibitions. It also helped me to learn to take criticism. Most importantly, theater at SOA surrounded me with humor, honesty, and some of the closest friendships I've ever had."

Sam Church- "When you're a theater major at SOA, you eat a lot, and you make obstacle courses, and you're very sarcastic. Also, you try your best to make good theater for a lot of people who don't really know the difference anyway, and would probably rather be at a vocal concert where good singing is good singing anyway you look at it."

Chela Colston- "My experience has been the best and most memorable one of my life. Somehow being in theater has helped me develop my personality and social skills. I don't think being at any other school could have helped me become the person I am today. Sarcastic, jaded, and bitter."

Mallory Lipton- "My high school experience being a theater major at SOA is one I will always remember. There were the morning workouts, the trips, and our productions (Della's Diner was my favorite). And of course you will definitely eat a lot."

Ben Neuhaus- "Being a theater major is a lot like a cruise. Over the course of the journey from sixth grade to twelfth you lay around a lot, eat a lot, sleep a lot, but you also work. The work however is fun work, like scuba diving, and by the end you have a great feeling of accomplishment, like you've done something nobody else has done before. By the end you also feel tired and bloated."

Tawana Tolbert- "When I came to SOA in sixth grade, I had no theater experience. But my theater coaches (Lock, Wood, and Younts) transformed me into a wonderful actress. Overall, it has been a good experience and I've learned a lot."

Rebecca Toms- "It was an experience, that's for sure. I learned a lot, made some life-long friends, and got to do what I love 100 minutes a day. Sounds pretty good to me."

2) Describe the experience of your senior thesis.

Ashley Carrier- "My senior thesis enabled me to express my ideas and to overcome what I felt were my weaknesses as an actor. The process and the resulting performance were the culmination of years of W-O-R-K and were the combination of my knowledge of acting, tech theater, scenic design, and script writing. Just knowing that the applause at the end of my show was for me - just me - was one of the most amazing things I've ever felt."

Sam Church- "It's difficult. It's the most difficult thing I've ever done artistically ever. Everyone worked so hard for so long-it's impossible to accurately describe it. The smallest things take on the greatest importance-suddenly you feel like jumping off a bridge if you have a typo in your program. But it's really rewarding, too. It's so wonderful to work really hard at something you actually care about and be able to say, "Look what I did! LOOK WHAT I DID!"

Chela Colston- "My senior thesis was one of the most joyous and difficult times of my life. I finally knew what it meant to have something all my own to perform by myself. No one could have done this wonderful thing but me, and I knew what it meant to be totally and utterly alone."

Mallory Lipton- "Although the Senior Thesis process was a long one, and at its end we were all sick of it, the final product was a rewarding one, and I was definitely proud of everyone."

Ben Neuhaus- "Senior Thesis was the greatest accomplishment of my school career. I couldn't have done it without the rest of my class. Although I was standing on stage alone, totally exposed, I was not alone, I had the support of the rest of my class backing my words up. That is a great feeling."

Tawana Tolbert- "At the beginning my senior thesis project was a total nightmare. I had trouble writing my script and creating different characters. After a while, it became a breeze and I was able to produce and perform "A Cell Full of Memories".

Rebecca Toms- "Most horrifying thing ever. There's nothing scarier than being on stage by yourself for 30 minutes, especially if you're performing something you've worked on for 9 months. And when everything starts to go wrong, that's always fun."

4) What advice do you have to your fellow underclassmen theater majors?

Ashley Carrier- "Listen to your friends and don't take offense at their criticisms. They really are trying to help you be the best performer you can. Also, don't let your age or your illusions of coolness rob you of having fun. There's nothing less cool than someone who can't laugh."

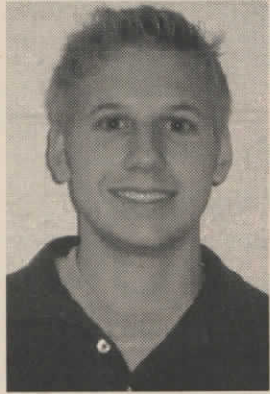
Sam Church- "I once read in a book that there are only three things you need to do to be successful in theater: Be loud; Follow directions; Don't be afraid of anything. They sound like simple things to do, but you find out how difficult those rules are to adhere to-especially that last one-but if you can get those things down, then everything else will fall into place."

Chela Colston- "You're never too old to play spinny-tag and act like 3 year olds and be silly because that's what theater majors are all about. Just have fun."

Ben Neuhaus- "Don't get discouraged. Even if it seems like you keep writing a scene over and over but it's still crap, keep trying and you'll get something awesome. Always trust your instincts, you know yourself better than anybody else."



Seniors Reflect



Tim Smith

My years at SOA have come and gone and I can really say that I have seen myself grow into a new person. My middle school years were harsh, I dealt with the one who we do not speak of. The one who taped thumbtacks to my violin so that I would "learn" how to correctly hold my instrument. She had tremendous talent but a devilish spirit. On my sixth grade strings trip I was picked to room with a couple of guys because I appeared to be an innocent guy who wouldn't get them in trouble. On the trip I roomed with Kyle Palmer, Devoe Sullivan, and Mohsen Roudsari and we have been best of friends ever since. My best bud (I wonder who that is) and I became inseparable and he has been like a brother to me over the last seven years. I would like to thank him for always being there for me during all my rough times. We have had so many memories like paintball (the head shot from my brother), hanging out like every weekend, filming the "video", the bottle rocket war, the hockey games, your oyster roasts, and everything else. I would also like to thank you Kyle for the fair night when I met Lindsay. - I love you man

My junior and senior years have been the best that they could have been. I managed to meet a gorgeous girl at the fair through my best friend and I have been with her ever since. We have had so many countless memories like the trip to Florida, (which included the "Softest Experience" at China Town), you betting me at pool like every weekend, our restaurant with the worlds best pizza, prom night and its special drinks, "What Dreams May Come", Mango Smoothies, and 2010. Thank you so much for making my senior year amazing! I love you so much.

I want to thank my brother (Andrew) for putting up with all my #!%@. Thanks for making my Weekends enjoyable as my team buddy out at Paintball Charleston. I will truly miss the silent rides we had sometimes on the way to school, the mornings we argued. You are a great brother and I will always be there for you man! I promise I'll let you borrow the new angel when I get it. I would like to thank my parents too for putting up with all my %\$#@. I love you guys too.



Deirdre Middleton

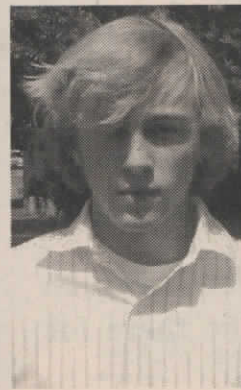
The past seven years of SOA have left me with many memories that I will always cherish. August of 1995, the day many friendships began will always be fresh in my mind. I remember getting off the bus and going to Ms. Bell's homeroom. There I was comforted by the familiar faces of my elementary school mates. I still remember how the desks were arranged in groups of four and five. Yet, it was not long before we became acquainted with everyone else and by the next year everyone had developed a new set of friends.

I will never forget our trip to Brookgreen Gardens and the things that happened on the long bus ride to and from Myrtle Beach. Oh, I remember playing the belt game where the boys and girls would take off their belts and try to hit each other as hard as possible; then there was

always the boys playing football at lunch and somehow each and every day they would manage to hit us in the head with a football, so that they could laugh hysterically. How could anyone forget the truth or dare games that occurred in exploratory? Then there was Ms. Marshall's exploratory of which we did nothing but play Scrabble and get into lots of trouble. Tawana, do you remember locking Chauncey's locker with her script in it so that she could not memorize her lines? Then there was capture the flag and how we always played boys against girls. Oh, Kickin' Chicken, Marty it was Jonathan's fault you got caught because of everyone of us to order of course he had to order twenty-four wings. Oh, how can I forget conversions and compound quizzes. This year I remember sleeping at the College of Charleston when we were supposed to be doing AP research.

Time flies. I never thought that I would get sentimental about graduating high school but unfortunately I have. High school is not all about the learning; what I will remember most is the bonds that I have made with people, the times we cried and the times we laughed until we were about to pee in our pants. So long my friends. As for the members of my class I wish you the best of luck. I will truly miss you all and as for Michael I will defiantly miss you the most. It's been fun.

Andrew Pearlman



In the seven years that I've been a student at SOA, I have had the honor of spending five of those years with Mr. Basil Kerr. Reflecting back I've realized what a strong impact Mr. Kerr has had on me as a student and as a person. From the very beginning of Mr. Kerr's teaching career at SOA he has made himself available to his students. He was always willing to share his wealth of knowledge of music and other matters. Whether it was taking the extra five minutes after class to answer a few simple questions, or staying after school for a couple hours to help students make a tape for an audition; Mr. Kerr has gone beyond the bounds of an ordinary teacher. His integrity to his profession, his colleagues, and his students has never wavered. During his five years at SOA he has been offered multiple higher paying and more prestigious jobs than a high school band director, but rejected all of them. What I respect most about Mr. Kerr is his strong sense of values, and unwillingness to compromise those values under any circumstance. It would be safe to say that he is one of the best band directors in the nation. In the five years he has been here he took an average high school band and turned it into a national award winning band. His visionary leadership helped to take children from around Charleston County and give them new perspective. He has helped me personally survive high school. I have looked up to Mr. Kerr as a mentor, a teacher, and a trusted friend. Not to say there aren't times when I wish I could be home sleeping rather than playing. This really isn't an essay so much as me rambling before lunch. My advice to underclassmen is to take advantage of every opportunity you have here at SOA. Talk to your teachers and become friends. Like my case with Mr. Kerr they may become someone who will shape your life and inspire you to do great things. Mmmmm... Lunchtime.... (Pardon any grammatical mistakes I'm a band major!!!)

Congratulations, Class of 2003



Robby,

You, our long-awaited one, have always had the confidence to follow your own lead. You have an amazing talent! Believe in yourself and enjoy these next years in college - they'll be among your best. You are truly special and very loved. You made us proud!

Love,
Mom & Dad



**Congratulations! Lauren
Justine Ferguson**

You are a lovely, talented, vivacious, and spirit-filled young lady.

We are very proud of you! We thank God for blessing us with you!

We Love You Very Much,
Daddy, Mommy, Gabrielle
(Leander), Felice, and Larry
Justin



Cody and Kyle,

"It's like having your best friend with you all the time."

We love you guys,
Mom, Dad, and Alison
Cody & Kyle,

My best wishes for you both! I'll always be there for you!

With Love,
Mimi



**Tim Smith,
(and brother Andrew)**

You always had that sweet little smile and kind heart! Smile, have a sense of humor and be happy!

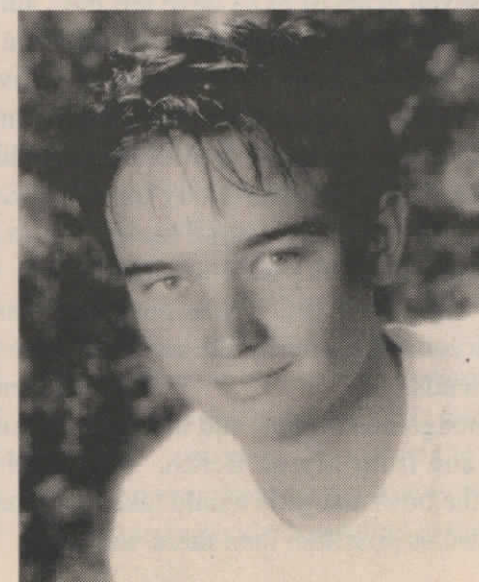
We Love You,
Mom, Dad, and Andrew



Harper Marchman-Jones

You are an awesome human being, and we are so proud that you are our son!

Love,
Mom and Dad



Andrew,

You have proven that-
"The artist is nothing without the gift, but the gift is nothing without the work."

Stay true to yourself and you'll achieve your dreams.

We are so proud.

Love,
Mom, Dad, Nick, Granma,
Omi and Opi

Congratulations, Class of 2003



Sara,
You and your wonderful friends have made SOA a better place. We couldn't be prouder!
We love you,
Mom, Dad, Paul, MJ,
and the menagerie



Mohsen,
We are so proud of you! I have watched you grow into a fine young man with great intelligence, and a smile that lights up a room. We love you so much. Just remember, in order to achieve your goals in life, you must set your mind to it and not give up no matter what happens.

Love,
Your Family, The Roudsari's



Ryan,
How the years have gone by too quickly. Each and every year, we have so blessed with the joy of having you as our son. Congratulations on all your many achievements. We are very proud of you and wish you continued success not only at Clemson but beyond. Good Luck.

We Love You
Kristen, Mom and Dad

Sam,
What a joy it has been to watch you pursue your dream - YOU GO GIRL! You will always have home(s) in Charleston.

Love,
The Saylor's



Congratulations,
Andrae. May the world always hear your music, may the future bring only harmony, and may your life be lived with zest. Love from Mom, Dad, and Taylor.



Scott,
You had a rough start, but you've come a long way. We are so proud of you. Congratulations!

We love you,
Mom and Dad

Seniors Reflect

Leah Hennessy



Center of Excellence. A Center for Excellence in Charleston County School District, and a new home for SOA. A great chance for SOA to get out of the projects, but I for one cannot get excited about the prospect of moving day. It's not that I am a jaded old senior that doesn't care what happens to the school after I am gone, and it's not that I am jealous of a new facility. It's just that 1600 Saranac Street (which looks a lot like Sesame Street) is like home. These halls are filled with memories, each and every room having its own

separate significance and evoking its own secret smile. I don't want it to change, I love it in its crazy haphazard condition. It's like the faded old t-shirt that your parents beg you to throw away, it doesn't matter if it looks shabby, it's only shabby because you've worn it for some of the greatest days of your life. It serves as a reminder.

When I walk the halls of SOA (which was quite often over the past year), it is literally like "Memory Lane". I remember chemistry parties for Halloween and Valentine's Day. The way that we had to write chemistry themed valentines to our classmates that said things like, "I'm baking soda and you're vinegar, let's get together and react!" I remember History Day, and the way that we set our skit in the 1980's just so we could parade around in the ugliest clothes ever made. I remember frolicking around the school in a flapper outfit as Ben and Erin and I sang "Mr. Sandman" at the top of our lungs. I remember the Scarlet Letter mock trial (yet another dress up occasion), Andrew's random grunts as he played Chillingworth, and the way Lauren said "FIRE!". I remember having fun in class, learning in an unconventional manner so that we actually enjoyed what we were being taught. SOA gave us so many opportunities to use the arts, from our M.C. Higgins the Great projects, like Jones's Way Down Home, or Dicey's Song, or our random mythology projects. Any artistic endeavor in those early years was rewarded. It was through these different projects that we came to see what an integral part the arts had in our education. The arts were not something that we only encountered for 90 minutes every day, they were all around us. We were growing and expanding without realizing it, our teachers quietly shaping us into well rounded individuals. They encouraged us to use our art in every way.

And then there were the times that we were supposed to be in class. Time spent dozing on the lawn, or watching the boys play football. Time spent making signs that said "No Italians Allowed" and telling stories in the darkness of "The Fort". Playing cards, playing frisbee, and eating. Like the time Lauren tried to eat her lunch in Harmony, the infamous inception of "Whatcha got there? PUT IT AWAY!!!" The time spent in and around this school allowed us to make it our own. I honestly feel that each of the seniors in our graduating class feel some connection to our campus. It's been a part of our lives for seven years. Most likely, we've spent more time here than at home over the past few years. It just feels like home. You can count on it. You can count on the fact that Lake SOA will reappear everytime it rains, and you can count on the fact that at least one student has left the back door to the drink room open. You can count on a gospel revival in vocal when Mr. Varner is away, and a party going on in the band room.

But it seems it won't always be that way.

Honestly, it's the people that I will miss the most. The talented and crazy individuals that have seen me through the high and low points of growing up. I have met the most amazing individuals here. I want the school to remain because it reminds me of them, my memories are part of the school. As pathetic as it sounds, this strange campus in the heart of the projects will always be in my heart. I won't know what it's like at the new "Center of Excellence". I don't want to know. But I hate to see the token of my memories empty or even worse, bulldozed. I want to be able to return. I want to be able to hear Mozart or jazz playing through the ghetto. And I want the younger students at SOA to realize the true value of what they have here, realize the beauty that lies within our misassembled campus, because it is the joy of these simple things that I will take with me through life.

Xan Gentile



I have attempted . . . failed . . . and reattempted to create an interesting essay about SOA and/or my experience with said institute. So what am I to do. I have been instructed to do such a thing and fail- but am I to blame? Surely not . . . so who is to blame?!?!?! blame society . . . because it's hypocritical . . . and communist. Anyone who will be engaging in any class discussions in an SOA English course could stand to remember this. Over the years I have become wise to the fact that near every piece of literature written has this theme delicately embedded into it. What else?

Society must have an accomplice . . . someone with which to conspire against my creativity. Could it be adolescence? Adolescence: the time in middleschooler/highschooler's lives where we go through changes and finally realize that the whole world is against us and just didn't want to tell us while we were kids because we were having so much fun. Yea . . . adolescence is great to blame- someone should be mean to it or something . . . it deserves it anyway. All in all my lack of creative spark in essay form on the final home stretch of my SOA career isn't really a cause for complaint. Another probable cause of my writers block is from SOA's grand cache of sundry events which have all managed to stick in my mind. I honestly (as if the rest of this paper hasn't been honest . . . cough) don't think that at any other school, one can achieve the mass of memories such as I have at SOA. It's amazing . . . I actually took a break from this entirely serious paper, to which I have thoroughly dedicated myself, to watch the senior video, and now I'm feeling all nostalgic. It's strange. Naturally we all do the countdown of years till we're out of school, out of the house, on our own, having fun without anybody to tell us to stop . . . but when I think back, I realize that I have had fun. SOA has been super awesome grand neat to the Ultima! No amount of sports events or edible school lunches or classes that can actually be scheduled can make up for the fun that we've had at SOA. Now this paper has become an !SOA Yee-Haw! paper and for this I am sorry. It didn't have to be this way; I could have continued along whatever path I was on at first. Oh well, the harm has been done. I'll miss you SOA. I'll miss being away from SOA with other SoAites and separating ourselves without realizing that we've done it until we're back to our cozily tight little family of strange . . . errrr-special . . . people. I suppose the paper is written, without me ever saying anything enlightening or meaningful or deep. Did I say anything? I know I got a couple good complaints in there . . . maybe. Soooo . . . I'll catch you on the flip side.

Dance 2002-2003



Performances:

- *7th Grade Art Smart
- *Middle School Parent Observation Nights
- *Senior Thesis, Composition and 8th Grade Performances in December
- *High School and Middle School Dance Department Performances at the Sottile Theater in February
- *Out Reach Performance for public school students at Sottile Theater in February
- *Final Senior Thesis and Composition Performance in April

*8th Grade Solo Works Performances in May

Highlights:

- *American College Dance Festival in March
- *High School Dance Majors' Trip to Paris in March
- *Middle School Dance Majors' Trip to Washington, DC
- *Guest teachers: Christian von Howard (Columbia College), Wanda Ebright and Larry Nye (Coker College), Jean Louisa Bradford

Looking Forward to Next Year:

- *Fall Galla Performance
- *South Carolina Dance Festival

The Seniors:

Danielle Wiggins

My years in Student Composition and Senior Thesis have been successful. Last year, my debut dance "Gemini," along with my second dance "Sweet Potato Pie" has given me experience for choreographing my two latest pieces, "Growing pains" and "Ursomr." I learned a lot at SOA. The memories and relationships I have created, and the dancing as well as choreographing, will last for a lifetime.

Jane Lucas

My senior theses were "The Doubting Sickness" and "Genesis". Even though choreographing them was a trying experience, I really feel like I accomplished something. Choreographing helped me grow in my art area.

I have been looking forward to graduation since sophomore year, but now that it is here, I don't want to leave. The real credit goes to my teachers who helped make my senior year such a great one.

Deirdre Middleton

My senior thesis, entitled "?", is about a schizophrenic. This young schizophrenic is faced with having to deal with hallucinations; being trapped between reality and fantasy, she finds herself inevitably



living more in a world of fantasy than of reality.

This piece was considerably more difficult than my previous piece. The topic of schizophrenia was rather foreign to me and thus it made it much more difficult to compose a composition about it. However, I did learn a lot from this piece. Choreographing this piece has taught me to be active rather than passive, to take every chance I am given the opportunity to do so, and most importantly, to thank the Lord for being in sound mind.

The completion of my senior thesis has made me realize my high school years are over and like the title of my piece it arises a ? in my mind about what direction life will take me in. But for now, everything is a mystery, a ?, and I would like to wish each senior good luck in solving life's mystery. I'm done.

Yannick Bennett

The name of my pieces are Ambushed! and Aftermath. Ambushed! portrays the life of a troubled man going through everyday life. He is fighting a battle against his worst enemy...himself. Aftermath is set right after the same man who is now searching for answers through an angel.

Sean Pyatt

What I liked the best about SOA was performing. It's a thrill getting recognition for my dancing skills. Before coming to the School of the Arts I never knew I had these dance skills. Thanks to Mrs. Slowinski she kept pushing and pushing me to be successful. Not only will I never forget the memories I had at SOA, but I also will cherish them.



Dance majors enjoyed a trip to Paris this year.

Band/Piano 2002-2003

Band, what a year



What a year it has been for the SOA Wind Ensemble and SOA Jazz! Just before the school year began, the Wind Ensemble was informed by Bands of America that they had been selected to perform at the National Concert Band Festival in Indianapolis, Indiana. This event is one of the most prestigious for high school bands in the nation. Only 18 bands are selected by blind audition, using recordings of past performances. Because of this, the Wind Ensemble can rightly claim a place as one of the finest bands in the United States.

The SOA Jazz Ensemble was receiving good news at the start of the year, too. The South Carolina Band Directors' Association invited the SOA Jazz to perform at their annual convention. They were the only jazz ensemble invited. Tom Finigan, president of the association, said the SOA jazz was "head and shoulders above the rest" of the high school jazz ensembles in South Carolina. This is the highest honor a high school jazz group can receive in the state.

Of course, the Jazz Ensemble presented its annual "Jump, Jive, and Wail" dance in October, to the largest crowd yet at the Maritime Center. "JJW," as it's come to be known, is fast becoming SOA's equivalent of the fall "Homecoming Dance."

Region and All-State auditions resulted in the largest number of SOA band members selected to the All-State Band. The All-State Jazz Ensembles also had a heavy representation of SOA instrumentalists, with seven students selected. This year, four students, Andrew Pearlman, Stacie Millere, Luke Reed, and Ben Fine, were selected to the Honor Band of America, in effect, the "All-Nation" Band.

Spring Semester was a busy schedule of concerts, guest performances, workshops and

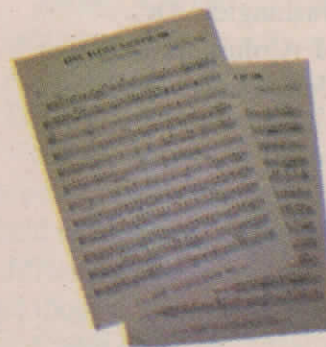


clinics. In February, the SOA Jazz Ensemble gave a rousing show at the Music Educators Convention, followed in early March with a "Superior" performance at the State Jazz Festival. In between, the jazzers held an oyster roast at Bowen's Island and gave a fun performance there as well.

Meanwhile, the Wind Ensemble was busily working on an extremely difficult program for the National Festival. The group traveled to Indianapolis just as the War in Iraq was starting, adding to the stress and tension. Once the Wind Ensemble arrived, the band members, some of whom weren't sure we belonged among these great ensembles, discovered that we were just as good as the other bands there. Some of these groups had national reputations extending back many years, and SOA was just as good in performance. Not bad for an ensemble in its fifth year of existence!

As the year winds down and the seniors take their leave, Mr. Kerr will have fond memories of the Class of '03. "They are the last class to have been with me from my arrival here, and they will be the only class to have worked with me for five years," Kerr said. "I will always remember this class as the group that took us to the top."

Piano Highlights



High-school piano majors went to New York City in February and went to hear the New York Pops at Carnegie Hall and saw "Aida" and "Phantom of the Opera."

Several students were selected to perform in the Honors Recital for the MENC convention in February.

The piano students performed in an ensemble recital at Fox Music in April. This was a first, with the piano ensemble using 8 pianos.

Several students participated in the Solo and Ensemble Festival at Lander University. They received 8 superior and 3 excellent ratings.

The jazz piano students gave several performances at "La Fontana" and did 2 recitals. The classical pianists also had 2 recital performances.



Senior Survey

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

Lane Arthur: "Attending SOA has taught me a great deal about responsibility, trust, and friendship. Having gone to SOA for the past 6 years, I've developed a connection with the students in my class as well as the faculty."

John Bishop: "Classes are easy..."

Christina Bolin: "To appreciate everyone for the people they are. I've also learned to take every opportunity to better my life and go with it."

Ashely Carrier: "As disgusting and cliché as it seems, you really only need seven pieces of paper. 1,2,3,4,5,6,7. No more, no less. I've also learned that it's important to have pride in and respect for yourself in all your incarnations and to be proud of all the people you used to be, and of all the people you'll be in the future. In the words of Nora Mars, "You must anchor yourself to one life in order to be able to have fun in all the others."

Samantha Church: "I've learned that you can get away with anything if you're clever and / or witty. I've learned how to muslin a piece of wood and paint it white. I've learned not to take myself (or others) too seriously. I've learned what it means to be an artist...ugh, gross."

Caroline Davenport: "People aren't always as they seem."

Courtney Dix: "Food is vital, theater majors are fat! Band kids never stop talking, creative writers are geniuses, piano kids...well, I don't know any, strings majors are run by testosterone, visual artists are gonna rule the world (cuz they like to blow stuff up), vocal majors never stop singing and dance majors talk really fast."

Lauren Ferguson: "I've learned that without friends it's impossible to make it through school with a smile still shining on your face because friendship is the creation and the cure for anything."

Jonisha Hart: "Don't judge people by their outward appearance. My true friends are the people who can appreciate the positive and negative aspects about me."

Lorena Jordan: "I learned how to have fun when doing anything and how rewarding it is to be dedicated to a cause and work hard for it."

Erin Kinard: "Anything is biodegradable, as long as you toss it across the circle of love and scream, 'Back to Nature.' When out to eat with Mr. Varner, guard your food carefully. SOA kids are fun. They are also extremely loud and weird. It's just a fact. Don't try to change it. It won't work. It's why we are such a perfect fit."

Sean Larson: "The most important thing I've learned at SOA is the value of friendship."

Mallory Lipton: "I've learned that it is okay to be myself and I don't have to pretend to be someone I'm not."

Alexandra McCarthy: "To tolerate others, to be sincere and to learn to love all the flaws of life."

Paul McCrae: "I've learned that education, experience, and memories are three things no one can take away from me, and that it's taking me a long time to become the person I want to be."

Christie McNally: "No matter how big a fool you make of yourself, someone else will be right behind you to make a bigger fool of themselves."

Deirdre Middleton: "SOA has taught me that each and every person is an individual with their own thoughts and ideas. Regardless as to whether or not ideas coincide with your own, accept each person for who they are."

Ben Neuhaus: "People change a lot over seven years. Whoa, I mean a lot. At this time, I'd like everyone to recall Ashley and her stirrup pants, or Sean and his baby face. And, lets not forget Bangs."

Robert Olson: "The most important thing that I have learned over time at SOA is that it is okay to be yourself."

Cody Palmer: "Procrastination is not always a bad thing."

Timothy Pape: The most important thing I've learned at SOA is that being sociable and having a positive attitude will get you far in life."

Jason Powell: "To have fun, and that to have fun you need friends...Hey Mom! You're looking nice today!"

Sara Reuben: "The most important thing at SOA is that true friends are hard to come by."

Dave Sedillo: "Friendships get you through the crap."

Tim Smith: "The most important thing I've learned at SOA is to continuously let yourself grow and open your eyes to everything around you."

Matthew Stritch: "Who says you have to have a sports team to have cheerleaders?"

Tiffany Tally: "The value of friendship, regardless of what species you are!!"

Rebecca Toms: "Ben is ALWAYS right and I Love Us."

Marty Washington: "I've learned the value of friendship. I've learned the method of singing called Sol-fege. I've learned that I had some other family members that I didn't know about! Kala W., Tiffany B., and Michael R."

Husain Williams: "The most important thing I've learned at SOA is to keep getting better at what you do and never to waste a day on things that won't help you the next day."

Ryan Young: "Perseverance is the key."



"huh"

Senior Survey

A quote that you want SOA to remember you by?

John Bishop: "I don't want to be remembered."

Christina Bolin: "What" "I'm seriously 1/8th black, seriously."

Chela Colston: "No matter how much you TRY to bring me down by talking about me, I am still better than you."

Melissa Cormany: "Life is a dance, you learn as you go, sometimes you lead, sometimes you follow, don't worry about what you don't know, life's a dance, you learn as you go." - John Michael Montgomery

Ashley Carrier: "No one can be exactly like me. Sometime even I have trouble doing it." - Nora Mars

Samantha Church: "Enjoy your popcorn, SCOTT!"

Caroline Davenport: "Follow your heart and happiness will follow."

Courtney Dix: "And they say Goldfish have no memory, I guess their lives are much like mine and the little plastic castle is a surprise every time." - Ani DiFranco

Lauren Ferguson: "Don't allow anyone or any circumstances to cast out your light, for you have far more strength than you'll ever know."

Jonisha Hart: "I came, I saw, I conquered."

Erin Kinard: "The only people for me are the mad ones, the one who are mad to live, mad to talk, mad to be scared, desirous of everything at the same time, the ones who never yawn or say a common place thing, but burn, burn, burn like fabulous yellow Roman candles exploding like spiders across the stars." - Kerouac "Life is a great big canvas, and you should splatter all the paint you can on it."

Sean Larson: "Follow the road till it ends cause, if it doesn't kill you it only makes you stronger."

Mallory Lipton: "A schooner is a sailboat!" - Mall Rats

Alexandra McCarthy: "Live by your own rules and don't regret your actions."

Paul McCrae: "Irieski avanovich maschenken megmarazzni!"

Chrisie McNally: "Nobody expects the Spanish Inquisition." - Monty Python Boys

Deirdre Middleton: "A true friend is one who is there in your darkest hour and your most joyous moments." - author unknown

Ben Neuhaus: "Bring it."

Cody Palmer: "Have fun ALL the time."

Timothy Pape: "Don't sweat the small stuff like most people, including me, usually do. Live humbly and relaxed. It's a crazy world so lets not make it any crazier."

Andrew Pearlman: "Ah, snowmen have peepers. Peepers to watch. To watch for a moment of weakness and then BAFF come the knock in the head and we're down!"

Jason Powell: "Eat, drink, and to be merry, for tomorrow you may be dead."

Sara Reuben: "If you put your mind to work, you can achieve anything that you want."

Dave Sedillo: "George Clooney" "Everybody be cool..... you be cool."

Tim Smith: "If there are no cigars in heaven, I shalt not go." - Mark Twain

Matthew Stritch: "A muddy truck is a sexy truck."

Tiffany Talley: "This is my class and I'm taking it back (Dr. Price)."

Tawana Tolbert: "You were born alone and You will be buried alone, so tell everyone to leave you alone, and live your life to the fullest by your damn self." - anonymous

Rebecca Toms: "I swear, a little pee came out!"

Marty Washington: "I'll put it down for ya!!!!"

Husain Williams: "Always believe in yourself, even though you may not be perfect, you are purpose."

Ryan Young: "You've got life, make sure you live it."

Your plans after graduation:

Lane Arthur: "After graduation, I plan on going to Ringling School of Art and Design in Sarasota, Florida."

John Bishop: "The Citadel, maybe marines."

Christina Bolin: "My plans are to travel and hang out with friends this summer. Then, I'll be going to Anderson College, majoring in church music and minoring in psychology."

Ashely Carrier: "Hopefully, I'll be able to attend Marymount Manhattan, a college on the Upper East Side of New York City, as a communications major. If not, I'll be attending Winthrop University in Rock Hill. After college, I hope to move to Seattle, where it rains all the time and where I will work first in a record store and then as a public relations official for either a record or theatre company."

Samantha Church: "Ugh. Let's not talk about college. Just rest assured that I'm going to be a brilliant actress and playwright very soon."

Caroline Davenport: "Go to college and then start a family."

Courtney Dix: "I'm going to College of Charleston. I aspire to be a theater teacher by day and a comedian by night!!!"

Lauren Ferguson: "I will attend Furman University where I plan to double major in Political Science and Communications."

Jonisha Hart: "Spend as much time with my friends before I go to Winthrop University where I will study early childhood education."

Carolyn Hodo: "I plan to work and to go to the beach a lot this summer, then go to college...for a long, long time."

Lorena Jordan: "I'm going to USC to study political science and then hopefully to law school."

Erin Kinard: "I'm goin to Winthrop in Rock Hill where I plan to take full advantage of the all-you-can-eat-buffet capitol of the world. I will major in music or music education there."

Sean Larson: "After graduation, I plan on first going to Mexico, then Florida, then renting a lakehouse with my brother, then going to the mountains, and finally moving out with my bro."

Mallory Lipton: "I plan to sleep in and work in the summer, and attend Coastal Carolina in the fall."

Alexandra McCarthy: "I'm going to be a camp counselor for Trip Camp this summer. It's going to be super fun! Then I'm off to college, (Randolph-Macon Woman's College), at the end of August."

Paul McCrae: "I'm going to North Carolina School of the Arts to earn a BFA in Costume Design, oh boy, oh boy, oh boy! But first, I'm going to enjoy a long, long summer."

Christie McNally: "Move away from my parents and become as independent as I can while working my way through college; I'm working towards opening my own bookstore in the not-too-distant future."

(continued on page 23)

Senior Survey

Your advice for underclassmen:

Ben Neuhaus: "Unlike all of the creepy people from the past two graduating classes, I do not plan to come back and roam the halls. That's all I know for sure."

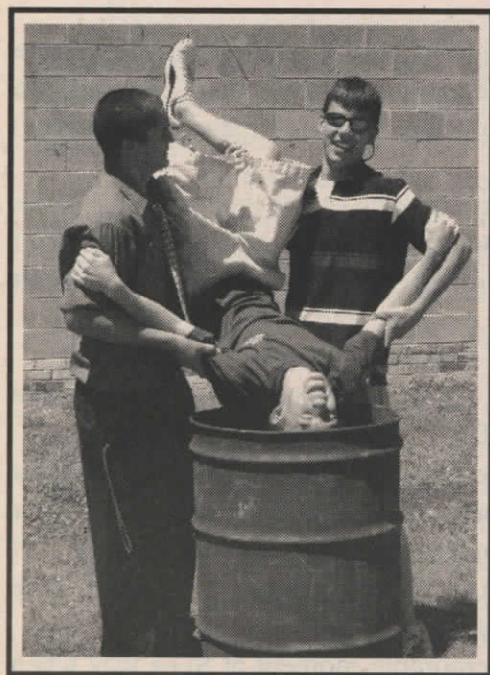
Robert Olson: "I am going to attend East Carolina (in Greenville, NC) after a summer of working. After I put in all my hours of life guarding, teaching swimming lessons, managing the pool, and assistant coaching the swim team, I hope I will have enough money to buy all my books / supplies for college. Hopefully, I will be majoring in exercise physiology and minoring in art."

Cody Palmer: "Attending Clemson University and having more fun."

Kyle Palmer: "Trying to stay alive this summer. Attend C of C in the fall."

Timothy Pape: "This summer I will work at the Charleston Air Force Base and will attend college in the fall."

Andrew Pearlman: "Working in a parking garage in DC."



Jason Powell: "What!! We're supposed to have PLANS!?! *aghast*

Sara Reuben: "I plan to go to college and major in fine arts. After college, I plan to go to graduate school to become an art teacher."

Dave Sedillo: "I plan to go to Trident for film and transfer to a better school. At the same time I am taking film, I will take nursing classes as a back up. And party. And sleep."

Tim Smith: "My plans after graduation: To have the best time possible with my "group" on the senior cruise. I'll then be attending the Cita-

del for summer classes and then start college in the middle of August at the Citadel."

Matthew Stritch: "Join the military."

Tiffany Tally: "After I graduate I plan to attend Columbia College in Columbia, SC where I will major in sociology and minor in music education."

Rebecca Toms: "I'm going to Winthrop University and majoring in Broadcast Journalism. But, of course, things are always subject to change."

Marty Washington: "To go to college as a vocal major and computer engineering minor classes at USC and to make one of the top gospel CD's in the world. To work with computer technology and math."

Husain Williams: "My plans after graduation is to attend Charleston Southern University, major in vocal performance and minor in business administration. After college, I plan to become an executive producer and CEO of a record company and also sing professionally."

Ryan Young: "Have a fun summer and graduate from college."

Lane Arthur: "Stay focused. Start thinking about your future as soon as possible because graduation will creep up on you."

John Bishop: "Don't leave if you've been here since 6th grade. You will have gotten use to this and will only regret leaving."

Christina Bolin: "Hard work pays off."

Ashley Carrier: "There is nothing mediocre about you, except your belief that you are mediocre." The Center of Things "Sometimes the best secrets to keep are your own. -Unknown

Chela Colston: "Don't look to others for acceptance and guidance because, in the long run, they won't help you."

Melissa Cormany: "Cherish the times and memories you have with your friends! ALWAYS BE TRUE!"

Samantha Church: "Save your money - - you'll need it. Do obstacle courses during free periods. Play pictionary as often as possible. Don't kill yourself over school work. Take many trips to South of the Border and Fayetteville. BEST WIGS IN THE WORLD!!!"

Caroline Davenport: "Be your own person but follow the rules. You'll get further that way."

Courtney Dix: "Cherish your moments at SOA. They may seem long and terrible at times, but in the end, you'll wish you could go back and do it all again. And take gov't and economics in summer school, before senior year."

Lauren Ferguson: "In spite of how it may seem now, there is light at the end of the tunnel."

Jonisha Hart: "Don't develop a case of seniorities your senior year."

Carolyn Hodo: "Early outs are wonderful. If you get the chance, definitely take one. Don't worry about how it will look on college applications...it's not that important."

Lorena Jordan: "In everything you do, make the most of it, because you will cherish those memories forever."

Erin Kinard: "Beware: when the word 'party' comes out of Ms. Hamilton's mouth, it ain't gonna be pretty. Don't fight the dress code rules. It's not worth it. When in doubt, sing ta. Always find time to lie in the grass at dusk. Barefoot is the best way to go. Be sure to attend all performances, especially senior theses. Be thankful for your talent. Cherish your friends. Make more memories than you can stand."

Sean Larson: "If it's not worth killing someone over, then it's not worth fighting someone over."

Mallory Lipton: "Be who you are, and watch out for those pot holes!"

Alexandra McCarthy: "Freshmen: Watch out for the senior band majors, because they will give your swirlies...it's a rite of passage. Sophomores: You think you're hot snot, because you're no longer freshies...haha. Juniors: Don't screw up; you're entire college career depends on this year."

Paul McCrae: "Many hardships may come your way.....bite the bullet and deal with it!"

Christie McNally: "Freshmen: Beware of Mr. Murray!"

Ben Neuhaus: "You think now that you will not be succceptable to Senioritis, but you will. Save your absences for the last quarter, cause there will be days when you just don't wake up until well after 10:00."

Robert Olson: "Attempt to take all of your required courses before your senior year comes around so your schedule isn't as demanding. This way you can enjoy your senior year and have more time to think about / prepare for college."

(continued on page 24)

Senior Survey

Cody Palmer: "Don't take anything too seriously."

Kyle Palmer: "Cherish the time you have, it will fly by." "If you're gonna skip out of class, just leave, don't sign out."

Timothy Pape: "As hard as it is, try to enjoy high school as much as possible, because it all passes too quickly. When you're feeling stressed out, take a break and put all of the responsibilities aside. Come back and deal with your priorities with a fresh and positive attitude."

Andrew Pearlman: "Hit on the attendance ladies, they consider a date an excused tardy. Don't trust the advice of the people on the sparknotes forum."

Jason Powell: "Follow your heart and not your art teacher. SERIOUSLY! Your artistic abilities look promising too ... cough ..cough."

Sara Reuben: "My advice for underclassmen is that they work hard in the 11th grade because it is your most important year in high school."

Dave Sedillo: "Grow up !!! And shut up!!! or the or the other way around."

Tim Smith: "Don't cheat in statistics; it's not worth it."

Matthew Stritch: "Don't eat the yellow snow"

Tiffany Talley: "When Ms. Hamilton says that there is going to be a test on April 1st, it's not a joke."

Tawana Tolbert: "SOA isn't West Ashley, Wando, North Charleston, or Burke, but it is a place that can open many doors in the future, so don't leave. But you must follow your heart and do whatever makes you happy."

Rebecca Toms: "Have as much fun as possible, do all the things you always wanted to, and spend as much time as you can with your friends."

Marty Washington: "Don't ever go to Kickin Chickin on a school field trip."

Husain Williams: "My advise for underclassmen is to stay on top of everything you do and never settle for second best."

Ryan Young: "Dropouts work in sweatshops."

Your most memorable moment at SOA:

Lane Arthur: "My most memorable moment at SOA were probably all spent in the art dept. with the rest of the visual arts students. It seemed as though something was always going on."

John Bishop: "Doughnuts in the ghetto lot."

Christina Bolin: "Performing on the Carnegie Hall stage. All the moments and trips in Mr. Rogers' and Mr. Varner's classes."

Ashley Carrier: "All my favorite moments at SOA involve my friends, but some of the funniest and most fabulous moments I remember come from theatre. The most fun I've ever had at school involved Ben, Abbi, Becca, Courtney and the best obstacle courses ever, complete with mazes, rolling carts, scooting rugs and spinning cones, and last but not least Sam and her trash can. The hilarity which ensued often involved a lot of falling down, and a little tee tee in everyone's pants."

Samantha Church: "I have so many! Um, dumping Matt in the trash can; the time I fell in the trash can; all memories including trash cans; the haunted house when Ben made me act like the love child of Mickey Rooney and Katherine Hepburn; playing pictionary; the obstacle courses..."

Caroline Davenport: "It will be when I walk across the stage at graduation."

Courtney Dix: "I think my most memorable moment was when I was in the 7th grade, talking about Chauncey Finch, and then as I left I fell down, busted my head and passed out, and when I woke up, Chauncey Finch was standing over me. The moral of the story: speak of the devil and she shall appear."

Lauren Ferguson: "My most memorable moments at SOA include everything that has ever happened in my beloved major vocal, and 9th grade in Ms. Hamilton's because everyone was truly a psychotic comedian!"

Jonisha Hart: "Meeting jazz artist Kurt Elling."

Lorena Jordan: "I have two. When Mr. Varner talked to us about how much of a Harry Potter fan he was and put on a wizard's hat! And, my first Hamilton's Part. (It's a senior thing)."

Erin Kinard: "'Stand by Me' at the last vocal show, being on stage at Carnegie Hall, or the creation of the circle of love."

Sean Larson: "My most memorable moments at SOA were those three years my best friends and I spent at the tree."

Mallory Lipton: "It would probably be when we went to Beaufort and Ms. Miles and Mr. Woods dressed up like Sonny and Cher, and sang 'I've got you, Babe.' It was wonderful!"

Alexandra McCarthy: "I can't think of my most memorable moment, but a couple of my favorites were in the band banquets, Junior ring ceremony, the Chattanooga and Indiana band trips, and every moment I spend with my band family."

Paul McCrae: "Sara, Jason, and I were working on the crocodile for 'Peter Pan.' We were hot gluing materials underneath to strengthen it. Jason and I had to leave for a while, but when we returned, we found Sara in a difficult position. The crocodile had fallen off the table and pinned her to the floor. She somehow managed to glue herself to it also. She was screaming!"

Christie McNally: "Hmm...no names, but when someone took a homemade blow torch and set living creatures on fire."

Ben Neuhaus: "Well, these were more more of moments, but the best days of all the SOA years were the ones where we played in theatre. If it wasn't playing spinny tag until we puked, then it was making obstacle courses. I'll never ever forget watching Sam jump in the trash can and fall over. I've never laughed harder than on those days."

Robert Olson: "Perhaps my most memorable moment at SOA was when Harper, Courtney, and myself were working on our history day project. While working on the project, we went through several methods of gluing down our pictures, because they kept falling off. We all stayed after school to work on it and Harper and Courtney went to go get dinner while I continued to spray adhesive on the board. By the time they got back, I couldn't stop laughing (I guess it was from the fumes). After this, we went to a PTSA meeting and I laughed the entire time. Of course, we were in the back and everyone in the cafeteria kept looking back at us, because Courtney and Harper couldn't stop laughing, because I was laughing."

Cody Palmer: "The water balloon fight that got me sent home for two days, the night at the beach with the three suspicious flashlights, and those wonderful games with quarters."

Kyle Palmer: "In eight grade when Devoe and I faked a nose bleed and got out of Ms. Emory's class."

Timothy Pape: "My most memorable moment at SOA was in the seventh grade when I was walking with Andy P. to recess, when we almost got run over and killed by Big Drew. I've never forget that."

Andrew Pearlman: "When Bacon was obviously cutting school and runs into Ms. Hamilton's trailer 45 minutes into class panting and sweating. Ms.

(continued on page 25)

Senior Survey

Hamilton asked him where he had been he replied, "the library." And that was that."

Jason Powell: "I was staying after school, cleaning the darkroom which had flooded earlier that day; Mr. Dawson had brought the floor buffer and not knowing how to use it, I got on top and turned on the power. It began wildly spinning me like a tornado, engulfing me in foot after foot of extension cord until I looked like a mummy!"

Sara Reuben: "Most memorable moment at SOA was going to all the chorus performances."

Dave Sedillo: "When Frankenberry tries to kill Count Chocula."

Tim Smith: "My most memorable time took place in Florida on the strings trip in sixth grade."

Matthew Stitch: "No-play days. Flinging mud on the truck in the ghetto lot."

Tiffany Talley: "Sex education with Mrs. Graves! BORING!"

Rebecca Toms: "The time we turned the scene shop into an obstacle course, and all the spinny tag games."

Marty Washington: "Dressing up in a crab costume and singing "Under the Sea" in the 2000 Chorale Spring Concert."

Husain Williams: "My most memorable moment at SOA is when I met true friends; Christina Smalls, Jonisha Hart, Tiffany Tally, and Christina Bolin. They were very funny."

Ryan Young: "Senior thesis nights."

What you will miss about SOA:

Lane Arthur: "I think above all I will miss the relationship that the students at this school have developed with one another and the faculty."

John Bishop: "Small, tight community."

Christina Bolin: "Singing in class and down the halls with the vocal majors. Vocal trips! Movies (Sister Act, Amadeus, Air Bud, Grease). Acrobatic stunts performed by Stephen Chambers and Alex Allman. After school trips to Mings Garden. Mrs. Lannie! Bus rides with Mrs. Mitchell!!"

Ashley Carrier: "Despite all the times I've complained (and I've complained a lot), what I'll really miss about SOA is the brutal honesty. No where else and with no one else could I hope to encounter such blunt and blatant truth. The one thing I've always been able to count on is that I'll know if no one cares about what I'm saying, or if no one's listening to my "really good story." Though some may call us tactless, cruel, heartless (thank you, Brian Dobson), mean-spirited, cynical, I truly appreciate the ability of myself and my friends to tell it like it is. When your friends aren't scared to hurt your feelings, you know they'll always tell the truth, and that makes the compliments all the better. Knowing what people really think has helped me to know what to think of myself. I'll miss knowing when I look fat, or when I'm being a jerk. And I'll miss having the freedom to say "Now look here, you're obnoxious and no one likes you, so shut it." I'll also miss applauding for Ms. Hamilton. That was quality. But more than anything else, I'll miss my friends, who are the best and funniest people I know. I love all of you. Special goodbyes to Emmy, Bessie and B. LaRoux."

Chela Colston: "Your dad jokes and our crap thesis readings and comments."

Melissa Cormany: "My friends that I've grown up with since 6th grade, the ones I've grown to laugh with, trust, and even love."

Samantha Church: "Everything...ugh, that's the typical response. I guess just the SOA environment. All of my friends and teachers are so brilliant, I can't imagine what life would be like without them. There are so many Dorothy Parker's and James Thurber's in my circle of friends. I can't help but be afraid that every new person I meet will seem dull in comparison."

Caroline Davenport: "Friends."

Courtney Dix: "My friends! God, I'll miss them; Because now, I'm not leaving a school, I'm leaving behind a family...My friends are like my SOA family...Quirky, yes, a little incestuous at times...BUT I LOVE YOU ALL!! I'LL MISS YOU LIKE CRAZY!"

Lauren Ferguson: "I will miss more than anything seeing all my friends everyday and the good times we had. I don't think I'll ever meet a bunch with such unique characters as you all. And when I say unique, I truly mean unique."

Jonisha Hart: "As a vocal major, walking down the hallway singing to a song and having other vocal majors joining in. "Also early out days"

Carolyn Hodo: "I will miss hanging out and slacking off in art, and especially the people in there. I will also miss Mr. Smyth's class and Mr. Murray and Loretta."

Lorena Jordan: "My friends, my classes and teachers, the school, and Mr. Varner's speeches to us."

Erin Kinard: "Your dad, the sol-fege, the constant eating in class, the laughter, the diversity, the flabfests, the deep sleepovers, the Harm-Harm nicknames, the wheels turning on vocal trips, the Cockroach clan, the campus, and most of all the people."

Sean Larson: "The things I will miss most about SOA are the friends and teachers that have become like family to me."

Mallory Lipton: "I will miss seeing my friends everyday and theater class."

Alexandra McCarthy: "My family. This school has been my home and the people here have been my family for the past seven years. I love all of you."

Paul McCrae: "Absolutely everyone and everything!"

Christie McNally: "Walking through the arts building and being surrounded by the overwhelming talent of SOA students."

Ben Neuhaus: "The freedom. Where else could Brittany get away with eating a 6-course meal in Economics, or Abbi and Becca wear trashbags around the halls? Where else is it okay for Mr. Wood to say he has malt liquor for us, or for Mr. Cusatis to call me a fruitcake? Where else could Kayla and I sleep on top of each other and no one think anything of it? Oh, it was a great school...hmm...good times."

Robert Olson: "I will miss all of the interesting people that I have been allowed to come in contact with over the past four years. I will definitely miss being able to spend all day in the art room. I will probably also miss the small school, because next year I will be entering a school with a twenty-five thousand population. But, most of all, I will probably miss the company of Sean, Justin, Harper, Andrae, Greg, Lane, James, and Thomas."

Cody Palmer: "The nap times during 2-3, 4-5, 6-7, and 9-10 periods."

Kyle Palmer: "The weekly visits to Mr. Davis. Seeing all my friends everyday."

Timothy Pape: "I've been going to SOA for seven years and it has become a second home to me. I'll miss the individual attention, the friends, the rough rides to school, and the respect that people have for one another. And I'll mostly miss Diane Hamilton's tangents."

(continued on page 26)

Senior Survey

Andrew Pearlman: "Being part of my elitist group and looking down upon the rest of the Charleston County School district. I'll miss that ivory tower!"

Jason Powell: "What I'll miss most about SOA will be the ridiculously large number of trailers."

Sara Reuben: "What I will miss most about SOA is my two art teachers Mr. Moore and Ms. Jaycie."

Dave Sedillo: "Some of the people. Friends (teachers and students)."

Tim Smith: "I will miss seeing two of the most important people in my life: Lindsay Funderburk and my brother, Andrew."

Matt Stritch: "Old Man Davis (He called himself that name, not me)."

Tiffany Talley: "Crawling in the ceiling of the girls dressing room of Mr. Anderson's P.E. class."

Tawana Tolbert: "I will miss getting the chance to ruin everything for the class of 2004 because of the class of 2003, they never went on a 8th grade trip, they had to have their 8th grade prom in the cafeteria, etc. But, most of all, I am going to miss all of my friends."

Rebecca Toms: "What won't I miss. The circle of love, fast girls have better times, turgid snapping peepee, red bar, cake love, Mandy, Bronson says stop!, Crazy Bread, it's time for a little in the bed disco, Abbi and the user name, catch dem crabs, ghetto trash, teaching Madison dirty words, 'duh-like women have like achieved so much,' and basically just how wonderfully weird everyone is."

Marty Washington: "My friends and family, SOA steppers, and dances."

Husain Williams: "I will miss all my friends and the teachers who have helped me get this far."

Ryan Young: "Friends"

Another doctor in the house

SOA English instructor John Cusatis received a Ph.D. in English from the University of South Carolina at commencement services on May 10 in Columbia. Dr. Cusatis majored in Twentieth Century American Literature and minored in Linguistics, specifically Dialects of American English. His doctoral dissertation, entitled "The Life I Could Write: the Personal and Artistic Integrity of Robinson Jeffers," explores the life and work of the twentieth-century poet. "Jeffers possessed one of the most powerful minds and voices in the history of literature," says Dr. Cusatis. "He is still largely unknown, as his poems aren't difficult, just great." Dr. Cusatis received his BA from the Pennsylvania State University and his MA from Millersville University. He teaches AP English IV, Honors English IV, Honors English II, and Journalism at the School of the Arts.

Congratulations to our favorite eldest son, Andrew Scott DuPuis, on the occasion of your high school graduation. We are all so proud of you and all you have accomplished and know you will continue to excel in all that you choose to do. Love, Dad, Mom, and Peter.

Love and thanks to all the teachers whose overtime and genuine caring helped the class of 2003 develop into creative contributors!

-The Saylor

Andrew Bentz



SOA in the beginning was scary...a school that I would be at for the next 7 years where I would have to sing every day. That fear soon subsided when I found out that many of my friends were going to SOA. The Ashley River gang was going to be together again: Lauren, Marty, Danielle, Ivan, Devoe, Mohsen, Andrae, Johnny Ann, Mallory, Drew, Yannick, and Ivan. It was exciting that Ivan and I were going to go to the same school. Ivan and I have been friends since first grade. We wrote the "Return to Oz" as our first book. I wrote the story and he illustrated it. Then he had to go a project on the opera Hansel and Gretel. We made another book. I wrote and he illustrated again.

I've come to accept the fact that in sixth grade, I was fat. But like an infomercial I've lost the weight. That's about the only thing I've lost here at SOA. I have gained a lot from being here--I've learned how to sing, how to write, how to laugh, and how to make fun of people--probably one of the most important lessons.

SOA was a journey from obscurity to myself. I didn't know who I was or where I fit coming into SOA but I've figured a lot of it out by coming to SOA. I still have questions that need answers, goals that need to be accomplished, but I have found who I am. I have made myself unique. I've come from a chubby non-descript sixth grader to a person with purpose, drive, and success. This is due to the years I've spent here. I would not be the same had I gone to another school. If I had never spent hours loving Sara, inuendo-ing with Ben, Jabbing with Ashley, dancing with Sam, singing with Leah, and learning along the way, I would still be that chubby sixth grader.

Carolyn Hodo



During my seven years at SOA, the classes that I have most enjoyed have been those taught by Mr. Murray: Physics and Biology II. I have always enjoyed science courses, but not to the extent that I enjoyed these. What was particularly memorable about these courses was that they challenged me with information that I was interested in. Other classes have been interesting but not necessarily challenging, or vice versa, but Mr. Murray managed both. Biology II has been especially interesting for me because I plan to study the same type of material in college. I feel that I have learned a great deal about Biology and now better understand everyday things relating to it. Mr. Murray has taught his Biology II class just how important an understanding of Biology is, even if you don't plan to pursue it further. I admire Mr. Murray not only as a teacher, but as a person as well. The lessons that he has taught his classes not only relate to the subject matter, but to real life. Mr. Murray's classes have been challenging, but they've been a lot of fun. I will remember Mr. Murray and the things he has taught me for the rest of my life.

Feature

Bon Voyage Mme Phillips

by Emory Frazier



How long have you been teaching?

I have been teaching for thirty-one years.

What made you decide to retire?

Two and a half years ago I officially retired on the TERI plan in which your retirement is put aside and you may continue to teach for five more years. Last year I pretty much decided that I would stop at the end of this year. I just think that you need to stop while you are ahead.

How do you feel that you have influenced students throughout the years?

Well that's hard to say. When I meet former students in the community they always greet me warmly and I've had several students go into teaching. As a matter of fact about fifteen years ago the News and Courier ran a story during Teacher Appreciation Week about the influence of teachers in certain prominent people's lives. Chuck Long, teacher and director of the Charleston Youth Company, named me as influencing him to go into teaching because my eighth grade English class was so fun! He had just been named S.C. Teacher of the Year. So I was both surprised and thrilled. Obviously it still means a lot to me. A few kind words are long remembered in this business!

What sorts of changes in schools have you seen since you began teaching?

When I started teaching schools were not yet integrated. That's a huge change that has happened on the positive side, I've also seen magnet schools formed, which is a relatively new idea, and the offering of AP for college credit.

Has the behavior of students changed since you started teaching?

I think that students today reflect the society in which we live and they are not always respectful of authority. Students often say things that twenty-five to thirty years ago they wouldn't begin to say to each other much less adults. I also see somewhat of an erosion of politeness, but this isn't to say that I don't teach many wonderful students; otherwise I would have quit before now!

What is your most memorable teaching experience?

Taking my students to France will definitely be an experience that I will never forget. Also I love playing the accordion and having all of the students sing along with me. I also love seeing the creativity in the Christmas or spring cards year after year. Winning at the Declamation Contest and at Quest is at the top of the list too.

Since you are retiring from teaching will you also retire from the accordion?

Well the answer is I probably won't play it as often because I played it only at school. I'm definitely not going to get rid of the accordion and maybe I can teach some people how to play it. Just kidding!

What will you miss the most about teaching at SOA?

I will miss the wonderful, talented, and enthusiastic students that come here. Every time I go to an event, it "restores" my soul. It makes me so proud that I'm associated with such talented people. I will defi-

-nitely miss the students along with the faculty and staff. Students top the list though, because if not for the students then why are we here?

School of the Arts

2003

Duke University State Level "TIP" Winners

Congratulations to the following 7th grade students who have been named State Level Winners in the Duke University Talent Identification by achieving a score of 510 or above on the verbal and/or math portions of the SAT or scores of 21 or above on the ACT.

Araba Appiagyei-Dankah, Ally Bing, Zan Isgett, Heather Jones, Braden Joyce-Schleimer, Hannah McCleskey, Callie Purvis, Frank Shary, Gabriella Terranova



Sara Saylor dominates national writing competition

Senior Sara Saylor was awarded four top awards this year in the National Scholastic Writing Competition, including a \$3500 scholarship for her portfolio, which was chosen as one of the five best in the nation. Her portfolio included poems, a personal essay, a journalistic essay and a thirty page excerpt from her Senior Thesis.

But that's not all. Sara received the "Pinnacle Award," -the highest award given in each category- in journalism. She was also honored with a \$1500 scholarship for being number one in the nation on this category. Finally, Sara won the "American Voices" for writing the best poetry in the Southeast. Way to go Sara!!



Congratulations to Ms. Beth Lasley and to Big Heath Orvin, who were married on April 26, 2003. We all wish you the best!

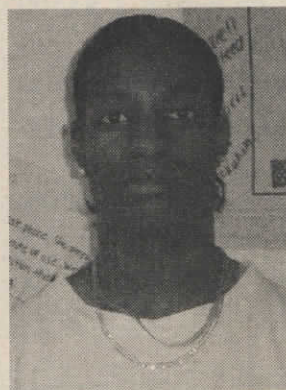
Seniors Reflect



Maggie Silver

My seven years at SOA have been better than I could have imagined. Though my friends and I complain incessantly about different aspects of the school (as teenagers are apt to do), there is no other school in Charleston County that I would have rather obtained my education from. SOA has helped me gain a true appreciation for the arts and all of the hard work that individuals put into their productions and performances. While at SOA, I have also had the chance to develop my own voice in writing. I have progressed to a maturity and quality level in my writing that I never thought possible. Though I do not plan to go into any sort of writing profession, I am extremely grateful for the chance Mrs. Miles has given me to explore my talent and to have something tangible (my senior thesis publication) to show for it. The atmosphere at SOA has also had a strong impact on who I am. From the outside, I'm sure the senior class seems like a bunch of cruel, coarse losers with too much attitude, but it's just that we've all been together for so long that we all foster the same cynical, sarcastic sense of humor. It's this sense of humor that has gotten me through these melodramatic high school years, and will probably help me get through college as well.

The only place you could find a weirder group of students is at Academic Magnet, but I'd still rather be an SOA child because we've got gangs.



Pierre Alston

I remember when I first came to SOA, I had a hard time adapting to the people as well as my major. As I began to get better associated with my peers, I was not with my major. In Band, the level of music at which I was playing before I came to SOA was not as hard as when I got here. I really didn't know how I was going to survive, but then I saw some light. My wonderful Band Director, Mr. KERR has been able to help me along the way and insure confidence in my ability to play. He has been a light to my path and one who I can always talk to. Out of all I learned at SOA, giving up is not a choice. I greatly appreciate and thank Mr. KERR for what he has done for me and the other members of the band. Not only teachers at SOA have had a major impact on my life in high school, but also my wonderful friends that I have made. I love all of you and wish the best of luck in the future! To the class of 2003! I would also like to thank my great grandparents and family for helping me be who I am and what I will become in the future. I love you all and also God.



Sara Reuben

The class that had the biggest impact on me was my Visual Arts Class. Every year in art class was a completely new experience for me. Our class went through many different teachers during our time at SOA. Not only that, but many students came and left our class. Our class was a very disruptive group and we therefore had to have an administrator watching us a lot of the time. The class was considered out of control sometimes. However, the class ended up settling down and I managed to stick with the class. The things in Visual Arts that impacted my life were my first teacher, my ninth grade year, and the teachers for my in school years.

The teacher that our class started out with was Mr. Kowalski, and he was quite a teacher. He truly strengthened the Visual department with his great teaching styles. Not only could Mr. K. teach, but he was an incredible artist as well. I knew I would never forget him when he left the school in the end of my eighth grade year because within just one year of being taught by Mr. K., his students had become ten times better than when they started at the beginning of the year. I can honestly say that Mr. K. touched my heart and made me feel as if art was a major part of my life. I loved the art class and could not wait to get up in the morning to go back to the class.

After eighth grade, school really changed dramatically for me, and I no longer felt the same drive or passion for art class. In ninth grade a new teacher took over for the Highschool Art Department, named Mr. Buggle. We also got ten to fifteen new art students in class. The art class was way too large and way out of control and hard to handle. The other problem was the new art teacher who was not fit to teach the class. He felt that abstract work was the only type of true art and thus he did not accept anything else. As the year went on, the class got out of control again and nothing productive went on in the art room. I did not want to be at this school anymore and I lost all passion for art. After our class made an effort to get rid of the art teacher, Mr. Buggle was finally fired.

During the previous two years over the summer, I had been taking art classes outside of school at Charleston Arts, on James Island, where I particularly liked the art teacher. I told the art teacher one day how unhappy I was at the School of the Arts, due to the horrible art teacher. A few months later she came and started teaching at the School of the Arts. Ms. Jacie fit in very well and everyone liked her. People in the art class started settling down and concentrating on their art. By the end of our tenth grade year, Ms. Jacie had managed to strengthen the Visual Art department significantly. If it was not for Ms. Jacie coming to the school to teach, I don't think my artwork would be as strong as it is today and I would never have stayed in the school. I feel as if Ms. Jacie was a blessing sent down from G-d because I asked him/her for help and Ms. Jacie came along. A year later another amazing person joined the art department faculty, named Mr. Moore. If it wasn't for him and Ms. Jacie I would never of become the artist I am today.

Visual Arts/Vocal 2002-2003

Visual Arts Highlights

Costal Carolina Fair - 12th grader Jerrelle Steed won the highest award given at the Fair, the Schriener's Award, and several middle and high school visual artists received awards also.

Scholastic Competition- *Winners:*

Paul McCrae-Silver Portfolio Award

Steven Chambers- Drawing

John David Hill- Environmental Design

Paul McCrae- Product Design

Robby Olson- Ceramics

Harper Marchman Jones-Drawing

Recycling Competition- Sarah Haynes won 1st Place and a \$100.00 savings bond

Reel Art Competition- Jonathan King and Matt Steele tied for 2nd place in the state

The Post and Courier wrote a large article featuring 10th grader Trey Williams

Lainey Harrison, Allison Smith, and Trey Williams are three students that got accepted into the Gifted and Talented Program. Only fifteen were selected throughout Charleston County.



A student looks at work displayed at the Art Exhibit held at the Imax Theatre - over 400 people attended

Vocal Highlights



High school vocalists' trip to Winthrop University

This year the middle school vocalists attended several clinics, performed in numerous churches around the area, and scored high on their Choral Clinic. All of this was possible due to Mr. Rogers' good patience and musical talent. Also twenty two of Mr. Rogers vocalists made it into All County which is a competitive and well respected group. This year the middle school vocalists attended the S.C. Jr. High/School Choral Clinic on March 7. They performed "May You Have a Song" by Albrecht. As a group they performed marvelously and maxed out on all the categories on their grade sheet. Their Holiday Concert went well and the students finally got to perform "God is Our Refuge And Strength" which was written by Dr. Corina. The performance was held at the Citadel in the Summerall Chapel. It was exiting for the students because Dr. Corina composed the peace for the the chorus in honor of the events that occurred September 11, 2001. Dr. Corina is the father of Susan Corina Johnson, who is the director of the Middle School Orchestra. Dr. Corina was welcomed to the stage and was thanked for his contribution to our school. He had previously attended our school to rehearse with the vocalists and orchestra.

The students gained experience while participating in The Young Americans, which is a national music outreach program. It was designed to encourage music and train young students to perform. The vocalists participated in reading new music and learning new interpretations of music. This took place March third through the eighth. The middle school vocalists' last concert took place on May 1 at the Grace United Methodist Church where they were recognized as great musicians by the congregation.

Congratulations
to the SOA graduating class
of 2003
from the Applause staff

Orchestra 2002-2003

A wonderful year for Strings



The SOA Orchestra received a superior rating this year at Concert Festival. The orchestras of the Charleston School of the Arts performed on April 4, for the SC Concert Festival. The sixth grade orchestra was wonderful! The seventh and eighth graders were inspired! Magnificent performances were given by both groups.

The high school orchestra was amazing and graced the stage with their poise and professionalism. Their performance was first-rate and the pieces were excellent. They performed the first movement of Mozart's Divertimento No. 1 and the Overture to Iphigenia in Aulis by Gluck. The full orchestra was awesome! Many, many thanks go out to the band members who made the full orchestra possible. It was the first full orchestra performance in many years.



The Chamber Ensemble performed for the Rotary Club reception this year. It was a beautiful evening on Kiawah Island and sounds of beautiful music filled the air on Saturday, March 22.

The SOA High School Orchestra Chamber Ensemble entertained the massive crowd of Rotarians and added an air of elegance to their function. It was an enchanted evening. Special thanks go to Michael Williams for his excellent solo of the National Anthem. The Chamber Ensemble consisted of Chris James on bass; Charity Wilson on cello; Andrae Raffield, Nicole Adams, Nicole Darden and Missy Claisse on viola; Eric Newman, Taylor Raffield and Elizabeth Holmes on Violin II; and Michael Williams and Isabelle Selby on Violin I.



The students were wonderful at Solo & Ensemble Festival this year. Everyone received either a superior or excellence rating

Superior Ratings:

* **Nicole Adams...Solo, Sawyer Balance...Solo, Missy Claisse...Solo, Nicole Darden...Solo, Terrence Freeman...Solo, Kayleigh Fort...Solo, Andrae Raffield...Solo, Taylor Raffield...Solo, Mary Reed...Solo, Cameron Sheriff...Solo, Diego Villena...Solo, Hope Wilson...Solo, Nicole Darden and Cameron Sheriff...Duet, Nicole Adams and Andrae Raffield...Duet, Ashton Jacques and Amanda DeRhodo...Duet, Eric Newman and Michael Williams...Duet, Charity Wilson and Isabelle Selby...Duet, Chris James and Chris Gingrich...Duet, Devoe Sullivan, Mohsen Roudsari, Kyle Palmer and Tim Smith...Violin Quartet**

Excellent Ratings:

* **Mariel Conway...Solo, Elizabeth Holmes...Solo, Jessican Munday...Solo, Clary Nigels...Solo, Jennifer Thomas and Sanora Griffin...Duet, Hannah Metivier and Kristen Young...Duet**



Creative Writing 2002/2003

A final chapter for Creative Writing

by Bekah Bevins

It's been seven years since the seniors first walked into Mrs. Miles creative writing class, the stained couches and wobbly chairs creating an atmosphere perfect for starving, young artists. Starting out with seventeen, they have narrowed down to only eight young voices. They have helped each other build their individual artistic endeavors, as well as life-long friendships. For most of them, Mrs. Miles has become like a second mother, who has helped them reach their goals and find their own voices.

This year they had to strike out on their own and produce a 100-page thesis in any genre, which they would eventually prepare for publication, as well as work personally with a mentor, a regional professional writer chosen by Mrs. Miles. They each had specific thesis deadlines, monthly meetings with their mentors, weekly journals, reading documentation and the final planning for the binding of their books. With the final page deadline on March 28, they were able to relax a little and think about the introduction, dedication, etc.

It is amazing to see how diverse all of their manuscripts are. Lindsey Jones, mentored by author Susan Sully, wrote a novel in verse about a drug dealer. Throughout the book, she reveals all of the convoluted lives that he has an effect on. Meghan Lee, mentored by poet Marjory Wentworth, wrote a book of poems that explores the relationships with her family, love, and how she views herself. Sara Saylor, mentored by local publisher Jeff Schwaner, wrote a novel about six people working at a restaurant. Thom Rowell, mentored by former Gibbes Poet in Residence, and head of the South Carolina Poetry Society, Denny Stiles, wrote a book of poetry about artistic expression, America, religion, and his relationship with family and friends. Christie McNally, mentored by another former Gibbes Poet in Residence, Jonathan Sanchez, wrote a book of poems that define the soul. Jennie Cowan, mentored by fiction writer Sandy Lang Quick, wrote a book of short stories. Jennifer Haycook, mentored by former SOA creative writing teacher Mrs. Hart, and Maggie Silver, mentored by past president of the North Carolina Poets Society Susan Myers, both wrote on the theme of religion, revealing their individual beliefs by interweaving quotations from the Bible with their own voices.

Lindsey Jones: *an excerpt from her novel in verse,*

Love in Dark Places

(david)

There's something frighteningly beautiful
about the way she looks in my shirts
with the sleeves rolled up,
and something equally terrifying
about how easy it was to move into her house
and out of dealing when she smiled at me.
I'm not the kind of person
who goes looking for her kind of trouble,
and I'm not one to drive an hour



to a girl's house every day
to leave ceramic flowers on her front porch.
It's making me nervous to take my lunch breaks
into her living room, watching soap operas,
and a little more uneasy
to hold her sister in my lap
and wish she was ours.



Thom Rowell: *excerpt from his book of poems,*
That Which is Crooked

A Growing Scar

a band of pilgrims, a gang of thieves,
sneaks down through the prickling leaves
every step a step too far –
every pace a growing scar.
the trees and lions, dead in sleep
only collapse under advancing feet.
so mile by mile, day by day,
the group so warily makes its way.

their eyes screwed shut, their hands clenched tight,
there's no change from day to night.



Meghan Lee: *an excerpt from her book of poems,*
Echoes Through Sleep

Cheap Laughs

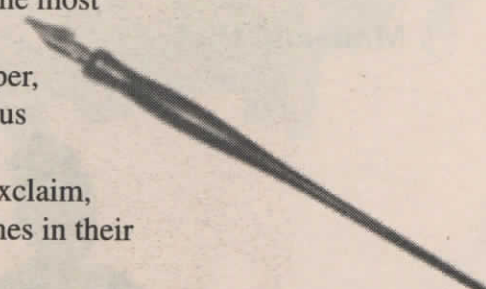
Leaning back on his stool, my English teacher
grins as he describes his favorite cartoon, the one
where the coyote paints the tunnel on the rock wall
and the blur of the road runner zooms straight
through,
blue tail feathers slick and straight.

I think of my little brother who nearly falls off the couch
when the cliff ends and Yosemite Sam is still running,

and then remember you lying on my stomach
as we watched cartoons at one in the morning,
giggling as bees sting some bear's fat butt.
Curled up by myself at night, flicking channels
I was as Woody Woodpecker releases a maniacal laugh
drops an ax. Such cheap laughs are the most
reassuring,
cartoons racing back and forth on paper,
squeaking and squealing, winking at us
even after they've lost a limb.
You think you've got it rough, they exclaim,
trip over a rake, cram seven sandwiches in their
mouths,
swallow it all in one gulp, and get going
I reach for your absent fingers, laugh like mad.

*"In short, she has been the most artistically
influential person in my life thus far."*

-Lindsey Jones on Mrs. Miles



Congratulations, Class of 2003



Xan, What a pair we'll make at Georgia Tech! Love, Abby



Hugs and Kisses to you Xan. Love, Anna Grace



Xan, Now that you're leaving SOA - I'm stepping up. Love, Adam



The hair's a little longer but the smile's the same. You're a ramblin' wreck from Georgia Tech and a hell of an engineer. Love, Mom and Dad



Ashley Ann, Here you are graduating. How time flies! You have grown up to be a smart, beautiful young lady with a bright future ahead. We wish you all the best and know you will meet the up-coming challenges head-on. Go girl! We are so proud of you. Love You Forever, Mommie & Daddy



Good Luck, Pierre! Love Lauren, Mr. & Mrs. Smalls, and Mrs. Wigfall



Congratulations Lauren, We believe you can fly! Love Mommy, Daddy, Larry, Raven, Mama, Sylvia, and Keith Patrick

