

Applause

Volume 5 Number 8

Charleston County School of the Arts, North Charleston, SC

May 2004



The School of the Arts Graduating Class of 2004

Editor's Page



Applause Staff

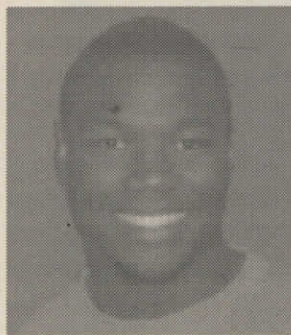
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A note from the Editor



Welcome to the thirty-six page special graduation edition of *Applause*. This year the *Applause* staff worked very hard to published eight thick color issues. I would like to give special thanks to everyone on the staff for making our newspaper a success. Good luck to Ben, Sam, Noelle, and Casey in running our great paper next year. I would also like to thank everyone who helped to produce this issue. Special thanks to Jason Epstein for giving me a lot of pictures to use

in this paper and to Dr. Cusatis for giving me the honor of being the Editor this year.

SOA life has been a great experience for me mainly because of the people that I have come in contact with here. So many people here have different ways that they each view the world. I have loved my high school experience, and I would not trade it in for the world. Thank you to all of my friends, teachers, and administrators who have made my high school experience one that I will treasure. I love you all.

Sincerely,

Emory Frazier

SOA Earns Rave Review from SACS

by Casey O'Neill

In March the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) evaluated School of the Arts for the first time. According to SACS, the committee's primary mission is "to improve education in the Southern United States by recognizing and encouraging institutional quality through accreditation." In passing the evaluation, School of the Arts received nineteen commendations. SACS recognized SOA for "infusing the arts into academics," "artistic collaboration among majors," fostering a "spirit of camaraderie" and "building an artistic community." SOA creates an atmosphere that students perceive as an "incubator for talent," the committee noted. SOA was also commended for the "strong sense of family" among students and faculty nurtured by their common goals and the faculty's commitment to supporting student endeavors. SOA was also praised for excellent minority achievement and for establishing an honor code and "empowering students" to implement it.

A message from Mrs. Myers

I have been very impressed with members of this senior class. You exhibit warmth and sincerity toward one another and toward others, something not always apparent in the youth of today. But I have been especially impressed by those of you who saw a need to address our sense of honor and integrity and were willing to step forward to do something about it. The "Honor Code" you have been working to develop has brought a renewed sense of what personal integrity is all about, as well as our responsibility to carry ourselves as models of good character. Doing the right and honorable thing is seldom the easy road to travel, but it leads to a sense of pride and confidence in who you are each time you look in the mirror.

In our world today, there are many examples of "getting by with it" and "anything goes." You who are strongly committed to what is just and honorable will serve as shining lights of encouragement in all that you endeavor.

I wish you success in your life and a profession that brings you as much joy as my profession has brought me.

Sincerely,

Rose Maree Myers, Principal



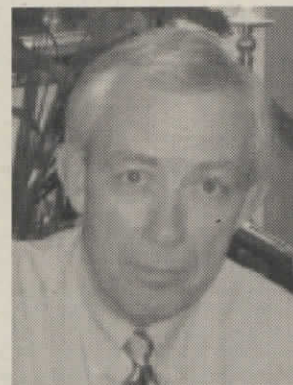
A word from Mr. Davis

Congatulations!

To the class of 2004, I wish the very best for you. Never forget the friends and all the good times at SOA. SOA is a special place and you will learn to appreciate that fact as you continue your education. Thank you for all the special memories.

Sincerely,

A. Roy Davis, Assistant Principal



A note from Mrs. Caldwell

What an absolutely fantastic Senior Class you are.

Every time we walk through the front doors of the Berry Building, we will be reminded of your determination, diligence, and school spirit. You have undertaken every project, every activity, with the same enthusiasm that permeated your renovation of the entrance to the school.

Your legacy to SOA is more than paint, carpet, artwork, and plantings. Your legacy is showing how teamwork gets a job done. You have lead by example.

Your talent, your leadership, and your strong spirit will serve you well as you move to new opportunities in new places. My best wishes go with you all.

Sincerely,

Myrna Caldwell, Assistant Principal



Senior Essays

Bessie Edwards



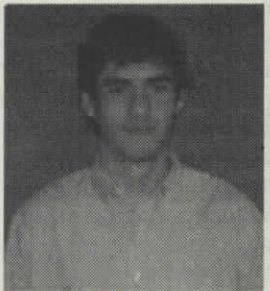
In the year 2014 I hope to have completed my undergraduate degree at NYU and then gone on to get my masters at the Yale School of Drama for stage managing. Yale has a three year program, so that brings us to 2011, when I want to go on a two year traveling show around Europe so that I can see everything there is to see over seas.

Then I'll come home and marry my college sweetheart and we'll move to New England or upstate NY. At this point, by 2014 I want to be pretty much settled down. I want to get a stable job working at an Equity House, basically doing eight shows a year and then having a good deal of my summers off. My husband has some sort of job that can support us because there isn't a lot of money in the-

atre, and I like to be able to eat.

That's pretty much it. I want a comfortable job and a comfortable life within the next 10 years. I realize that because I want to have a career in theatre, this very well may not happen. Theatre is a really unreliable profession, and something that one has to work really hard to be successful. But I can't see myself doing anything else, so things are just going to have to work this way. But I'll be flexible and things will all work out in the end.

Josh Vaughan

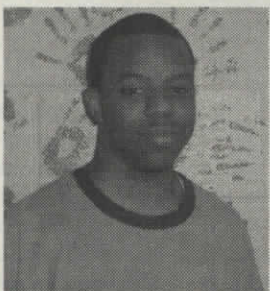


My years at SOA have done many things for me including giving me the chance to experiment, practice, and progress in my talents. Because of SOA, I found out early in life that it is possible to apply the activities I enjoy and have fun with to nearly every part of my life. I can easily say that the theater class at SOA has left the largest impact on me, not only because of the countless opportunities it offered, but because of how much the program challenged me, and helped me to discover new ways to meet those challenges. While I can't say my theater class is the best there is, or ever will be at SOA (because I don't want to start anything), I can say that the theater class of 2004 has been the luckiest in that we have had four very different teachers all offering diverse teaching styles. I would like to

thank Ms. Clark, Mr. Locklair, Mr. Younts, and Mr. Wood for showing me a way to get the most out of what I do. These teachers with their different backgrounds were able to give me a well rounded look at the theater as they introduced the art, showed me the basic skills, shared further knowledge, and then ultimately enabled me to write and direct my own show.

The Theater Department has grown a great deal since I began my years at SOA in the sixth grade. It has started traditions, and now offers more ways to explore different aspects in theater. I think my unique experience as a theater major will leave a lasting impact on me that will continue helping me mold my talents and grow for a long time.

Marcus Richardson



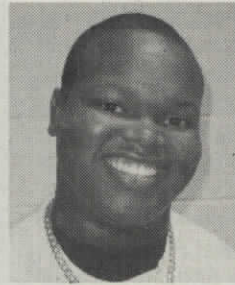
A word of wisdom to the grades 6-11: Do not think you are grown because you are being promoted to a higher grade; you are growing. In everything that you do, try to do it to the best of your ability. Don't wait until the last minute to do your projects or papers, start as soon as you get it. This journey through high school has many ups and downs, and you must be prepared to deal with almost any situation with classmates, teachers and parents. When these situations rise just remember that everything you will go through is to strengthen you in some way, and "Give Thanks to God in everything, for it is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you". I now believe that you are equipped for the future. Congratulations class of 2004 -2012. I'm very proud to be a part of such an awesome school.

Sara Tisdale



In 2012 I will be done with college. I will be living in a loft in a city, hopefully Seattle. Since Seattle has a huge music scene, I will be doing photo shoots with the bands in the surrounding areas. Maybe as a part time thing, I can work as a tattoo artist. I intend to make these things happen by continuing in the direction I am heading, and training for the skills I will need to go on my way.

Nigel Shine



Go On and be Easy Smile... As I Wipe Away Your Tears and Dry Your Eyes!

Well, seeing that everyone else in the senior class most likely wrote about how much they're gonna miss the school and how this school achieved beyond greatness for them in their lives; I've chosen to walk a different path. Not saying that this school hasn't given me a lot academic wise and artistically, because it truly has. Honestly I feel that no other school can accomplish so many goals and strive for success as we do and continuously come out of it victorious. Anyway, though this essay is not to make you cry, but to go on with your life. Just by taking your life step-by-step and day-by-day. Being easy (not Mr. Lazy-Man) with a gorgeous and beautiful smile.

I know that one major thing that I'll miss about this school is how much everyone LOVED to pick on poor ol' little me... don't laugh because it's not funny. In sixth grade when I told everyone in vocal that my mom didn't allow me to watch B.E.T. When I sang the "Back to the Future" song in front of the whole class and Mr. Rogers looked at me as if I'd lost my mind. As I changed for the first time in front of the guys on our first vocal performance and as they stood there staring at my "Manly" chest, I felt so ashamed. The boys laughing at me during recess when I finally caught the ball and fell as my pants went flying down, exposing everything. This school will never know truly how much I laughed at being mocked continuously throughout the years at SOA. Though these things might seem hurtful to me, they're not, because if they were I would've never exposed myself in such an embarrassing manner.

Continuing with my down falls... As I walked on the side in eleventh grade and someone came and dumped water all over me. When I went forth chasing her I fell to my face hard with my "Dairy-Air" exposed once again catching much of the summer breeze. As I was sitting in vocal and my "so called brothers" watched me fall backwards slowly off my chair, rolling down the steps, in the vocal room. Not to leave out the staff at SOA, but it just seems that every teacher here that I know of got a nice little chuckle with the students as well. For every time my friends mocked me in class or laughed at me the just joined in the fun. "Feather"... The word that will never stop hunting and tormenting me at this school. Because of the obnoxious eleventh graders and the corrupt seniors at this school (they know EXACTLY who they are).

Oh the good times and the memories at SOA I shall cherish only until graduation and then they won't exist any more...Just Post! The jokes don't stop there about me for everyone makes it their obligation to mock me in every word and thing I say (particularly students in the eleventh and twelfth grades). Gosh I long for the day for these scornful and evil things to stop hunting me everyday. When I'm even out of school something always seems to happen to me and it forever gets back to SOA so that I can be laughed at. But oh, vengeance is mine... thus saith Za'munda...Just Post! Well, my time is up, and all righteous and bodacious things must cometh to a Post. To everyone that ever made me MAD or even laugh thank you for just making me smile and realize how "Special I am" to each and every one of you. Bless... Bless Squared... Blessed Cubed... and as always Thank You Guys and Gals and Just Post!

Tim Clemons



I came to the School of the Arts in the tenth grade. One of the first things that I noticed was how nice most everyone was. After a month or two, it felt like I had gone there since the sixth grade like most of the other students. I have so many great memories, so I guess I'll share a few with you.

There was a Jazz combo gig one time at the Charleston Performing Arts Center and they were serving us a real fancy dinner. Well, being the country boy that I am, I began to ponder why there was a slice of bacon wrapped around this pathetic excuse for a steak (filet mignon may be one of the best cuts but lets face it, most of us could eat it in one bite). Anyways, this slice of bacon was really bothering me.

HOW DARE THEY SEND ME MY BEEF WITH A SIDE OF

PORK! I would have never known that the bacon was to keep the juices in the steak unless the woman sitting across from me finally told me. Later on that night I remember me and Luke Reed throwing sugar packets on the floor to see if the waiter would come by and pick them up. He did.

In my senior year I had finally become a member in a band that was in no way school related. **ELEVEN O' SEVEN!** In fact, we just recently took a trip to Nashville, TN to record our first CD, so go out and buy one. Hopefully, we'll be doing a lot of shows this summer, so come out and support us.

Anyways, I also learned a lot here at SOA. Important stuff like meat chunk only wins by majority (thanks Luke), a five pound bag of gummy bears will last for about 15 days in the possession of band students, it's better to ask forgiveness than permission (thanks to Mr. Kerr), everytime SOA Jazz goes to Newberry it rains, a number one combo with no pickles cost about \$4.65, and Nashville, TN is about a nine hour drive away. I would write more...but...I think...senioritis...is kicking...in...

Senior Essays

Carrie Cummings



Honestly, I have no clue where I will be in 2014. The most probable place would be in school still, working on my 12th bachelor's degree - in something like The Art of Pick-Up Sticks - but happy at the same time. I try not to think too much ahead into the future. I fear that could prove dangerous. Making promises to myself which I will inevitably break when my mind shifts with the change of the winds has never been my style. Sure, I would like to say, "In 10 years I will be contribution to society in some amazing way - writing books or leading businesses," but the ever looming fact remains that while these things are on my mind now, I assure you that in 10 years I will have dreamt of being and doing everything. Thinking about this is exhausting enough; a finalization of ideas would never cross my mind.

Instead, I shall vow to be happy in 10 years. After all, happiness should be the quality of life that one desires most. Therefore, that's it. The conclusion appears to be that after careful thought and consideration, I am clueless. And it feels great.

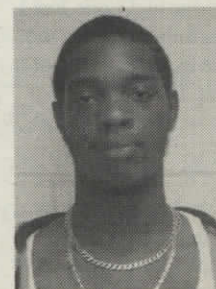
Charles Bates



These years at School of the Arts are really the best that I could have hoped for. I can still remember my audition day perfectly. I went into Mr. Kerr's band room (it was Ritchen's at that point) and I remembered just being baffled at how big the room was. I went to Sullivans Island Elementary and there was a drastic change in size. After that I had to clap some rhythms out, sing the star spangled banner and talk to Ritchen for about ten minutes. Somehow I decided that I wanted to play the clarinet. I'd never played it before. Band was very fun for a while. We got to have a lot of fun in the class and play little shows. I always sat next to Erik Ling and Jason Epstein. Erik and I were probably

more frustrating (to Mr. Ritchen) than any one else in band. I enjoyed the time when all of the band kids got to perform on the Yorktown at Patriots Point. I practiced the least out of anyone I'm sure and that was okay for a while. I probably sat down to play the clarinet for about thirty minutes a week. Even then I wouldn't play what I was supposed to. "Strangers on the Shore" was one of my favorites to play. I absolutely loved to play that song. In my last year and a half of band I was forced to try all of these clarinet teachers. I didn't like any of them. The craziest of them all was Illiya. I'm sure that I spelled his name wrong but written phonetically it would look like ell-e-yah. This guy was Russian and fresh off the boat. He played with the Charleston Symphony so I guess he was pretty good. He wasn't a very good teacher though. He was hopelessly obsessed with his clarinet and it kind of freaked me out. I eventually got tired of band. So freshman year was a pretty big change because I switched to visual arts. I think that it suits me better. I had to do my whole portfolio with my left hand because I broke my right arm in half at the skate park. That was another funny memory. The people working there wouldn't believe me that my arm was broken because I was calmly skating up to them and asking for an ambulance at the same time. My arm hadn't started hurting yet. I had to let my arm flop around a little for them to do something. That scared the hell out of them. I'd have to say that Visual Arts has been one of the coolest parts of my time here. It was like therapy for all of the other classes. I really have enjoyed these past seven years. I still remember in sixth grade when Bryson came up to me and screamed "BRICK WALL." I had never even seen him before. After that we were homies. I don't think that I'll ever forget that. One of the most vivid memories I have was when everyone was at Zack Robinson's house for a birthday party. Zack had a history of being a lunatic at his parties. Everyone was playing a new game called "WAAHHH." "WAH" was the primal scream you yelled when you slammed someone with the oversized cushions off of Zach's couch. This game was most likely the product of extreme sleep deprivation mixed with a bit too much soda. It was pretty late and I think it was John Folley (pronounced foe-lee not faw-ley as every teacher seems to think) who gave Zach a massive "WAH" and sent him backwards through a glass pane sliding door. His mom came in and yelled at him for bleeding. He was still laying in the glass. He was okay, though I'm not sure how. I could tell a million stupid stories about my time here, but I've only told you a few because I wouldn't want you to suffer. I'd like to finish off by saying

Michael Jamison



I've had a rough life, sort of. Everyone goes through good times and bad times; if it hadn't been for SOA my good times would be limited. This school gave me so much to look forward to. I would like to take the chance to say "sorry" to anyone I took advantage of, or got over on. Yes, you would have to know what I'm talking about. For the people who don't know me, are scared to talk to me, or both, I'm a nice person, no matter what you think. From Italy to summer school downtown, I do what I do. Shout outs got to: Greg C, friend for life, Sipio E-dog, Diamond, RJ, Seabrook, Steele, Mark, Emory, Shine, Art-department, T-dog (I know we don't get along but I respect you as a producer and rapper), my little sister Ava, Me-me, Sundae, Mya, to many girls to name all--I'll miss all of you. Mr. Orvin, Ms. Olsen, Ms. Jaycie, and Mr. Flesher. I'm Out!!

Amanda Jones



I'm not sure what to write about. There are so many memories here; I don't know where to begin... I think I'll just run down the list.

You know every year I got into trouble at least once, EXCEPT THIS ONE. I find it strange; I'm still waiting on something to happen.

I'll remember everything that happened in the art room. Philip Chevrier's multiple hairstyles, all of which were horrible attempts to get attention. Let's see, there was the mohawk that showed everyone that his knobby head was actually blue in color. There was the dread lock attempt, which only brought an abundance of scalp flakes. The short grungy look, which wasn't so bad, except that after a while he started to look like a bum. (What am I saying? He always looks like a bum. HEHE-Love you Philip.) Then there was a Beatles hairstyle, well, kind of. And last, but not least, the one-year in 8th grade where he actually took care of his hygiene. We know where that led, don't we Phil? I won't forget you, ever hun. I tamed you long before Miranda

came around.

Jamison, my nuzzle buddy. The memories we share... well actually everyone shares a particular memory, but since we all know what I'm talking about I'll leave it at that. Then there was that trip to Savannah with some of the lower classmen. HMM. Oh, and going back in time a little more, that hilarious moment of conflict between you and Zack. Seeing him turn purple was too much, and poor Mrs. Nichols trying to pull you off of him, it was great. Stay the way you are. If you ever get into the filming business, don't forget about our plans to run off to Jamaica to have lots of little mulatto children and midget servants! I love you too.

The Italy trip, one of the most inspirational and exciting times of my life. The pigeons, the little cars, the first graduating class and their delightful escapades, the pub, the cute little English boys that I decided to follow around and make acquaintance with. The merry frolicking throughout our journey. Andrea's, Marcus's, and Jami's "what time is it?" Sitting in the stairwell, hiding from the evil eyes of Mr. Nichols, and throwing candy up to Bryson, Luke, and John in the above bedroom. The undying laughter of everyone throughout the nights, and the tired struggle to keep up with Mrs. Nichols' power walk the next morning. Then there was the last hotel, one of the best. Vincent and Aleck, you guys were so jokey. Mrs. Nichols freaks out about everything, so don't worry. Crawling out of the window onto the balcony that went around the whole building, now that was fun! Of course I couldn't finish without mentioning the mosquitoes in Venice, and the lipstick that the senior girls left on the walls.

Next, I'd like to address Sara. You'll always be in my heart. There are sooooo many things that I would love to mention, and so little time to do it in. We should have had cameras glued to our faces to capture every single event! There were just so many times like chillin' at the storage units, Jaiman forever making us laugh, the many, many concerts, my fractured nose, your busted hand, the gym with the hairy navy guys, dressing up to scare people, "OAF", "I am the Frito bandito- yeehaw", the men problems, the mom problems, the fun we had teasing Jamison, and so much more. Don't forget all of the hot men, Shane, and that bassist from The Classic Struggle. The pit I think I'll miss a lot, even though we're in this little city, we can rock the place! I can't count how many times we've broken into the pit and bashed a few faces together. I'll miss you most of all scarecrow. No seriously, I will, and you better come up to visit me in college so I can show you around. Hopefully by that time, I'll know where all the hot guys hang out.

So many things happen over eight years; I can't even remember them all. I do remember crying at the end of every school year. Now it seems so silly that I was afraid to let go for only a few months, because I'm letting go forever soon. I really never had a reason to before now. I'm gonna stop all of the mushy stuff before I get all weepy, and move on to what I find obligatory.

To the greatest teachers in the world:

Mr. K taught me a lot in that one year welcome, and I'll never be more grateful for him being the one to develop my artistic ability. He just didn't stay long enough. Mrs. Nichols... though you talk too much, I admire you for sticking up to all of those middle school punks and putting up with everything that our class put you through day in and day out. YOU HAVE GUTS. Mr. Moore, lay off the HOORAH. Your girls turned out beautiful, and I can't wait for you to feel the pride of them graduating. You're all right. We have had our bad times, but in the long run I think you are a very good person to know. Jaycie, or to those who don't know or would want me to be respectful- Ms. Rappold, thanks so much for being there and on my side. I consider you a friend and wish you nothing but the best. Thanks for letting me know where to begin a lot of times and thanks for helping me out by showing me the direction I needed to travel. Miss Emory, I got to know you the best in 11th grade, but even meeting you at the beginning of 10th was a great impression. We had lots of fun in French 4: Bryson running up against the wall to get Mrs. Phillip's class to shut up, jumping on the sides of the trailer hoping that it would break in half and we could all get out of that mold infested hell. Olive Garden rocks, especially the salads, watch out for the cherries at the bottom of the glass though. 12th grade, thanks for letting me sit up front, it's nice to chill and watch French 4 (and sometimes wish their deaths). Sorry for all the complications you've been through this year; my heart goes out to you every time. Thanks for being there to listen to me complain, curse, and cry about my life. Thanks for also giving me incentive to continue with my dreams, and encouraging me to study French.

Well to the rest of y'all, it was nice knowing ya and I don't really hate all of you. Enemies or not we were meant to know each other. And to all of my husbands from SOA... Vincent, Tori, Aleck, John Folley, Ben, Mark, Luke, Michael Jamison, Emory, Robbie Hatch, Steven, John David, Charles, Greg Colleton, Josh V., Alex Collier, and Heath ... I love ya. See you guys in ten. Yours Always. Amanda.

Senior Essays

Nikita Johnson



As I look back over my years at SOA, I reminisce about all the wonderful people and experiences I have encountered. These have been most important to me, because they are a part of a very important phase in my life. What I will miss the most about SOA, is the wonderful students and faculty, that have made these six years the best years of my life.

When I came to SOA as a seventh grader, I was very apprehensive. Many children had already developed relationships from the sixth grade, and I was afraid that I wouldn't be welcomed. Luckily, I was fortunate enough to come to an environment where friendliness and acts of kindness are a necessity. I will miss this and other moments, such as Steeven getting slammed on the car,

Jason, Eric, Eva, and I hiding from the substitute, **Ms. Hamilton's** "new do," Ben killing the bird, Mr. Wood setting himself on fire, Steeven, Cora, and I riding to strawberry, Mr. Younts' tantrum, Mr. Wood's foul language, Ben's shortcomings, and Michael's big fall. These moments I will cherish for years to come, and I truly miss the staff, students, and anyone else who made SOA such a wonderful place. I would like to take this time to give a shoutout to the following people.

Beatrice-hypocritical, Christian-tru blue, Danny-my home girl for life, Cora-you only here in spirit and the SOA crew, I LOVE YOU!

Amaylia Q. Aiken



As I sit and reflect on my years at Charleston County School of the Performing Arts (gosh, all seven years), words cannot be of any assistance to express my appreciation for such a school as this. In '97 as a sixth grader, I only knew that I was about to begin life all over again: facing the fears of a new school, new students, teachers, and the worst thing in the whole wide world, the developing and building of friendships. Yes, it was a new beginning, a different experience, but I was terrified!

"Contradiction," there it was "I contradicted myself," just because as an adolescent I was chubby, wore glasses, was a "brace face," and to top it all off, very tall. So, I assumed that my fellow peers would have teased me because of my size and height but surprisingly, we all were in the same boat, because no one had any

room to talk about others. Time passed and everyone had begun to loosen up, smiles slowly started to appear, mouths started to chatter, and "whoop there it was" instantly, friends became everlasting (you just couldn't get rid of them).

As we grew and matured so did our minds. School of the Arts wasn't just a normal school; it was an adventure, full of imagination, and individuals with the same ambitions, goals, and dreams. If I was given the opportunity to attend another school, I wouldn't because this school has given me something that no other school could have - love and hope.

As a vocal major, music became my life. I was inspired by our former director Mr. Varner, because he always drilled into our heads a quote that helped me to become who I am today, and it was no matter what obstacles that come your way "Never, Never Quit" - Churchill. Mr. Varner also told us that we would never realize how blessed and privileged we are to be at a school where we can do the things that we love to do, until it's all gone. As I'm counting down the days until graduation, I have realized that it's true because a large proportion of me will always be left at SOA, not in flesh but spirit. I will miss singing everyday for 100 minutes, finding and changing key signatures, The "Chorale" being a family, and most importantly battling with solfege- something that make's you appreciate the music by itself, and also, the other art areas that are explored at this school. Art is a gift from God and he just placed us at School of the Arts so that it may be showcased.

Mr. Heath Orvin, Mrs. Jean Olson, Ms. Vera Smyth, and Ms. Jane Marshall are my heroes because they showed me that everything in life could be achieved only if you just have confidence and apply yourself. Also, "to knock the meter off the scale," when I thought that I didn't have a chance at some things in life they believed in me and told me to never set myself up for "a drive-by" because the sky is the limit, and to always live life everyday just like it was your last. Gosh, I love you guys!

These past seven years were worth all the heart ache and pains because in the end as the class of 2004 we are still together "doing the darn thing" and still pressing to be successful in life. School of the Arts has given me many opportunities and an educational experience that's irreplaceable because of the great teachers and administrators who have given the students 100% of all they have. This was also a learning experience for me because being at this school has taught me the value of friendship, the importance of patience because it's the key to life's long journey, and self-realization.

Entering into School of the Arts I had no clue of who I was as an individual or what my purpose in life was. As I have grown older and matured, I figured it out - I am a young lady of integrity, honor, and virtue - striving to do God's will and to become as successful in life as I can. Thank You SOA_ I Love You!

Anna Mossman



I have high hopes for my future, and believe that in many ways SOA has helped me to prepare for the challenges I might face in the next ten years. Over the past four years in Visual Arts, I have taken a liking to design, mostly in fashion, and have done numerous projects on that subject. This year especially I have begun to think about my future occupation and how I could link together my interests with a source of income. It is tough to get where you want to be in life, but I believe that with hard work anything can be truly accomplished.

I am attending the College of Charleston in the fall and really want to keep up my grades so transferring is a possibility. Parsons School of Design in New York City has a wonderful reputation and has produced some of the most successful fashion designers of all time. Wherever I end up, studying abroad is a must for me. London seems to be an inspiring city and I hope to travel and study there for a semester.

In 2014 I hope I am married and at a point in my life where I feel financially and emotionally comfortable. I want to keep active and live in a city that offers a number of opportunities and room for growth and change. None of the ideas I have now are set in stone, but I do know for sure that I want to work in an environment that allows me to feel liberated and lets my creativity shine through.

Benjamin Fine



I have been at SOA since the sixth grade. As I flip through the pages of the seven yearbooks of my time here, I remember. I remember all of the good, the bad, but mainly the good, that shaped me into who I am today. As most people know, I have acquired many different nicknames throughout the years, mainly from being a little crazy. For an example, back in seventh grade I was cleaning out **Ms. Lovelace's** iguana cage when **Emory Frazier** locked me in. So of course I had to start acting like a monkey. (I just could not resist!) Hence the name "monkey boy." All of these memories are great, but I know if it were not for my friends, I would have none of them. It is going to be hard to leave the Performing Arts Center on Graduation Day because I know that I will most likely not see the class of '04 and all of my underclassmen friends

(Wad), for a very long time.

SOA would not be as good of a school as it is if it were not for the bonds that the students make with each other. I have come to find that at SOA we are like one big, wonderful family. Moreover, being a family means that there will be disagreements, which we have had our share of, but all in all we all look out for each other. Even though we will go our separate ways today, a part of SOA will always be with me in my dreams. So once again, I say that I started my time at SOA with dreams of new friends and great times, and I leave with memories of fulfilling those dreams. Always remember: friends stick together until the end.

Luke Hanagriff



When I first set foot into the supposed scary world of high school, I set that foot into **Mr. Heath Orvin's** scary classroom. We all sat down and we were greeted by this open cave man, if you will. He introduced himself and assured us that we were going to have a fun time in his class. He explained that we would be completing many fun projects and that he did not want to make hints class hard on us, or himself. I left his class well assured I had nothing to fear in Global Studies I and he actually had me wanting to come back.

I came to school every A day excited that I got to go to Mr. Orvin's class to learn and have a good time at the same time. Not only did Mr. Orvin care how every one of his students was performing in his class; he wanted to know how they were all doing in their art areas, in other classes, and even how they were doing outside of school. Mr. Orvin

used to ask kids to sing and play music and he would beg for some artwork to hang in his, at the time, empty trailer. Mr. Orvin and I used to share fishing stories and hints on where all the big fish were last weekend. He would bring in some pictures and prove that he was "the man," and I looked up to him like he was.

Mr. Orvin has always cared so much about every student, even if he never taught that student. I have not been in one of his classes since the ninth grade, and we still talk every time we see each other in school. Whether he is picking on my height, or sharing another fishing story, it just shows that he really cares.

I walked into Mr. Orvin's trailer not long ago, and I had a hard time finding the desks. He has at least one project from every one of his students in his trailer somewhere, whether it is a model airplane or a replica of a Trojan War helmet.

Mr. Orvin has shown everyone and myself so much love, we'll never be able to forget him. He, in a way, helped me open up in my freshman year, which put me where I am today, and I thank you Mr. Orvin, very much for that!

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Beatrice Heyward



My life at SOA is something that I will never forget. I am, proudly enough, one of the few students that had the pleasure of attending Ashley River Creative Arts Elementary from K5 to fifth grade and then coming to SOA in sixth grade. Yes, it is true I have been magnetized my whole life. While at SOA for the past seven years I have noticed a lot of interesting discoveries and rumors that have been proven to be true.

Middle school life was great. Every year we thought that the world revolved around us. Sixth grade was wonderful. We met friends that would be with us for the next seven years. We found out that Mrs. Belle did have a mustache, Ms. Dirkes was one day going to marry Mickey, and Ms. Tisdale's Renaissance Day was a blast. In seventh grade we made room for a few more new students. Together we all were introduced to June the Iguana, there was always a fight over Mrs. Grave's couch, Mrs. Ambrose and the class stories that brought forth tears, and Mr. Rivers. The only person that would play a game of uno with a rock and an apple and lose. In eighth grade we were told that High School would be very different. We weren't gonna have an exploratory, we were gonna have to become familiar with the "white building", and there were gonna be two lunches. Mrs. Caldwell introduced us to the beauty of singing puppets that seemed to change with the seasons. We became physically fit with Mr. Cohen and his Taekwondo, and math with Mrs. Fairchild was always happy.

High School at SOA is something that is unheard of. It wasn't as scary as the eighth grade teachers made it seem, although it was a whole new set of teachers, a different end of the hallway, and trailers. In ninth grade we were all turned against math thanks to Geometry. I left that class with improved gardening skills, and knowing how to fail a test with pride. Suddenly dance was considered P.E., Dr. Parker's hair was longer, Mrs. Phillips' French proved to us that she was a true American, Mr. Orvin told us that the only word that we had to know how to spell was "Ur", Sam Wood brought true theater to the school with Macbeth, and Dr. Ball carried the mysterious Fanny pack. In tenth grade we found out that Mr. Cusatis managed to finish elementary school without telling time. Mr. Smyth and Mrs. Smyth are not married, Beth Lasley's class became the new hang out, and Mrs. Wells owned a Mr. and Mrs. Potato head that had costumes complete with changeable wigs. In eleventh grade we were told that this would be the most important year of our high school career because this is the year that colleges looked at, when really colleges look at your entire high school career. We learned quickly that if you don't participate in Ms. Marshall's seminar you will fail, the mold in Ms. Emory's trailer made everyone sick, and Dr. Price proved to us that store bought ice cream is always better.

Now, we have arrived to our final year. We can say that Dr. Cusatis still can't tell time, student teachers for our class were never meant to be, yes, "Daddy Knows!", you need Hammy's class to graduate, and the guidance office becomes your second home. As a class I can say that we have been through a lot together but just as I have stated before I would never forget any of it. People say that when you graduate you close a chapter in your life so that you can move onto college and begin a new one. As I turn the page to begin a new chapter I will always look back on the chapter of SOA whenever I need a good laugh.

Jason Epstein



Looking back on my years here at SOA I realize how valuable and unique they were. I began here at SOA in 6th grade and have grown through my years. Here at SOA more than knowledge is passed on; art is created, character is built, and lives truly begin. During the past semester I, along with a small group of other students, have taken upon the task of creating an honor code for SOA. In doing this we had to look at SOA and figure out exactly what we have here. What is it that makes SOA unique? In looking at SOA the thing that sets us apart the most is our community. We have a unique community at SOA where there is an atmosphere thick with trust, kindness, generosity, and integrity; a community where students may be seen roaming campus during class time, and trusted that they should be there. This is what we

found out about SOA in looking at ourselves from afar. Then I took on the task of writing the code. After many meetings to discuss every aspect, we arrived at a title and a lot of notes. It was time to create The Pillars Of An

Artist. Over spring break I wrote the first draft and now we are in the process of revising and finalizing. Hopefully this fall, the student body of 2005 will accept the Pillars and instate them next spring. Being given the opportunity to reflect and admire SOA while still being here has taught me how amazing of a place it really is. We enter SOA as hyperactive, creative, little kids and leave as mature, artistic, men and women. The gift of an SOA education is something I will appreciate for many years to come and hopefully in creating The Pillars of an Artist, I have done something to help give back to a school that is above all others in what it does for its students.

before first school year I opened the letter to find a new friend, and a new friend I found.

Mark Heyward-Washington



I can't possibly speak on one teacher who has had the greatest impact in my life. I wouldn't feel right if I only spoke about one person. There are five teachers who I must give honor and show my gratitude to. First I'd like to thank the new kid on the block, Mrs. Christine Rogers. I've only got the chance to get to know Mrs. Rogers for Algebra III, and if you know me, I don't like math that much. However, being with Mrs. Rogers this year I felt like math wasn't all that troublesome. I'm still no math wizard, but Mrs. Rogers broke me out of my fear of math related material. She would teach in such an exuberant and exciting way and she was always there for people who needed some one on one time. I know our class might have had your nerves boiling sometimes, but I'll speak for the whole class that we truly appreciate you and all

that you have done and all the fun we had. Good Times!

Hark, who goes there? It's the little green pen wizard...or is it now the red pen wizard...wait does the wizard even still have pens? Mrs. Jean Olson, aka Mrs. O-li-o. I don't know how much fun I had harassing you. From the time Steeven Nelson and I knocked you down during one of our school dances, and who can forget all the times I snuck up on you. Seriously though, my 9th and 10th grade year with you was a great experience. I believe those years English class was fun for me. I began to even get a sweet tooth for poetry when you allowed us to write our own my 10th grade year. Even after the years I didn't have you, you helped me out on outside projects and essays that I was doing. I thank you so much.

I took French for three years, and last year in French 3 I didn't realize I didn't need a third French class to graduate, so you could imagine that I was kind of mad at the fact that I was taking the class when I really didn't need to. I think Ms. Catherine Emory saw that I didn't really want to take the class either. My grades first semester of my junior year were, for the most part, either failing or low D's, but Ms. Emory always believed that I could do well in her class if I tried. I guess the fact that someone believes in you when you're doing your worst made me want to try harder. My second semester grades were looking much better than before, and I was even close to getting most improved award for her class last year. Besides never giving up on me, Ms. Emory is such a cool person to talk and chill with. I shall miss you.

And the Lord said, "Let there be a man who shall teach unto the world of it's history. A man who will spread the knowledge of the world's most interesting facts, and that he will be more than a great teacher, but that he would be a great friend." And so God created this man and he named him Heath Orvin, and God said it was good. Mr. Orvin you have been the all time greatest. I have never had such a thirst for knowledge in any class until I had Mr. Orvin for my 9th and 10th grade year for Global Studies. The history and the wonders of the world have never been so opened up to me in such an exciting way. I could not wait to go into Mr. Orvin's class just to learn. I could honestly tell just from the way this man carried himself that he loved to teach. Yet, more than a teacher, Mr. Orvin, you have been a true and great friend. I remember all the talks outside of class that you would have with me just to let me know that I am doing well in class and how much of a great individual you see in me, and the times that we would talk about serious subjects that dealt with me and one of my best friends. I thank you Mr. Orvin.

How much wood could a woodchuck chuck if a woodchuck could chuck wood? Not much wood if that wood is Mr. Sam Wood. I've had four different theater teachers since I entered in theater for School of the Arts, Mrs. Marybeth Clark, Mr. Michael Locklair, Mr. George Younts, and Mr. Sam Wood. out of the four, I feel Mr. wood has opened my eyes more to theater because I feel he has brought so much to the table. I believe my acting has increased for the most part by what Mr. Wood has taught me. Mr. Wood has always impressed me in how he can pull out the best in students. I mean, he can take anyone who may not have that much theater experience and push them to the point where that person may look so great as an actor in just a matter of minutes. Mr. wood is another one of these teachers who is more than a teacher to me, I consider him a friend as well. Mr. Wood, my hat goes off to you. I will miss ya man.

I just want to close and say you all have made a difference in my life, and I'm glad that I had the honor to have you as my teachers. Again you are all more than teachers, you guys are my buddy of pals. Much love and respect to you all and God bless you.

Shelton Simmons



To me other than my art area teachers the one teacher that had the most impact on me was Mr. Orvin. Before Mr. Orvin's class I just skimmed through history as something I had to learn, but when I got to his class it was almost as if he just pulled the stories of life right to me and everyone else. With his insight on history and down to earth attitude I couldn't help but learn. From his test to project week every day was a new adventure and it was an honor to even sit in his class and be glued to history in such a new way. Because of Mr. Orvin I understood more on history and I loved to learn about feudal Japan, ancient Celtic rituals and Egyptian culture. I know that without taking Mr. Orvin's class I probably wouldn't have had

before first school year I opened the letter to find a new friend, and a new friend I found.

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such a passion to learn more about history and wouldn't have been interested in taking part in anything that wasn't necessary to pass the class. In a way to understand what I'm saying you have to sit in his class, behind the desk and take in all the information he gives to you; its something you have to experience for yourself.

Elizabeth Bowers



The problem with these types of essays is that they always end up corny and sentimental. Physically, of course, SOA cannot be made beautiful in words, and I have always found it extremely ironic that a school filled with people possessing the power to make anything beautiful is full of mud and surrounded by potholes, but we all have soldiered through and we are now seniors, the majority of us having been here since the sixth grade.

As anxious as I am to move on, and meet new people, I know that I will desperately miss the community and acceptance of SOA. Attending this school has been a blessing, but I do also feel that it has candy-coated my view of the real world and real schools. I am aware that not all high school students love each other, that kids do get picked on, and that not

everyone is as smart as we are, but I would rather live the rest of my grown-up days knowing that everyone around me is talented and unique

I am not sure what else to say, but I am sure that I do not want it to be a goodbye. I would rather try to convey how much this school has played into the person that I am today. I would not think the way I do, write the way I do, or love the way I do without the genuine body of students that I have the privilege to call my friends.

Danielle Daniels



As my washed up memories float to the surface I reflect upon the good times I've had at SOA. On my journey through high school I have made many friends, and even a few enemies, but all in all I have no regrets. I am a true believer in fate, and that everything happens for a reason. All the students at SOA are here for a reason. God has given us special talents and he has placed us in this environment so that we may perfect them. School of the Arts had become my second family, my home away from home. Here I have many cousins and even a few sisters and brothers.

I would like to thank Mr. Orvin because whenever I had a problem and needed someone to talk to he has always been there for me. He has been a wonderful teacher, mentor, and friend, and for

that I could never repay him. Waking up every morning to come to school has not been an awful task for me; it has been an exciting experience. Here at SOA you never know what is going to happen next!

School of the Arts is a melting pot of different races, cultures, and personalities. Everyone here is an individual, but somehow we still manage to come together to create beautiful music, poetry, skits, and dances. I am grateful to have been a student at this school and I cannot picture myself any other place. I will forever cherish the time I have spent here, and as I go on to college I will take with me my precious memories.

Emmy Harkins



Oh the years I've spent at SOA. I can say lots of things of these seven years. I was walking down the hall not to long ago and I saw those awful pictures of us from sixth grade. It may seem crazy, but I've always pictured us in sixth grade the same way we look now. It's sort of like when a friend of yours loses a lot of weight slowly and you never notice until people start telling them how thin they've become. Look at how old we've all become. I remember auditioning for theatre when I was eleven; I was wearing a chartreuse pair of shorts, a matching tie-dyed vest, and a tie-dyed T-shirt with a neon green question mark on the front. Do you remember when we used to think that anything was fashionable because we got it at Limited Too? Maybe that was just

me...

The first day of the sixth grade was probably the scariest day of my life. I only knew **Ben Pooser**, and that was scary enough. There are actually quite a few people at our school who have been here for seven years. Normally, it's not considered a good thing to say you've been at your school for that long, but our case is special. Boy oh boy, I had no clue what I was getting into when I came to SOA. Little did I know that I'd be going to school in a swamp. I think that as a senior gift, we should have given the school a sign to place in front of Lake SOA. I wonder how many kids have contracted ringworm from wading through it as a short cut to the buses...I hope everybody remembers the day that Bryson kayaked on it and all through the ditches last year. I have to say that has to be one of the best memories I have of SOA.

Our school has attracted a lot of unusual people, and I don't mean only the students. Because of **Mr. Orvin**, every middle school girl's dream became my reality; I got to marry **Bryson**

Cook! Our marriage was short lived, but I've got to say, those were the best twelve minutes of my life. **Ms. Hamilton** is frequently possessed by the devil in class. **Mr. Wood** has the dirtiest mouth on the planet and he tries to catch himself on fire (and he has geese!). **P. Smyth** knows oodles of weird jokes and has a very strange sense of humor. In fact, some of my most memorable moments over the seven years I've spent at SOA have included my teachers.

I've heard so many people say that they can't wait to leave SOA, but I honestly don't want to go. I've made so many friends that I don't want to make any new ones. I'm going to think it's so strange to have college professors who don't want to go to lunch with their students. I know it's time to face the real world now, but I'll feel more like I'm leaving home when I leave SOA for good than when I leave my actual home.

Isabelle Selby



This paper is one more thing telling me that the end is approaching. It's hard to believe that after four years I am still...here. There have been so many times when I've contemplated my move from Ashley Hall to School of the Arts and each time I am overwhelmed by how much I love School of the Arts. I even said that I "love" this school, which is a big step in my opinion. After much contemplation over who may have shaped my career here at SOA, or what subject made me think or laugh I find that almost everyone here has impacted me. I came here in the ninth grade, which, already sets you back a little. Everybody else had been here since sixth grade and had gone through those tough middle school years together. I came with my best friend

Anna Mossman and honestly I was scared. I've moved from school to school but they've always been private schools, and not only was I coming to a public school... but it was an arts school. Fortunately, this school was exactly what I needed. The friends I have made here and the teachers I've had have all made dramatic influences on my life. I'm one of the few people, I think, who can say that my high school years have been some of the best and I owe it to the people here. As much as people like to criticize our lovely campus and crazy rules they add so much to the character that our school has found. I enjoy the rainy days when people fall in the lakes SOA forms and Bryson kayaks a little. I like coming in late so that I can see everyone at work on their major. If you haven't tried it yet I suggest coming in late in the morning and walking through the arts building. The bands playing, chorus is singing, artists are doing something, dancers are dancing and I find it all amazing. This seems to have turned into a salute to School of the Arts and I guess it's not really the end.

Tedra Coakley



Writing this essay was a lot harder than I thought it would be. It would've been so easy to BS, but I didn't want the last thing I wrote to be something stupid. So I thought about the past five years of my life and my mind immediately filled with memories and feelings that seemed to happen just yesterday.

When I first came here in eighth grade, I soon realized that SOA is like no other. It must be something in the water here (although, no one drinks the water here). We've created an environment that is so crazy, talented, and family-like. I can't imagine not being able to name more than half of the people I pass in the hallway or on the sidewalk. In a way, this school has spoiled me. I've come here and been able to express myself without worrying to death what other people will think, because we accept one another's flaws. I'm not sure how I'm going to go out into the real world, in a society where everyone is so critical of people's flaws. Being a teenager is hard, but being here makes it a little easier, especially with teachers like **Mrs. Miles** or **Mr. Orvin**, and having great friends with whom you can share great memories and laugh with until you cry. I've learned so much here, but the one thing I can't forget is all of the friendships I've made. Ending this is also harder than I thought it would be, because it's like saying good-bye and good-bye is like forever. So I guess I'll leave just saying, "See ya later."

Mary Antley



When I look back on my years at SOA, so many feelings run through me all at once. There is love, joy, sadness, and anger. Now, looking towards the future, all I feel is apprehension. I have made friends and lost them. I have been the good girl and the bad. And, through it all, I feel as though I have grown in a way that I would not have at any other school.

I have always been the ambitious one in my family. After attending Alice Birney for two years, I realized I was getting nowhere. So I applied to SOA, was accepted, and nothing has been the same since. When I arrived here, I immediately made friends with all types of people. I then felt that I was with people like me. Artistic, motivated people who looked at the world in a totally different way than the people I had left. Even now, my friends from Alice Birney have taken completely different paths than I

have. Just last week, I received a letter from my old best friend who had moved to Michigan right before high school. I hadn't talked to her in years, but when I opened the letter, I found an

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invitation to her bridal shower. Eighteen and she is already headed to the altar. It is surprising because I always thought we were alike and we had the same goals in life. Many of my older friends who attended Stall, were unable to reach higher than Trident Tech. I am not knocking Trident Tech, but it just doesn't compare with Amanda's University of Chicago, Brian's Georgia Tech, or Bessie's New York University. I just don't know what to think.

In a way, SOA has altered the way I look at life. I now feel as though I can do more than I ever thought possible. SOA has helped prepare me for the life I want to lead, even though I do not know where it is headed. It has shown me beauty, culture, pain, and everything in between. The happiness I have felt at SOA has made me anxious for what is to come in the future; if it is anything like high school, I say bring it on.

Chris Gingrich



When I look back on my years at the School of the Arts, I have been influenced by many teachers and students. I cannot see myself in any other school. I feel that I have made a nice little nook here at School of the Arts. I feel a great sensation when I walk with my fellow companions down the wondrous halls of this unique school. If you have ever been to another school, you will realize quickly that the School of the Arts is one of a kind. The people here are the nicest I have met. They are so welcoming, friendly, sophisticated, and the most gorgeous looking folk on this side of the Mississippi. Now, I know that other schools might make fun SOA, but it is out of pure jealousy. These schools are just afraid...afraid to see the color and wonder of life through art.

When I first entered the threshold of SOA in ninth grade, I was amazed to see the friendly faces of the students and teachers. Most of the students had attended SOA since the sixth grade, me being new, I was frightened to go to a different school than all of my friends. I attended all of my classes and made friends faster than you can say "dadgummit". From history with Mr. Orvin to rockin' the bass with Ms. Hovis, Mrs. Johnson, and Ms. Fitzgerald, the learning here is untouchable. I can guarantee that you will not find the same courtesy at any other school. If there's one thing that I've learned here, it is that art and education mixed together can make one delicious concoction of greatness.

Over my four years in attendance at School of the Arts, I have made close friends that will be with me even into my future. I've made rockin' bands that shake the crevice of the earth. I know that this school has impacted me in more ways than any other school could. Wherever I end up and whatever I end up doing, I will always be impacted by the special people that helped my artistic spirit grow. Some people from other schools will sometimes approach me and ask, "Why didn't you go to a normal school?" I just say with a smile, "Because normal is just too common."

Christi Norris



Only a few more weeks left of high school, and I never thought I would say this but, I'm missing everything about SOA. Reflecting back over the years, I think of the memories made through relationships of not only friends who made me smile during times when I thought the valleys were too deep, but also teachers who have built a foundation that can withstand anything. History, Science, French, Math, English, and Vocal would not have been right without the teachers who taught them.

I can remember walking into Mr. O's class my freshman year, and thinking, "I hope these planes don't fall on me." For three years the planes "stayed in the air," and he brought history back to life through stories and movies. I don't think Mr. O will ever "throw his projects" away, and I certainly will never forget the wisdom he passed on to me and the rest of the class of 2004. Ms. Hamilton, not a fan of "extra credit," is making sure, we as seniors, are economically ready for the real world.

Master P, who most definitely knew everything about specimens and the French language, taught me Honors Biology, French II, and Marine Biology. From dinoflagellates, to the platypus, to totipotency, he brought the sea to SOA in a French Canadian atmosphere. After all, "Daddy knows." Chemistry with Dr. Price, who never forgot to remind the class to wear "closed toed shoes" on lab day, was interesting. I actually enjoyed doing "the research paper" that everyone dreaded. Science would not have been the same without these two teachers.

My strength has always been in math. Mrs. Rickson incorporated nature and geometry, through a garden project that allowed the class to engage in beauty, as well as to learn leadership skills. Ms. Smyth taught me Algebra II my sophomore year. This class, at the end of the day, was very spontaneous. She allowed us to learn not only from her, but also from each other. These teachers have always been willing to answer any questions, and I still go to them for help.

Mrs. Olson, the "Green Pen Wizard," always tried to keep our English I and II class focused, and obviously she succeeded. She has always been there for me, encouraging me every step of the way. By the end of my junior year, Ms. Marshall showed me that I could overcome English, my weakest subject. Dr. Parker, who always made sure that we had plenty of brain food, is now, during the last weeks of my senior year, helping me smooth out my writing for future academic success.

For two years Mr. Varner, with his famous line, "I don't think so," conducted a vocal class

that I have grown to love. He was strict, but we had a respect for his musical expertise. He made sure everyone was on task, with music as our only focus, and if not he'd tell you, without a stutter, to "put it away." Mr. Eakes, whom I fondly respect took over the high school vocal department this year. Although it was a big change, every minute of his class was devoted to enhancing our musical talents.

The education I have received, a most honorable one, has been phenomenal! Mr. Davis instilled the importance of being on time by locking the gate at two minutes before eight. Mrs. Bennett, SOA's courageous nurse, had the right medicine for any ache or even pain of a broken heart. A challenge I never mastered was trying to hide a "bad day" around the lunch ladies whose compassion for others continues to be consistent. It is easy to see, that the staff, as a whole, has made a major impact on my life at SOA.

Paisley Boyd



When I came to SOA in the eighth grade, I remember my mom and dad telling me that it would be a good idea to go the year before high school began. That way, if I did not like it I could still go to Bishop England with all my friends I had left behind. Well, to tell you the truth, I was a little skeptical at first and I was pretty certain that once it was time for me to decide where I would be going to school the following year, BE would be where I would go. For some reason halfway through the year when some of my new friends decided they were leaving I said I was going to stay. I don't know how to describe how happy I am that I have.

One of my most memorable moments at SOA was the first day of vocal class with Mr. Rogers. Before I came to SOA I was in a couple of choirs. Well, to put it bluntly, we stunk. There was always someone singing out of tune or trying to make up harmony. But this time it was different. Mr. Rogers banged on the piano for us all to sit down and then he began to play some songs, which we sang back to him. This is going to sound cheesy but when we sang, we sounded so pretty! No one was making up his or her own rhythm! I just thought that was the neatest thing.

One thing I love about SOA is that it is small. Most people would look at that as a downside, and I'm sure there are some disadvantages to that... but I like it. Everyone who is left wants to be here, that makes a big difference, and every year I get closer and closer to my classmates. I like the feeling of walking down the hall and being able to say "Hi" to everyone without them thinking I'm some weirdo...well, okay...MOST people thinking I'm not a wierdo. That is something I know that I am going to miss next year when I am trying to start out on my own, but one thing is for sure...I will never forget the good times I've had at SOA.

Tara Rivera



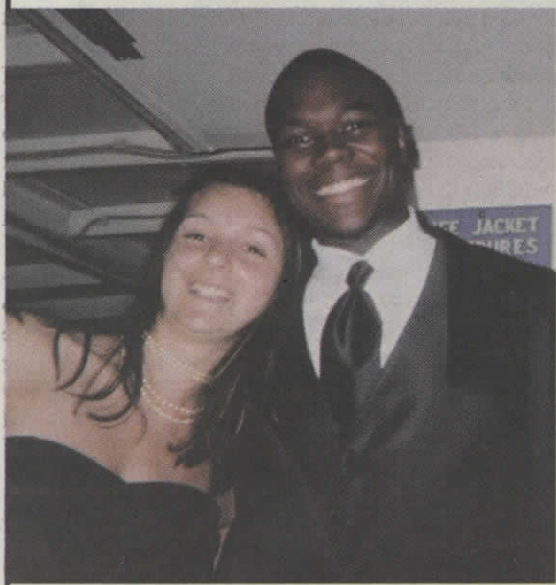
As I reflect on my years here at SOA, all I can do is laugh. I've been through so much in my short four years of attendance here, both good and bad, yet all I can do is smile. I arrived here in 9th grade and went through social hell! Hell hath no fury like my 9th grade year! Almost everyone hated me, mostly upperclassmen, but I loved my freshman year because I developed relationships that I cherish dearly today. It seems like only yesterday that I was a freshman sitting in Dr. Ball's Physical Science class next to Michael, Nigel, LaNice, Amaylia, Danielle, and Diamond, laughing and making jokes (of course I was the only one taking advantage of the fine education system we have here). I don't know what I'm going to do without you guys after we graduate. I guess the aspect I'm going to miss most about SOA is the relationships we

have. From my first "male friend," Michael Seabrook, to my on again-off again friend Daniellé Daniels, each of you has impacted me significantly. To my sweetie pie Nigel, I will miss you the most. You are my bestest friend, the light in my dark days, my other half. Lan-tha-Man, oh my gosh! I love you so much! Without you who's going to keep me straight when I get out of line in college? Steeven, you are definitely one of a kind. I'm going to miss watching you get beat up every year. Seabrook - what a cutie. Though we're leaving each other, you still know who to call when you wanna talk. Danielle, we both know we haven't been the best of friends, but I'm glad we ended on a good note. I'm going to miss your hyperactive energy spurts and pumpnickel sandwiches in Vocal. Steele, I wish you success in your baseball career. When you need to relieve your stress after your big games, I'd love to rub your ears for old time's sake. To my underclassmen rodiess: Ava, "LIES!" This year we've gotten close. I wish we'd done it sooner, but they say no good thing lasts forever. Hold down the alto section next year in Vocal. Tynesha Chandler, "Question, question - are you going to miss me next year? Is that the God's honest truth?" Ha Ha! You're a real cool person. I wish we would have gotten closer and "expounded" on our relationship, but some things just don't work out. To everyone I didn't mention, it doesn't mean you're not important; you're just not important enough (just kidding!).

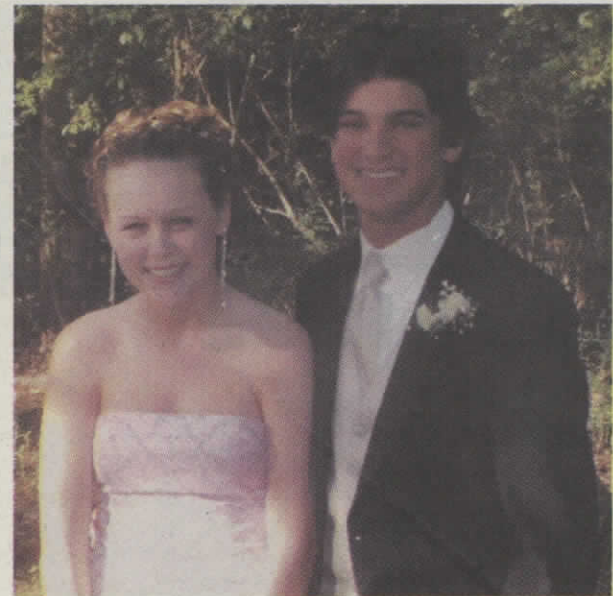
I could go on all day, but my words in this essay are limited, so I'll bring this to a close. SOA has taught me so many things that can truly say I'm leaving ten times a better person than I was when I first came. I often wished that we could be like ordinary high schools with sports and a large variety of classes. I felt as if we were "missing out" on the full "teen/high school experience," but

(continued on page 13)

Prom 2004



Around 7:45 on May 14, I stepped onto the Spirit of Charleston for the 2004 Senior Prom. Unsure of what the dance would be like, my date and I made our way around the ship. On the upper deck were the photographers and dance floor. On the lower deck was the food. As the ship departed, Plane Jane took the stage, and immediately the energy level rose as people started making their way to the dance floor. If you weren't much for dancing, there were plenty of places to get away from the crowd. The lower level, though lacking a sufficient number of chairs for everyone, was a great place to mingle with your peers. The upper level had chairs lining the perimeter where you could rest your feet while still enjoying the band. 2004 Senior Prom proved to be a huge success. Thanks to Ms. Tisdale and the Junior Council for making it happen. Special thanks to Plane Jane for making the night worthwhile.



Congratulations, Class of 2004

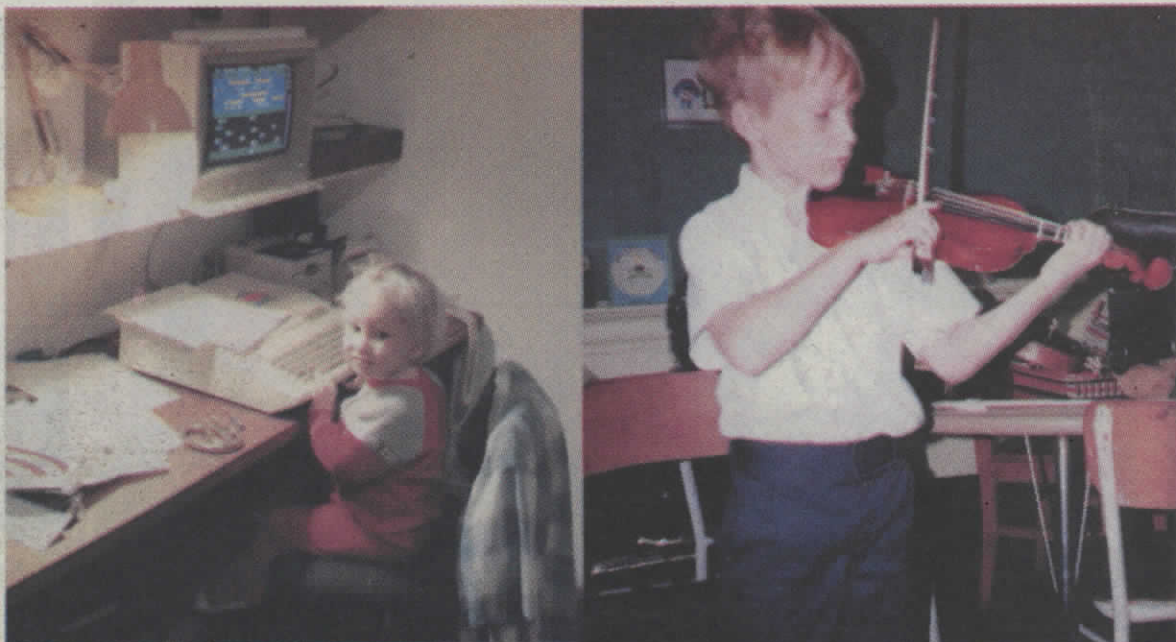
Chris McDermott



We are proud of you and love you very much. The future holds great things! Never forgot God loves you too.

Mom, Dad, and Jordan

Luke Reed



Gabby Smith



Congratulations Gabby! We are so happy for you and so proud of your accomplishments.

Lots of love,
Mom, Dad,
Savi, Noah, Radio, and Tali



**CONGRATULATIONS, LUKE!
WE ARE VERY PROUD!
LOVE,
MOM & DAD**

Nikita Johnson



Nikita,

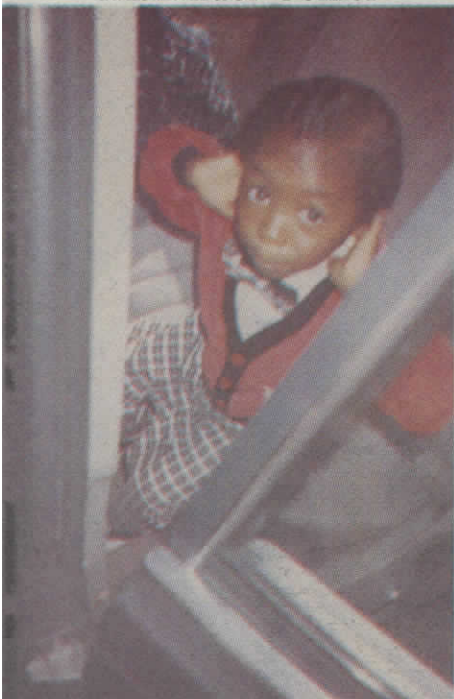
I'm so proud of your accomplishments and what you have achieved. Continue reaching for the stars, and remember that the sky is the limit!

We Love You,
Mommy, Daddy, and Amber



Congratulations, Class of 2004

Alexander Collier



Alexander,

You've grown into a young man that answers "Every Mother's Prayer." Your talent and kind spirit will take you far.

Congratulations! Mom, Dad, and Christopher

Josh Vaughan



Josh,

You've brought so much joy into our lives. We look forward to seeing you bless others lives as you have blessed ours. Love everyone!

John David Hill



Congratulations! We are so proud of you. All your hard work has paid off! The future is yours, make the most of it.

**Love,
Mom and Dad**

To all my favorite Seniors: Good morning lovelies! I love you all and will miss you. Have fun at college and be good. Courtney, Steeven(DAD), Colleen(SIL), L-Boogie, Hannah Grace, Paisley, Ted, Robbith, Jason, Lan, and Nige, I heart you! Best Wishes! With all my love, Jean Bean

**Brian Dobson,
Way to go!! Congratulations! We are proud of you!
Love,
Uncle Larry and Aunt Joyce**

**Brian Dobson,
Congratulations and best of luck on your future
endeavors.
Love,
Uncle Bob and Aunt Linda**

**Brian Dobson,
Grandsons are one of God's special gifts, and special you
are. In sharing your happiness, pride, dreams and hope,
you have made this day special. As you look to your future,
know you will have great success. Congratulations!
Hugs and Kisses,
Love,
Grandma**

**Dear Brian "Boo-Boo,"
How can we put into words all that you and your gradua-
tion means to us? It has been a long journey and you have
persevered. Your thoughtfulness, intelligence and sense
of humor will serve you well in the future. Congratula-
tions!
Love,
Mom and Dad**

Question of the year



Amaylia Aiken, because I have known her for a long time and she is like my role model.
Matt Campbell
9th grade Vocal



"Dodi (Steeven Nelson), because he's very dedicated to vocal and he's not afraid to show his sensitivity- he cried at our concerts in front of the guys."
Liz Eckbreth
11th grade Vocal

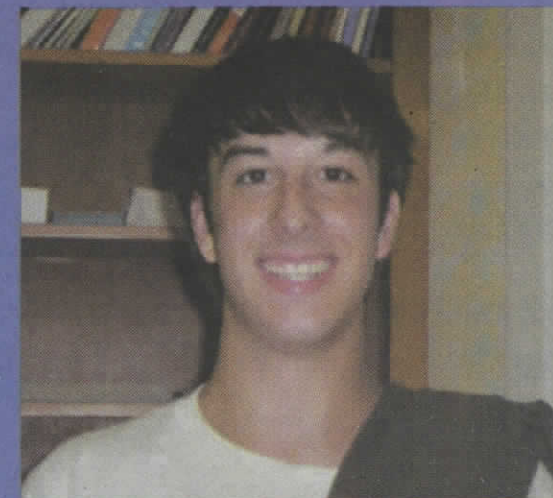


"Ben Pooser, because he is very funny and not in eighth grade so he can't brake things in my class anymore."
Rosamond Lawson
8th grade Social Studies teacher



"Colleen Cullinan, because she dresses like me and is passionate about her music and devotes a lot of her extra time to improving herself."
Kevin Eakes,
high school Vocal teacher

Which member of the class of 2004 has inspired you the most?



"Robbie Madison, because he's completely genuine and he tries really hard with his music and I admire that."
Jonathan Hershenson,
11th grade Band



Tim Clemons, because he is laid back and easy going.
Matt Stanger
9th grade Band



Isabelle Selby, because she taught me how to interpret the mystical depths of mood rings.
Capers Rumph
10th grade Vocal



"My big brother, Michael Steele, because I love him."
Emily Steele
10th grade Band

Senior Essays

now as I reflect I wouldn't want it any other way. What we possess here is like none other; so many talented youths unified as one, doing what they love to do. We are unique in that no one can do what we do. Anyone can learn to toss around a football, but you can't learn talent. For a long time I took such beauty for granted, and now I regret the time wasted on wanting to be "normal." Cherish and take advantage of the beauty here because before you know it, you'll be seniors writing your own senior essays, saying your own goodbyes. So how does one say goodbye to a place of such sentimental value? I won't. It's not goodbye, only the beginning of a new chapter in my book of life. A part of SOA will always be with me. I love you all, SOA.

Brianna Soto

Ahh... School of the Arts, what can I say, where do I start? I came here in 9th grade and from Peter Pan to Playfest, tests to exams, tears to laughter, and quizzes to classwork; how much can I say about SOA? Well there was that time in the middle of theatre, when Ben Pooser threw a rock at that bird and killed it. The girls cried. Yes, there was that time Bryson kayaked through the huge puddle, lovingly entitled "lake SOA." There was the masquerade in the 9th grade and every formal and prom to follow. There were boyfriends and friends, heart-aches and laughter. And my theatre class. What can I say about you guys? I feel like I spent the four most crucial years of school with you guys! We've grown, changed, and developed so much under the instruction of our lovely theatre teachers. Yes, even all that sitting we did on that stage in 10th grade was a growing experience (cough, cough,

wink, wink, nudge, nudge). Go Nikita, Go! we survived through smack-down, Haunted House, Adjudications, playfest, and most importantly, the grueling months of thesis.

Some people think they had an "original high school experience, but because of SOA, mine was unique, fun and imaginative, with, of course, the added benefit of "School of the Arts" on a college or job application. Ahh, I'm going to miss you all! Thanks for making my high school years so...well... "unique!"

Chris McDermott

o say that the teacher and class that made the strongest impact on me, has to be Mrs. Kay's resource class. I have many reasons to go along with my choice. For starters, Mrs. Kay is always there for you when you need help with something or you're feeling a little down that day. I guarantee you that Mrs. Kay could make you smile. Another good quality about Mrs. Kay is that to me she's not just a teacher, but more of a best friend, to maybe my mother at school. Mrs. Kay's class also had an impact on my life! In her class you always have fun, and get your work done while you play with a toy or two. You make friends really fast, and everyone gets along! In my opinion my resource class is more of a family, other than another class; everyone looks out for one another, and gives help if someone needs it. From all the funny faces, to the funny sayings, and all the candy eating, Mrs. Kay will always come to my mind first when I hear

"School of the Arts." I don't know what I would have done, if I hadn't had Mrs. Kay's help for the last five years. So Mrs. Kay thank you for everything, and keep doing a great job at helping kids!

Mya Rose Laurie

I was born to dance. No better way have I found to express my emotions, my desires, my beliefs. Dancing is my air; my world does not exist without it. Studying at School of the Arts has been a turning point in my life. My art teachers took a natural talent and shaped it into a gift that I could share with the world. I have realized that if, and only if, I give all of myself will my sky be limitless.

When I first came to SOA, I had no idea how important it is to constantly work to the fullest of my abilities. Rather than letting my lights shine, I just did enough to get by and blend in with the other dancers. I needed a reality check. The teacher that has had the greatest impact on me thus far is Mr. Anderson. At the end of my eighth grade year, I was interested in taking dance composition. He told me "Mya, I do not think you should take this class; I do not think you can do it." He said I couldn't, and so I did. I haven't stopped doing it ever since. It was his words that pushed me beyond what I thought was my limit. I wanted to show him what I was capable of. Instead, I showed myself. Over the years, Mr. Anderson has become someone I look up to and hold a great respect for. Not only is he an excellent instructor, he gives much needed advice about the dance profession and will speak his honest opinion, good or bad, when it needs to be heard. Mr. Anderson, I must say thank you. Never again will I regret not saying these words.

My time at School of the Arts is one thing that will not be forgotten. Looking back, I would not change it if given the chance. Every mistake that I made was just an opportunity for me to better myself as a woman. It is at this school that I fell in love unexpectedly. He and I blindly trusted each other and willingly opened our hearts to one another. Little did I know that I had found someone who could personify dance in my life, causing me to move and feel in so many ways. Michael Paul Steele, you are my dance. Through nights and nights of never-ending pillow talks, I fell in love with your mind and found your heart in the process. When the problems in my life seem too much for me to bear, you take them, like pebbles, and cast them down to the bottom of my tear-filled waters. You help create in me a stronger faith and undoubted belief in God's miracle-working and healing powers. In you I have found a new love, a classic love. You are my rainbow, reflecting a thousand shades of beauty and wonder. What a treasure I have found in you. No greater gift have I known.

Marian Margiotta

SOA, three little letters that have become a huge part of my life. If someone had come up to me seven years ago and told me that this school would be one of the most cherished memories in my life, I would



have laughed in his face. But, sitting here thinking back on all the good, and even the bad times, I realize that if I could do it all again, I wouldn't change one thing...well, maybe one. I wonder what college life will be like, waking up each day and not being surrounded by the people I now feel are family. people I have seen every day, in every class for the past seven years, and some for the past thirteen years (Ashley River Crew for life!) will have moved on just as I will have done. I also wonder if my vocal classmates in college will be as close to me as the senior vocal class is at SOA now. you guys are my family, we've done everything together and I will miss you all so much next year! If there is any advice I can give to the underclassmen, it would be to live each moment to the fullest because if you don't you will miss so much and by the time you realize it, it's too late to make it up. Always remember the Class of 2004.

Courtney Clark

Through middle and high school, I have experienced so many things - but the most important to me is my major. Since the sixth grade, the vocal majors have created a bond that is stronger than friendship, and thinking about leaving them behind is what makes me want to stay at SOA forever.

We have created our bond through hard work, "moments of levity," and inside jokes that have made everyone else think we are insane. The good times greatly outnumber the bad, and the good times contributed to the creation of everlasting memories. Leaving the people I have come to know and love is one of the hardest things I have ever had to do, and having to go to college afterward makes it even more scary. I am fortunate because I will have one of my "bestest" friends with me, so I will not have to leave everyone behind. And to the underclassmen that I am leaving - enjoy it while it lasts, because you will never fully appreciate it until it is gone.

La Nice Ravenel

It seems like only yesterday I was walking into the crowded cafeteria of good old SOA. There were so many people and so little space I started to feel claustrophobic and paranoid. Then I was confronted by some girls from the loudest group in the room. Sharmetta, Ashley Rowe, Aquala, and Courtney Cohen brought me over to their group and introduced themselves to me and I did also; I will never forget the loud reaction I received when I told them my major was vocal, I was terrified and at the same time excited.

Middle school was fun although my first year here I wanted to cry every time I stepped into Mrs. Newell's class. I remember Mrs. Bell and how I never could put my finger on why she was so odd looking, Ms. Sally and the project on acceleration that Colleen, Brad Keibler and I had to perform, Mr. Cohen and his abnormal sweating, and Ms. Lovelace and her stinky animals. I didn't have many friends in middle school but I didn't care because I realized

that vocal class would be my outlet.

Most of the friends that I have today are vocal majors. I guess it's because we've had so much time to blend our different styles together we've become a family, a "unit." All the vocal majors are a part of my life and I will never forget them. Even if it's Brian Dobson who passed out trying to see how long he could hold his breath, Courtney Clark falling slow motion backwards in a chair down the riser, Nigel's insane and uncontrollable laughter, or unstoppable "T" that Michael Steele keeps talking about. I've grown to love them all.

I will miss knowing that if I want to be in a sing-a-long all I have to do is go out into the hall and the "singers will awake and arise." Although other majors sometimes get sick of us we can't help it it's in our blood. Someone once argued "it's what we do," so we do. Whether it be on a five minute bus ride to the North Charleston Performing Arts Center or on a fifteen hour road trip to Chicago, we have to sing.

Speaking of road trips, I think I speak for everyone when I say, Good time had by all. Even when Danielle and Bridger would tag team on Steeven no one came back to the Chuck angry. there was a lot of bonding and hooking up going on, but I'll spare the details, let's just say the trophy wasn't the only thing that made some happy.

I have a special place in my heart for all vocal teachers that have been in my life. Mr. Rogers, Varner and Eakes have taught us all at least one thing that we will carry with us and I am forever grateful. I will miss the concerts and inspirational talks before the last concert of the year and all the tears that ruined so many of the girls' make up before we even got on stage.

I will also be sad to leave behind the hottest couple at SOA Mr. and Mrs. Orvin. I will be sad to leave the brilliant man at any free moment popped in *Forrest Gump* and asked age old questions like what is time and who is buried in Grant's tomb. I think everyone that was in the timeless and inspirational discuss about predestination left a little more mature. I can't forget the countless days I spent in Mrs. Lasley-Orvin's SAT prep class my eleventh grade year.

Photography class was also a barrel of laughs with so many memories of Angela Shaw, Ashley Rowe, Tara, Steeven, Michael, and Trey Williams. I will never have to "write another note" for Mr. Moore again nor will I ever have to hear about the three thousand dollar door that we almost broke every class period. I leave one simple message to the photo club "take my hand child."

I will not begin to name all the friends left behind, so please don't feel that I have forgotten you just know that I love you all and, I can only hope that you won't forget me either. So peace out all my babies I'm bustin' out of this joint!

Sarah Harper

When I turn twenty-eight years old in 2014, I will be a well-respected and highly influential political activist. I want to start my own organization (or at least work for one) that works directly with the people to improve women's health and women's rights on a global scale. My organization will also push for the protection of the environment, endangered species, and the legalization of marijuana. Furthermore, my organization will work jointly with Planned Parenthood, the National Organization for Women (NOW), and the United Nations.

I also want to be a columnist in a major newspaper such as the New York Times or the Washington Post.



Senior Essays



I will write about current issues and, since I am so opinionated, I will be published in the commentary section. *The New Yorker* and *Time* magazine will also be considerations. I hope to get a lot of this accomplished before 2014. Besides, if Bush gets reelected, I'll have a lot of dissenting to do in the next four years! I also want to start my own animal rescue locally and raise baby squirrels and birds that fall out of the nest. I have raised many squirrels before as well as mockingbirds, blue jays, and starlings. I am also interested in raising opossums.

I'm not sure if I'll be living in South Carolina. I guess there's a fair possibility that I will continue living in Charleston. I will do lots of traveling to third world countries, particularly sub-Saharan Africa and Central and South America. Don't call me overly ambitious: I'm just a highly motivated person. If I really want to do something, I get it done...and with vigor.

Heath Richardson



When people ask me what I want to do when I grow up, I tell them I have no idea. The thing is, there are too many things that interest me. Next year at college, my plan is to take some basic courses: an English, a Math, a Science, and a History. I want to take my time while still based at home, saving up money while dabbling in the different fields that interest me.

Right now I'm very interested in music, music production, improv, acting, graphic design, computer sciences, and the different mixtures and combinations thereof (ie: musical theatre). I would love it if in 2014 I am in Chicago doing improv, or if by then I'm already through Chicago to New York doing the "Big Time." That's not all that realistic, I realize, but I'm not afraid to dream or work towards my dreams.

I'd also love to either be in a band (either guitar, drums, or vocals) or work for or start a record label. Audio production is something I've always been

fascinated with, and I have a lot of training and knowledge under my belt.

Whatever goal I end up deciding to run after, the same basic plan is going to have to be followed.

1) Save up money! 2) Have something you can fall back on. 3) Be willing to make weighed risks.

I'll probably be doing the first good part of that here in Charleston, but I'm remaining open-minded, and I'm excited about where the future will lead me.

Steeven Nelson



What a ride! For seven years I've been looking at the same faces day in and day out. You would think that would get a little tiresome, or even become a problem. Not here. Looking at the same faces really has become quite fun. Just like going home everyday and seeing families pretty much has the same effect as being at SOA. I can remember my first day at school. At that time I really didn't know that it would set the stage for my years to come, but oh boy did it have an impact on me.

The first day of my new beginning and I've already missed the bus. It's not enough that I'm a nervous wreck with sweaty palms and a heart rate geared in overdrive. I missed what I thought would be the first chance I would get to make my first impression with the people I'd be traveling with. But it's not that bad, I felt there was still somewhat of a connection; as my dad and I

drove behind the bus. As I entered my new school, to my surprise, I see friends reuniting and greeting each other like they haven't seen one another in years; when in fact it's only been a couple of months. It's like a huge family reunion. From that point on I realized that my new school was more than an institute for learning, it's a place just like our motto says: "Where talent and vision create the future." Where lifelong relationships are created. It's a home away from home. Every day for the past seven years, since sixth grade, that feeling has never died in me.

On an average, in most high schools, some friendships only go back as far as four years at the most. In traditional high schools the students aren't given the opportunity to expand their horizons by being exposed to other cultures and interact with a diverse group of people. Here at SOA we have students that come from varying cultures and backgrounds. Being at school with a mixed atmosphere, I've been cultured in ways that some people will never experience their entire lives. I don't mean cultured by hanging out with a different group of people every Saturday night, or listening to another genre of music. I'm talking about adopting new ways of life, and being enriched by art through words and little black music notes. In this school I've learned to appreciate life and all the things it has to offer. I regret my departure but I will cherish each moment I've spent here and hope to never get off the Wild Ride.

Jessie Rumph



Think about the senior class when we were in 7th grade. **Luke Reed** had a broken shoulder, I looked like Taylor Hanson, and **Jason Epstein's** hair was considerably smaller, but for the most part, we were skinny kids with no licenses and oversized Art Smart t-shirts. The best thing we could find to do on the weekends were the Isle of Palms dances. It goes without saying that we weren't half as obnoxious as the grades to follow... We might have been small, but we just knew we were the big dog on campus. Nothing could touch us - and the best part about **Mr. Rivers** was that he treated us like we were as big as we thought we were.

He told our class once that he hated Math, but it was one of the few things he really understood. If he hated it so much, he sure had a great way of getting it across to us. We learned the difference between 'and' and

'or' on a number line and that Math is a spiral, but I know we all took away something more important than Math. We learned about the stupid zone - the one-foot space in front of the white board that makes you forget

everything you were going to write when you stand in it. He also taught us never to give up and accept defeat. If Audrey Shakespeare produced a puzzle he couldn't solve, he'd masking tape the pieces together and throw it back at her across the room.

He was a great story teller, too. In the middle of class, he'd launch into an epic memoir about not being able to pronounce 'recipe' as a kid, or what it was like to grow up in Florence, but the best ones were about his dog and her unusual sleeping habits. No matter what the story was about, we all sat back and grinned while he took the stage. I always felt like we should be eating popcorn like in the movie theater.

I have two absolute favorite memories of Mr. Rivers. The first was when Mark Edling (remember him?!) fell asleep in class and we set the clock ahead and snuck out of the room and down the hall before he woke up. And then there was uno. We'd have uno tournaments, doubles uno, and reverse uno where we held the cards backwards so we couldn't see what was on them. The best was when Mr. Rivers would play against the rock that sat on his desk and the apple. It was even better when the apple won, because it would be beaten into submission by the rock. Good times...

I think if Mr. Rivers could teach us now, he'd be giving us all his great college advice - you know, how to study and stuff. Even though we only got to spend one year goofing off, Mr. Rivers made himself memorable by teaching honestly and believing we'd be big someday.

Michael Steele



I really can't write this. There is no way I can sum up my seven years at SOA into an essay, and as I think about it, I feel a slight tug at my heart; it's true--you never really know how much something means to you until it's coming to an end. With that I must say that I love you guys, you are my family away from home, and you've made me into the person I am today. Through you I realized that high school isn't all about learning, but about friendships, and the footprints we leave on each others hearts are footprints that will never fade away.

Steven and **Nigel**...my brothers of a different color, you have always been there for me, and you will always have a place in my heart...**Granmama**, I'll never ever forget you and your simplistic beauty...my boys: **Seabrook**, **Jamison**, **Dee**, **Mark**, **Emory**, and all y'all, thanks for keeping me in check over the years...**Tara** and **LaNice**, I admire your happiness and laughter, it's always been there and so were you...**Greg**, I reach to be as nice and compassionate as you are...**Bea**, thanks for

always listening...**Nikita**, thanks for your honesty...**Robbie** and **Karvelis**, I hope one day to love God as much as you do...**Danielle**, I'll miss our brotherly sisterly fights and love...**Jerell**, **Matty B**, **JT**, **Trey**, **Kala**, **Sunshine**, **Mike**, and **Joonie**, thanks for keeping me young at heart...**Mr. Orvin**...Home Security...you've been like another father to me...**Mr. Davis**, thanks for giving me such a hard time, you gave me character...**Cusatis**, you inspire with your quick wittedness and young personality, I wish I could have met you sooner...**Ms. Hamilton**, who did you vote for?...it's okay I had Subway...**Emily**, the morning car rides will never be the same and this time I do "like the before better"... And last but not least at the very most, **Mya**, you are my everything of everything. Because of you I believe in love again. You showed me that the best things in life are free. You gave me undefined strength, and stronger faith, and an unbelievable hope. You are the key that unlocked the dreams of my heart and I'll love you always. 1432.

From the memories, conversations, inside jokes, dances, performances, and everlasting moments, SOA has truly become my secret place; a place where art, culture, color, and love are free together. I have merely caught a glimpse of all I wanted to share, but truly there are no words to say how I feel. I love everyone and wish you much success, and as long as you keep in mind the importance and value of you, you will handle everything life throws your way; you will succeed because of the power, the spirit, and the vision of you. Follow your heart...follow your dreams. Thank you for everything. I'm out. One Love.

Robyn Olejniczak



I can remember a time when I hated my parents for not letting me switch to Wando. I can even remember crying when I got my acceptance letter to SOA over the summer. But the truth is I couldn't be more grateful for the opportunity I was granted by coming to this school. Not only have I found a doorway into world of art through dance, but I have also been able to better understand myself as an individual. And I think that that important task was made possible through SOA.

Now, I'm not saying that kids that go to schools like Wando and West Ashley aren't individuals, but it must be hard trying to find your way down a jam-packed hallway and dodging the fights in between classes. I wouldn't know what to do if I were graduating in a class of 800 students. I much prefer our quiet, unique school tucked away in the ghetto to a monstrous, high-tech circus in suburbia. SOA has a certain personality to it where the students

don't shun the guy wearing a dress for the hell of it, or no one is surprised to see someone kayaking in the huge puddle at the end of the day, or we make do with the fact that we have no money at all, not even a little bit. SOA kids are on the whole some of the most gyped in Charleston County and yet we seem to always come out on top. They just can't get rid of us, no matter how hard they try.

SOA has taught me that being able to see the quarterback date the head cheerleader isn't what high school is about. High school is about understanding the importance and responsibilities involved with growing up and also making sure that you pass all of your classes. And here at SOA we have a community and student body like no other school.

SOA Graduates Continue to Make Their Mark

Class of 2002 graduate and former band major Joel Hamilton has taken his art form to the national level. Joel and his band, The Working Title, have signed with Universal Records and will begin recording a full length cd in the fall. They are currently receiving national airplay and preparing for a mid-summer tour. 2003 graduate Sara Saylor, who won more than her share of writing awards from the Scholastic Press, has been chosen by Scholastic to edit its upcoming anthology of young writers.

Senior Survey

What is the most important thing you learned at SOA?

Speak your mind and turn in your projects on time. -*Sarah Harper*

Don't decide if you like someone simply by their taste in clothes or music because you may be missing out on some of the most amazing people ever. -*Elizabeth Holmes*

How much Black History Month is widely accepted and celebrated in this multi-diverse culture....also how we expand it from three days to a whole week. -*Nigel Shine*

I've learned to be comfortable around all different types of weird, yet interesting people and I've also learned how important art is in life. -*Whitney Perdue*

1. Never kick the snack machine b/c they'll put bars around it. 2. Always be nice to the lunch ladies. 3. Always be prepared for Mrs. Hamilton's class. -*Danielle Daniels*

I have learned to express myself in front of people without worrying about their reactions. I have also learned how to pose as a student teacher and get tea from the special "teacher's only" tea stand in the cafeteria. -*Traci Trotter*

That confusion is the norm! -*Kerri Gallagher*

To respect and accept all cultures and different backgrounds learning to work, communicate and appreciate everyone (different and alike). -*LaNice Ravenel*

1) How to swing.

2) Meatchunk only wins by majority.

3) How to break into a Ford Bronco.

-*Tim Clemons*

I have learned that in order to be noticed and be taken seriously in life, you have to speak your mind and stand up for what you believe in. -*Emory Frazier*

Frazier

The importance of car locks. -*Daniel Bentz*

Lock your car doors and other important life skills. -*Philip Chevrier*

The most important thing I've learned at SOA is how to be an individual. I learned to overcome my weaknesses and allow them to be my strengths. -*Christi Norris*

The value of friendship and how to commit and be persistent. -*Robbie Madison*

The force of gravity is 9.8 m/s². -*Chris Polk*

That everyone thinks you look stupid when you wear eight inch heels and carry a 30lb. book bag for 7 1/2 hours.....spare your feet, we all know you're in pain. -*Emily Aton*

Homework don't mean a thang. -*Chris Gingrich*

I've learned to be diverse and to be more outspoken. I've also learned to respect everyone. -*Greg Colleton*

No matter how much money I give to the school, I'll never see any of it. -*Luke Hanagriff*

Study your teachers and their limits so you can have the most successful classes with them. Knowing what buttons not to push is the key to success. -*John David Hill*

It's good to understand your teachers. Don't be like Phillip Chevrier. -*John Folley*

Trust the value of true friendship. Get to the lunch room as fast as you can. -*Alexander Collier*

Important survival skills for college and how to have fun at the same time. -*Ashley Burns*

I've learned that no matter how hard we try to hide it, SOA students are nerds, but SPECIAL nerds. Friendship... Wow! The key is to maintain a respectable and honest relationship with all of your peers, and if you can do that then everything will be okay. -*Beatrice Heyward*

Be nice to everyone, even the little people. They'll help you along the way. And also, don't be a cliché. -*Tedra Coakley*

The ingredients for success are hard work, discipline, and learning to balance an impossible schedule. -*Courtney Clark*

Solfege! -*Colleen Cullinan*

I've learned how to handle criticism. Mrs. Miles can be very intimidating to a sixth grader, but by high school, we got used to everything bad about our work being pointed out. -*Elizabeth Bowers*

It's not all about appearance. -*Jessie Rumph*

I've learned the value of sleep. -*Ben Fine*

I've learned to accept people for who they are, and my art has improved over the years.

-*Lacey Gomez*

How important incorporating the arts with a core curriculum is. When it rains continuously for 3 hours, expect to see Bryson kayaking.

Not make ridiculous bets with Isabelle involving kilts. And to audit, but not technically enroll in Mr. Murray's class.

-*Robyn Olejniczak*

I've learned to take my craziest ideas and dreams and put them on paper. Always start early on projects.

Take art seriously and don't trust anyone. Always try to take over the world one brain at a time. -*Shelton Simmons*

Don't park in the late lot. Certain people like to steal CAR STEREOS! -*Jason Rodriguez*

Who I am, who I want to become, and how I will get there. -*Jason Epstein*

To learn how to draw, and be ready for the real world! -*Chris McDermott*

I've learned to really learn and read a person, to see beyond what they appear to be. -*Michael Seabrook*

I've learned so much about myself at this school from good experience and bad experiences. SOA has been helpful educational wise and mentally. -*Mark Heyward-Washington*

Be yourself, b.s. through important things. -*Michael D. Jamison*

Always do the best you can and NEVER give up. -*Marian Margiotta*

The people around you motivate you more than you realize, so choose your friends wisely. -*Richard E. Bickerstaff III*

The most important lesson I've learned here at SOA really couldn't be found in any book. I've learned all about tolerance, and yes, believe it or not, humility. Being with such a wonderful group of people for so long really does keep your ego in check, I've come to the realization that I'm not the most talented person in the world, or even the smartest (Thanks a lot Eva). But most of all, I now know of something that I would never have found out being anywhere else, and that's the immeasurable value of friendship. -*Steeven Nelson*

Passivity, patience. -*Erik Ling*

I've learned how to be myself and the importance of that. -*Paisley Boyd*

You can be a percussionist even if you don't know how to hold a drum stick. -*Anna Marcelle*

When you've dressed inappropriately, stay away from Mr. Davis. -*Brianna Soto*

How to be comfortable in my own skin and be the best artist I can be. -*Sara Tisdale*

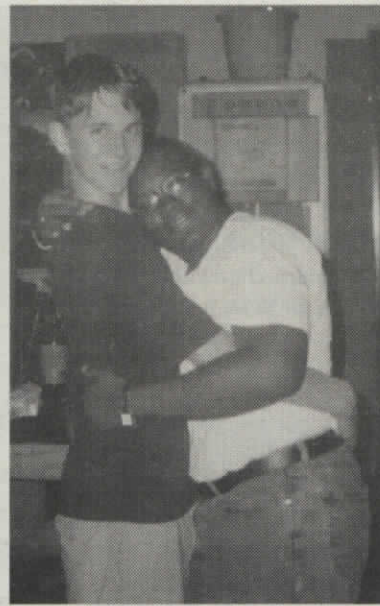
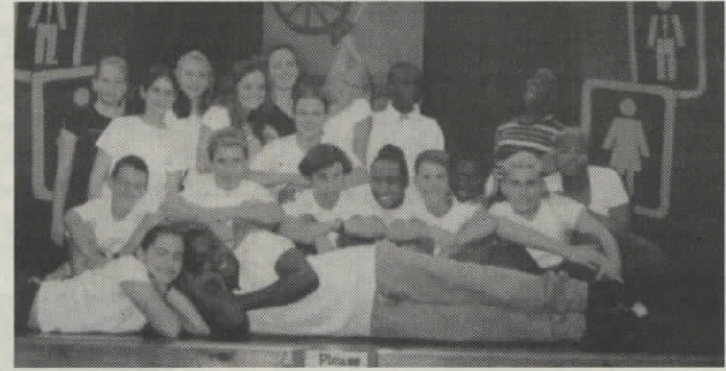
Laughter can get you out of almost anything. -*Ben Pooser*

Be open and think with your heart, be passionate with your opportunities, and clear your mind of "can't." -*Michael Steele*

I have learned not to let people walk all over me, because I know when I am right and when I have gone too far. -*Mary Antley*

I've learned that none of the little emotional things that go on now, really matter. -*Anna Mossman*

You only have a few "true" friends. They will come and go. The one's that stay are your "true" friends. Math can be fun! Thanks Ms. Smyth! -*Stacie Millere*



Senior Survey



It is OK to be different, but be yourself at all times. -**Gabriela Smith**
Conventionalty is not an option. Though at times we seek to be similar to a normal high school, it is impossible for us to mimic one to the point. We are different, whether or not we like it; it's built in. To be separate from the world while changing it is our goal as a whole. Also, if you have NO friends, there's a problem. There are people who would be curious to know you. You could meet the wrong people in the process, but in the end, the ef-

fort is worth it. -**Amanda Jones**

The most important thing that I've learned at SOA is that it's okay to be different. There are so many different individuals here, but when we come together it's truly beautiful and unique. -**Tara Rivera**

I learned that the sky is the limit, and I can do anything I put my mind to. SOA also taught me to harbor and utilize my talents to the best of my ability. -**Nikita Johnson**

The most important things I've learned: How to think on my own, how to make the most of what I've been given, and to be happy with who I am.

-**Heath Richardson**

Stay true to yourself, but don't be afraid to change.

-**Eric Newman**

I've learned how to trust my friends! I've learned the value of true friendship. These seven years have been the best! It's like my second home. I've learned to respect people's view and be tolerant of how they view things. -**Karvelis Flowers**

Flip-flops are a bad choice of footwear when it's raining and the floors are slick. -**Amanda Thompson**

1. Managing my times.

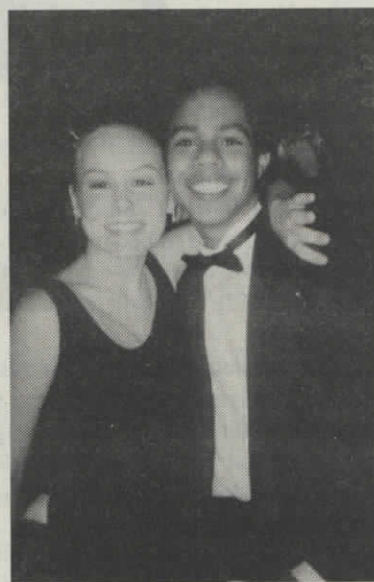
2. To like reading, and writing -**Josh Vaughan**

Individuality is the key in life. Also, **Roy Davis** keeps three types of coffee in his office and isn't there from 8:00 to 8:30 AM. -**Carrie Cummings**

Teachers are your friends. If you make them mad, you'll definitely regret it by the end of the year. It's like feeding your dog beans before you take him on a long car trip. -**Emmy Harkins**

How diverse and interesting the arts can be. I think it's what we're founded on and being around so many artistic people has had a real impression on me. -**Isabelle Selby**

What haven't I learned here? I've been at SOA for 7 years so it feels like everything I know was learned here. I've learned about friendship- how to make friends, and even keep some of them! I've learned how to write papers, and finish 400 assignment in one night after an 8 hour rehearsal. I think most importantly I've learned how much I love theatre and discovered I want my career to be in theatre. Without SOA I don't know if I would have found that. -**Bessie Edwards**



A quote you want SOA to remember you by?

"Give me anyone but Bush! I'd sooner vote for my ferret. And don't forget: If he gets re-elected, I'm moving to Canada." -**Sarah Harper**

"Ah, but I was so much older then, I'm younger than that now" (Bob Dylan) -**Elizabeth Holmes**

Just Post...Just Chill...Bless..Bless squared....Bless cubed..bless quad..& FEATHER." -**Nigel Shine**

"Wait... what are we supposed to do... I'm confused."

-**Whitney Perdue**

"Life is like a box of chocolates. You never know what you're gonna get...STEEVEN NELSON, LEAVE ME."

-**Danielle Daniels**

"I know you already said this but I wasn't listening, so what are we supposed to do now?"

-**Traci Trotter**

"I've had a good time, but this wasn't it." (Groucho Marx)

"In bed? Why would you do that?" (me) -**Kerri Gallagher**

"Always remember the good and bad times. The good times will make you smile and the bad times will help you grow." -**LaNice Ravenel**

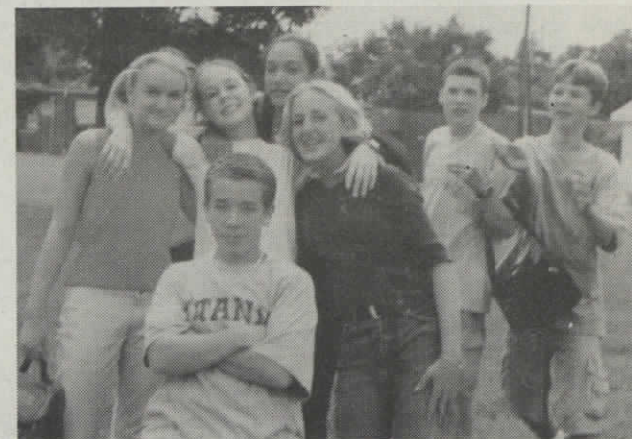
"There are two muffins in an oven baking at about 325-350 degrees and one muffin looks at the other and says, 'Man, it's hot in here.' The other muffin looks at him and says, 'Holy Crap! A talking muffin!'" -**Tim Clemons**

"There is no fate but what we make for ourselves. What happens tomorrow will be the result of what we do today" -**Emory Frazier**

"Yea....that works too...." -**Daniel Bentz**

"Kill everyone with sincere KINDNESS!" "Give your all to God, and He will guide you through the darkest valleys to the brightest stars." "Man will fail you, but God never will."

-**Christi Norris**



"Love is the greatest virtue you could ever own; it conquers all. Love one another; Love yourself." -**Robbie Madison**

"The #1 office monitor!" "Thumpin!" -**Chris Polk**

"Check your tone, use your inside voice, or I'll put you outside." "Silence is Golden." -**Chris Gingrich**

My name is Greg. I have a long leg." -**Greg Colleton**

"I smell your lightsaber!" -**Luke Hanagriff**

"Happiness in life is truly achieved when you wake up every day and go to work to do what you love. Money does not bring happiness. If you are doing what you love and are happy don't worry the money will come." -**John David Hill**

"Always have a backup plan." -**John Folley**

"I'm no puppet, I'm a real boy." -**Alexander Collier**

"I'm not slack, I just have my interests." -**Ashley Burns**

"Vision without action is a daydream. Action without vision is a nightmare." (Japanese Proverb) "Limited expectations yield only limited results." (Susan Laurson Willig) "Integrity is what we do, what we say, and what we say we do." (Don Galer) -**Beatrice Heyward**

"If you don't like something, change it- if you can't change it, change the way you think about it." (Mary Engelbreit) -**Tedra Coakley**

"Use what talents you possess; the woods would be very silent if no birds sang there except



Senior Survey

those that sang best." (William Blake) -*Courtney Clark*

"What's the point of life without laughter, music, and loud belching?" (me) -*Colleen Cullinan*

"They love to tell you stay inside the lines, but some things are better on the other side."

(John Mayer) -*Elizabeth Bowers*

"There seems to be no sign of intelligent life anywhere!" -*Jessie Rumph*

"It's better to remain quiet and be thought a fool than to speak and remove all doubt." -*Ben Fine*

"It's all so freaky." -*Lacey Gomez*

"Then take me disappearing through the smoke rings of my mind, down the foggy ruins of

time, far past the frozen leaves, the haunted, frightened trees, out to the windy beach, far from the twisted reach of crazy sorrow. Yes, to dance beneath the diamond sky with one hand waving free, silhouetted by the sea, circled by the circus sands, with all memory and fate driven deep beneath the waves, let me forget about today until tomorrow." (Bob Dylan) -*Robyn Olejniczak*

"My goal is straight forward, I make the impossible possible/ Conquer or die." (latin, Vince autMorire) -*Shelton Simmons*

"Oh shabizzle, look at da blue bullet." -*Jason Rodriguez*

"Life is too long to be taken seriously." "Go Dawgs!" -*Jason Epstein*

"SHORTYYY!!!" -*Mark Heyward-Washington*

"I only got one life, so I'm going to live up and do the d*** thing, you should do the same." -*Michael Seabrook*

"You can put it together or you can pull it apart!" -*Chris McDermott*

"gi-me-me." -*Michael D. Jamison*

"I always knew looking back on my tears would make me laugh, but I never knew looking back on my laughter could make me cry." (Stacey Jarrell) -*Marian Margiotta*

"Skate fast, live slow-love God." "There are those who do and those who dippity do...as for me, I dippity do." (John Reuben) -*Richard E. Bickerstaff III*

"The silence that you all have waited so patiently to hear from me, will never be as sweet as the sound of my screams." -*Steeven Nelson*

"You set em' up Loyde, I'll knock em' back!" (The Shining-Jack Nicholson) -*Erik Ling*

"The path to our destination is not always a straight one. We go down the wrong, we get lost, we turn back. Maybe it doesn't matter which road we embark on. Maybe what matters is that we embark." (Barbara Hall, Rosebud, 1993) -*Paisley Boyd*

"And the day came when the risk to remain tight in a bud became more painful than the risk it took to blossom." -*Anna Marcelle*

"Remember when I was young and so were you, time stood still and love was all we knew, we lived and learned, life threw cures, there was joy and there was hurt, life was changed, disassembled, rearranged. We came to

gether, fell apart and broke each others hearts. Now lookin' back, its just a steppin' stone to where we are, where we've been, said we'd do it all again' we won't be sad, we'll be glad for all the life we've had."

("Remember When"-Alan Jackson) -*Brianna Soto*

"Praise is an action word." -*Marcus Richardson*

"Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breaths away."

-*Michael Steele*

"Feel the fear...and do it anyway!" -*Sara Tisdale*

"Chaos is an art form, explore it." -*Ben Pooser*

"What can I say, it's all about me!" -*Mary Antley*

"It's good to learn from your mistakes, but that only works in youth. Love has a reason. There's a meaning to the world." (Gavin DeGraw) -*Anna Mossman*

"Pack 'em up!" "Shame!" "These are the best years, relax and have a little fun!" -*Stacie Millere*

"Just have fun." -*Gabriela Smith*

"To fear something in judgement is ignorance showing its face." "If you could get into my head, you'd be crazy too." -*Amanda Jones*

"Don't sweat it when people talk about you. It's when the whispers stop that you should worry." -*Tara Rivera*

"Laughter is the cure for everything, why do you think I do it so much?" -*Nikita Johnson*

"Love your work, work at love." -*Heath Richardson*



"Have I omitted any one?" (Ms. Hamilton) -*Eric Newman*

"It's easier to stay down, but true character comes when you get up and dust yourself off." "Always be respectful and people will look out for you." -*Karvelis Flowers*

"Shabutie!" -*Amanda Thompson*

"Who doesn't play croquet?" -*Josh Vaughan*

"Oh my my, oh h#\$% yes, you gotta put on that party dress."



-*Emmy Harkins*

"But of all these friends and lovers, there is no one comared with you...in my life I've loved you most." -The Beatles -*Bessie Edwards*

I think that I will rather take this time to change my senior quote (yearbook) that was completely and horribly wrong. I am sorry. Here goes for the second time, "What matters most is how well you walk through the fire." ~Charles Bukowski -*Isabelle Selby*



Congratulations, Class of 2004

Emmy Harkins

Cruise on over to L.A.
And light up the Holly-
wood Hills

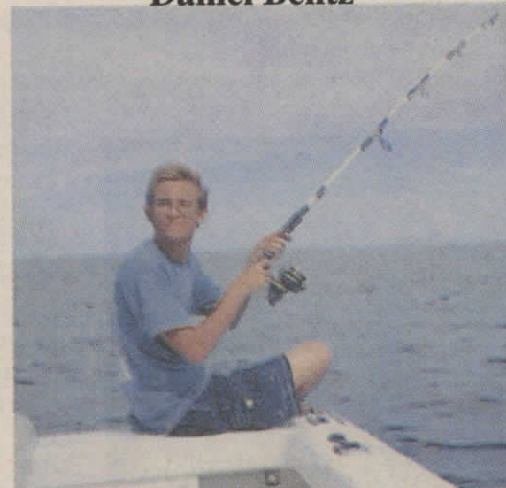
With your presence,
your enthusiasm and
your talent!

We love you and have
enjoyed every minute of
watching you grow up.

Mom, Dad, and
Caroline



Daniel Bentz

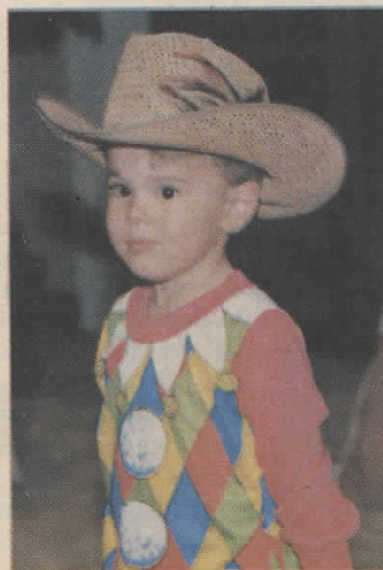


We are so
proud of you -
of all that you
are and all
that you are
going to be!!
Love Mom,
Dad, Sarah,
and Michael

Ben Pooser

You have grown
into such a wonder-
ful young man. As
you move on to the
next stage of your
life, remember that
we will always be
there for you. Al-
ways trust God, fol-
low your dreams &
do your best. We
are proud of you!

We love you,
Dad, Mom, and
Alice



Alex Collier



Dear Alex,
Congratulations, I'm so
proud of you.
Early in your life
I knew that your
life would be
Music! Music!
Music!

Love,
Grand Ma

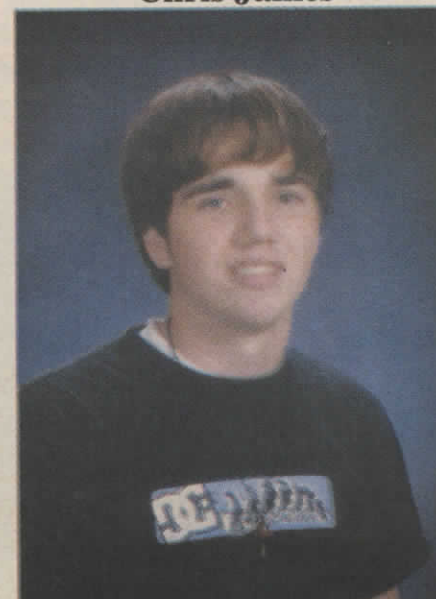
Benjamin, What a remark-
able young man you have be-
come. Your family and
friends are so very proud of
you. You bless our lives more
than you will ever know. Al-
ways remember to share your
time and talents for the good
of others. As God com-
manded, "Love One An-
other". Our prayer for you
is that God will continue to
bless you and keep you in his
care as you begin the next
chapter of your exciting jour-
ney.

Love you always,
Mom and your family

Ben Fine



Chris James



You are such a
blessing to our en-
tire family, and we
are proud of you!
Your kind and
helpful spirit
makes you special
to us and to The
Lord. You have
grown in faith, ma-
turity, love and
musical ability.
Watch out C of C!
Mom, Dad and
Jessica

Features

Colleen Cullinan



Colleen,
Beautiful, joyful blessing from
God, creative, compassionate,
loving, fun. Proudly we watch
you "fly away," sharing our
gifts with the world.

Love and Prayers,
Mom and Dad

Mya Laurie



There are no words to express
what I feel for you. You're my
everything, a dream come true.
There are no songs as beautiful
as the music that fills my soul
when I hear your voice. There
are no roses as lovely as your
smile. Nothing moves me like
you do. There are no days
brighter than the days I spend
with you. You're my light in the
darkness. There could never be
words strong enough to express
my love for you. I love you with
my mind, body, and soul.

Yours truly,
Michael

Brianna Soto



Brianna,
I adored you at first sight
and have wonderously
watched you grow into a
beautiful young lady. I
admire immensely your
kind heart and value your
friendship, love and re-
spect.
God bless you and all
your days.

Love, mom

Like a lily among thorns is my darling among the
maidens

LaNice Ravanel



Congratulations LaNice! May all
your dreams and aspirations become
a reality. Stay focused and soon my
"Pooh Baby" will be Dr. Ravenel.
The prayer of a righteous man/
woman availeth much. (James 5:16)
You can do all things through Christ
Jesus. Keep Your Head Up, Never
Give Up. No Weapons!

Love
Mommy

Emily Aton



I shall be telling this with
a sigh somewhere ages
and ages hence: Two
roads diverged in a
wood, and I - I took the
one less traveled by, and
that has made all the
difference. - Robert
Frost

With all of our love and
faith in you,
Mom, Dad, Ben, and
Maggie

Bryson Cook



Driving remote control cars, Driving
Go Karts, Driving scirocco, GTI, and
Fiero Driving us Crazy...
Now let your dreams and our love
drive your future!

Love,
Mom, Dad, and LA

Senior Survey

What are your plans after graduation?

I want to become a political activist with influence and maybe an environmental lawyer. **-Sarah Harper**

Graduate college, become successful, marry, have children, retire. **-Elizabeth Holmes**
I plan to become successful due to the inspiration of the SOA faculty members. I plan to attend college, and choose an elective that will allow me to expand my artistic endeavors in singing, and in the fine arts of being stupid. **-Nigel Shine**

I plan to attend Francis Marion University and major in political science with a concentration in criminal science. I also plan to start my own clothing line. **-Danielle Daniels**
First of all, I plan on having the best summer of my life by having as much fun as humanly possible. Then, I am going to the College Of Charleston where I want to major in Psychology, and double minor in Physics with a concentration in Astronomy and Arts Management... but, we'll see how all that goes. **-Whitney Perdue**

I'm going to Columbia College, and talking all of my junior class girlfriends into applying there, so I don't have to bother with making any new friends. **-Traci Trotter**

Originally I wanted to go off and dance. Now it looks like I'm going to Trident Tech, and then transferring to a college that offers dance. **-Kerry Gallagher**

Go to USC to major in pre-medicine. **-LaNice Ravenel**

Attend college and further my music education. **-Tim Clemons**

I plan to work very hard this summer being the morning manager at the pool, attend USC in August, graduate, and get a great job. **-Emory Frazier**

To attend college. **-Daniel Bentz**

Buy a house and work. **-Philip Chevrier**

I plan to attend CSU for two years, and then transfer to the Medical University. There I plan to study to be a certified cardiovascular perfusionist. **-Christi Norris**

My first year or two will be spent at Newberry College. I will be studying music performance and Church music. Later I will transfer to a larger school and study either music performance or music therapy. **-Robbie Madison**

Work and school. **-Chris Polk**

I'm attending Coastal Carolina in the fall, but first I plan on having one h*** of a sweet a** summer! **-Emily Aton**

See the world, and join the Wu Tang Clan. **-Chris Gingrich**

After graduation, I will party every day and every night. Then, I will attend Hampton University in August! **-Greg Colleton**

To attend college and hopefully one day be successful. **-Luke Hanagriff**

To go off to college in New Orleans, study naval architecture and to become a yacht designer. **-John David Hill**

To go to the Citadel and enter the air force. **-John Folley**

Attend Berklee School of Music for summer camp and attend Berklee for Fall semester 2004-2005 in Boston. Fishing and playing for various churches in the summer, as well as partying and eating. **-Alexander Collier**

Go to college and study Environmental Science and writing. I guess I'll figure out what to do when I get there. I want a job in conservation and I want to write science fiction; but, that's pretty general and I have hundreds of options. Most importantly, I want to have fun. **-Ashley Burns**

I plan to travel to Ireland and kiss the Blarney Stone and meet a leprechaun. Then I plan to visit Bob Jones University with **Carrie Cummings** to get an application. I also plan to attend all of **Dr. Cusatis's** bar room musicals with some of my classmates. And finally, I plan to further my education at UNC-Asheville. **-Robyn Olejniczak**

I plan to go to college, Queens University of Charlotte. While there I will major in Business and minor in Theater. After I finish college I will become wealthy. Then I will get married and consider children. **-Beatrice Heyward**

I plan on attending Hampton University and double majoring in Mass Communications and Business. **-Tetra Coakley**

I am going to the College of Charleston, where I plan on majoring in psychology. **-Courtney Clark**

I'm attending C of C... I don't know what I'm going to major in, but I'll figure it out. **-Colleen Cullinan**



To do nothing all summer and attend USC in the fall and room with **Rachel Goldstein**. **-Elizabeth Bowers**

Belmont University in Nashville. **-Jessie Rumph**
After graduation I will attend USC and study music. I will major in music education with a performance certificate. I plan to graduate in four years and get a job in an Orchestra. **-Ben Fine**

I will be attending College of Charleston. **-Jason Rodriguez**

After graduation I will work all summer. Then in August I will attend the University of Georgia for Pre-Veterinary Medicine. Hopefully after four years I will attend UGA Veterinary School and work for my Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine. I also plan to continue playing music at UGA. **-Jason Epstein**

Get a degree in culinary arts and then a degree in business management. **-Mark Heyward-Washington**
I'm going to get my Industrial Electric license and run my business (Charleston Truck Customs). **-Michael Seabrook**

Go to Trident Tech. for two years, then maybe transfer to a four year college! **-Chris McDermott**

Disney World. **-Michael D. Jamison**

College. As for what I want to do there, I have no clue. Hopefully it'll come to me. **-Lacey Gomez**

Go to SCAD, major in interactive design and game development with a minor in visual effects. Start my own video game company, recording studio and make millions all in one day. **-Shelton Simmons**

Go to college to study and become an interior designer...while singing on the side. **-Marian Margiotta**

Save the world, have a skateboarding video game named after me, then go to college this fall. One day, hopefully, start a Christian skate, surf, snowboard, and wakeboard movie making company. Whatever God's will is. **-Richard E. Bickerstaff III**

Upon my graduation from this fine institution I plan to attend either Hampton University, in Hampton, Virginia or Howard University in Washington, D.C. Lucky for everyone I'll be majoring in Psychology, so when things get a little crazy you know who to call. **-Steven Nelson**

Go into hiding and become an intellectual.. Think about things and try to figure this world out. **-Erik Ling**

I will be attending Elon University in NC in the Fall, and hopefully somewhere along the road I will find out my purpose here on Earth. **-Paisley Boyd**

This summer I plan on working and then going to New Orleans. In the fall, I'm starting school at C of C. I hope to study abroad a few semesters maybe starting my sophomore year. **-Anna Marcelle**

I plan to do something that not many seniors have decided to do...I plan to train to sell cars at a large dealership. I would someday like to own my own dealership. I have a passion for cars, and I love working with people. **-Brianna Soto**

To enlist in the U.S. Air Force, and carry out everything that God has called for me to do. **-Marcus Richardson**

I plan to attend Trident Tech. for two years, then transfer to C of C where I can study to become a physical therapist. **-Michael Steele**

I will be attending Trident Tech for commercial design/photography. Hopefully I will transfer to an art school. If not, I will have enough to move forward with taking photo shoots with bands in the hardcore metal scene. **-Sara Tisdale**



Well, like many, I am heading off to college, but I am hoping to go to England over the summer. -*Mary Antley*

Go to College of Charleston, have a good time, and keep up my grades to possibly transfer. -*Anna Mossman*

Spend the summer working with **Chris Polk's** mom and my parents. Go visit Chris in Washington, D.C.. Attend USC in the fall and majoring in music education. -*Stacie Millere*



Winthrop and then off to see the world! -*Gabriela Smith*

To go to school anywhere but here. Meet tons of new people, pick up new ideas and thoughts, and have fun. Hopefully, I'll make something of myself in Interior Design or some other art related subject, and gather my life together for a good home with a few accessories, like a boat and a red convertible Stingray, Corvette (one of those 60s models). -*Amanda Jones*

I plan to attend USC, where I'll be majoring in Biology/Pre-Med. -*Tara Rivera*

I plan to attend Spelman College where I will be a Business major. Later, I plan to attend graduate school and become a Marketing Executive. -*Nikita Johnson*

Work all summer... Go to college... Then realize my dreams... -*Heath Richardson*

After graduation, I plan to go to Charleston Southern University where I'll be getting a Bachelor's Science degree in Business Administration. I'm going to open a real estate company. I'm also planning to go into full time ministry at my church. -*Karvelis Flow-ers*

Take pictures, go out to dinner, go home, and go to sleep. -*Eric Newman*

I plan to go to Rhode Island School of Design and probably major in painting. -*Jessica Fink*

Boating with **Carrie** and our Charleston boyfriends who own Boy Kin spaniels. Then I will be attending College of Charleston as an Arts Management major. -*Amanda Thompson*

Attend USC and continue acting, and writing. -*Josh Vaughan*

The most pressing issue is cleaning my car. I have so many English papers that have been floating around in there since early August. I should probably sell them to the juniors. -*Carrie Cummings*

I'm going to California to go to college. I guess I just loved the O.C. that much. -*Emmy Harkins*

I'm going to the Tisch School of the Arts at New York University where I'll be majoring in theater and either English or History, so that I can be a stage manager when I grow up. And this summer I'll be a counselor at a summer camp in upstate NY. -*Bessie Edwards*

Travel the world... in style...Or not. -*Isabelle Selby*



Your advice for underclassmen:

Write in 12.5 font and double-space everything. They won't notice. -*Sarah Harper*

Don't worry, it will all be over soon. -*Elizabeth Holmes*

Sleep when the class is boring, but never sleep with what you strive to achieve in life. Do these things in REMEMBRANCE of the "T." -*Nigel Shine*

You have served four years in Chas. Co. School of the Arts State Prison, your time will soon be over. To my tenth grade boys: **Jerelle, Johnny, Matty-B, and J.T.**, one day you will "get on my level." Luv ya! -*Danielle Daniels*

I'm not going to tell you all not to skip school, because I know some of you will, so instead, I am going to tell you all to be smart and careful about how you skip school. They always end up finding out, even if it takes them a little while. -*Whitney Perdue*

When you become a senior, remember that you're the leader of every underclassman and no rules apply to you. -*Traci Trotter*

You can be a slacker, but don't slack off. -*Kerry Gallagher*

Don't worry about trying to please everyone. Live for yourself and never sell yourself short if you know that you can do better. -*LaNice Ravenel*

Hide recycling bins in places that are higher than a 6th grader's reach. -*Tim Clemons*

Stay focused in everything that you do. Also make school fun for you in your own little way. It will make the time pass by much faster. -*Emory Frazier*

Take classes with good teachers, not for the course. -*Daniel Bentz*

Run while you still can. -*Philip Chevrier*

Be yourself! Enjoy life as a "high schooler" because you'll miss it the day you walk down the halls as a senior. Also, don't waste your time with high school gossip; make your enemies your friends. -*Christi Norris*

Don't take any of your high school career for granted. Before you know it, it will be too late to correct your mistake. Don't "follow the crowd," and be yourself (get a good GPA). -*Robbie Madison*

High school is important, don't screw it up for yourself! -*Chris Polk*

You can be unshowered, have greasy hair, dirty feet, ugly clothes, and still be loved and accepted at this school. -*Emily Aton*

Quit your day job, focus on your craft, and in a couple of years **Luke** and I will swoop in and check your progress. And we will encourage you to continue. Or we will say stop! And seriously you must stop. Or consequences will be made and enforced. What makes Luke and I so awesome, we were born with it. -*Chris Gingrich*

Your junior year is the most important year. SERIOUSLY! Maintain a high GPA, 3.0 or more, because if you bomb the SAT/ACT, colleges would look at your GPA. Believe me I know! Don't get suspended! Create a good image for yourself. Teachers and students will respect you! STAY HERE, DON'T LEAVE! -*Greg Colleton*

Get as many early outs as possible the second semester of your senior year. If you're late, come in the door by the cafeteria. -*Luke Hanagriff*

Get your important classes done before Senior year so you can have a simplified year because there are so many things and decisions with college and graduation. **John David Hill** Learn about your teachers, it makes them easy to manipulate. -*John Folley*

High school is the best four years ever-live it to the fullest. Spring Break isn't the end of school so don't slack off. If you plan on cutting class, don't stay on campus and don't walk by the class you're skipping. -*Alexander Collier*

For lack of any better advice; work hard, but not too hard! -*Ashley Burns*

Try to get hefty donations from famous tennis players before your graduation fee is due so it won't be so incredibly high. Also, experience a **Ms. Hamilton** class before you graduate. The lessons you learn in there will be priceless. And don't get upset when **Dr. Cusatis** smacks you in the head because you had your head on the desk with your book in your lap, pretending to read. -*Robyn Olejniczak*

All rising seniors LISTEN UP!!! DO NOT listen to statistics. Your senior year is just as important as your junior year. GPA still counts. -*Beatrice Heyward*

Don't eat and then drive around in circles while laughing hysterically. -*Tedra Coakley*

High school is too short to feel overwhelmed. Just give 100% and pray that it's enough. -*Courtney Clark*



Senior Survey

Embrace your stupidity! (Life is a lot more fun that way.) -**Colleen Cullinan**

Work hard your first semester because you won't want to the second. -**Elizabeth Bowers**

Don't wait until senior year to take PE! -**Jessie Rumph**

Learn to sleep with your eyes open! On a serious note, start looking at colleges early. -**Ben Fine**

Mr. Murray is not as scary as he seems. -**Jason Rodriguez**

Enjoy having your parents pay for everything because eventually they stop and then you're broke. Enjoy your years at SOA, they go by faster each year. Don't spread yourself too thin. When you graduate, go to UGA. -**Jason Epstein**

Keep your priorities in order. -**Mark Heyward-Washington**

Do your thing in school and be sure you enjoy it to the best of your ability because there's no more after you graduate. -**Michael Seabrook**

Enjoy your youth as long as you can! -**Chris McDermott**

Study hard, but don't take things too seriously. Just enjoy school before it gets more complicated. -**Lacey Gomez**

Always believe everything is possible, study for exams; fill your mind with the unbelievable; never leave anything half done and if all else fails, give up and go home. -**Shelton Simmons**

Always put your heart into everything you do, but remember to have fun along the way. -**Marian Margiotta**

Keep seeking God as your first priority and everything else will fall into place. Don't worry about things, but make sure you work hard too. Don't be stupid and try to grow up too quickly; most people have about sixty years to be an adult, enjoy the eighteen you have to be a kid. -**Richard E. Bickerstaff III**

Don't burn your bridges as soon as you cross them, you may need to go back. In other words...Don't start being mean to everyone until your Senior year or a few weeks before Graduation, you might need them along the way. This is especially true for the Matticks Brothers. -**Steeven Nelson**

A person can learn more in a week on his own than he can in a year of school (not saying school is bad). -**Erik Ling**

Don't stress out over everything. Life goes on and you realize that what seemed to have been a big deal was really nothing at all. -**Paisley Boyd**

The vocal majors are in a cult- watch out. -**Anna Marcelle**

Don't catch Senioritis, it's the worst school-related sickness one could have. -**Brianna Soto**

"In everything give thanks for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." (1 Thess. 5:19)-Do this because a lot of obstacles will come up, just remember to give thanks. -**Marcus Richardson**

Build bridges, instead of walls, unity creates strength. -**Michael Steele**

Work hard and don't slack off. Make your senior year easier! -**Sara Tisdale**

No matter how much trouble you get in, remember...teachers and administrators can be your greatest allies. -**Ben Pooser**

Learn who you are and don't be embarrassed or fear what you are. Thrive off of it. -**Mary Antley**

Really push yourself to make good grades so you can make it into the schools you really want to attend. -**Anna Mossman**

Finish college applications



early! Don't let the years go to waste. Have Fun. -**Stacie Millere**

Get your work done first, then you can party! -**Gabriela Smith**

Don't be rude, selfish, obnoxious little hellions. In more ways than one, you are not only showing the world how terrible you are, but also what an awful job your parents have done in raising you to what is supposed to be maturity. -**Amanda Jones**

Don't take your high school years for granted. Live every day to its fullest because you'll realize how special it is as you're about to enter the "real world." -**Tara Rivera**

I would advise underclassmen to live for the moment.

You'll never be able to re-live your high school memories, so enjoy them while you can. Prepare for the future, but live for the present. -**Nikita Johnson**

Don't stress out, it's not worth it. Still take things seriously, or seriously enough, but don't stress. -**Heath Richardson**

Save your money! It's a pain to pay out these graduation fees. Get a summer job!

Don't slack off (even after spring break)! Study, Study, Study! Don't take a class you can't pass. Start looking for scholarships now so when you are a senior, it won't be hard on you. Be respectful to your teachers, you just may need them to recommend you for a college or scholarship. -**Karvelis Flowers**

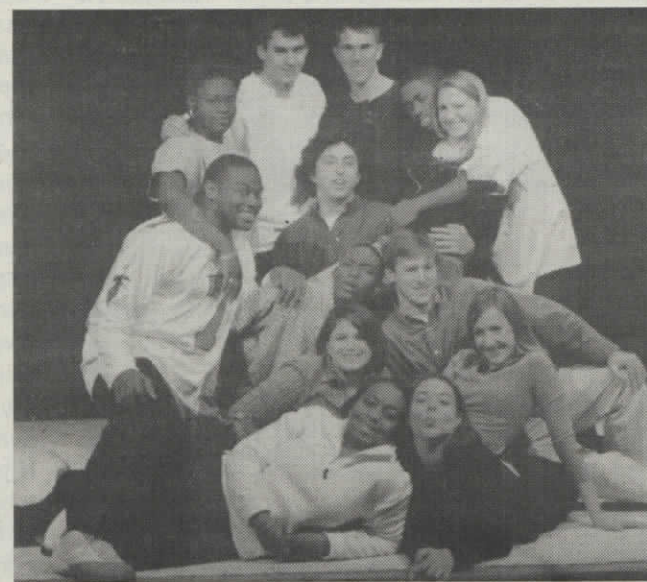
Always be bold, and don't worry about what others think of you. Just because a lot of people say something is true, it doesn't mean it is. Seek truth in everything. -**Eric Newman**

Don't date in your senior year, or else you'll probably end up following them to a school that you're not into. -**Amanda Thompson**

Don't procrastinate. Keep an open mind, and have fun. -**Josh Vaughan**

Senior year doesn't count. (just kidding.) No matter what happens, just remember to spend more time having fun than doing work. -**Carrie Cummings**

Go to college, even if you think you don't need to right now. Get a job and start saving money now! You will be broke if you don't. -**Emmy Harkins**



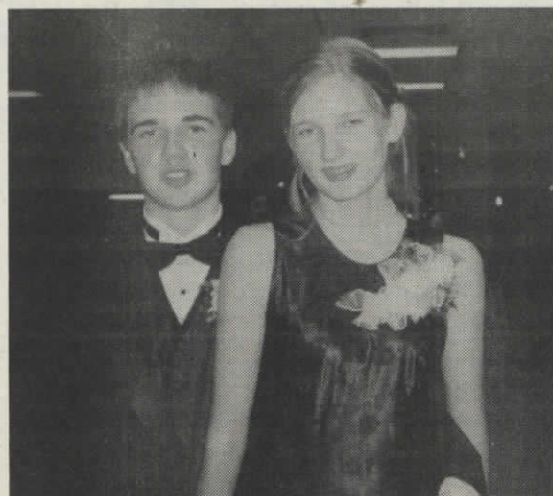
Do whatever **Robyn** said to. Keep your good friends. Don't let things tie you down. Meet some Germans before you graduate. This one's for **Dan Hanf**, "I'm sorry, I'll miss your disposition and your strength to see the best in everyone. Still it's hard to be cruel to you." -**Isabelle Selby**

Apply to college early!

Don't wait till the day before applications are due!!! Fill it all out SOON, as in before school starts again.

Because senior year is filled with the stressful joys of senior thesis, and if your college stuff is done then it's just one less thing to worry

about. Also, HAVE FUN! Love senior year, enjoy it. Spend as much time as you can with friends- you'll miss them. Oh, and if **Dr. Cusatis** tells you to do a journal entry, for the love of God do your journal entry. -**Bessie Edwards**



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ccsoa.com

Senior Survey

What was your most memorable moment at SOA?

When **Bryson Cook** kayaked in the lake behind the theater when it rained for 3 days Junior year. -**John David Hill**

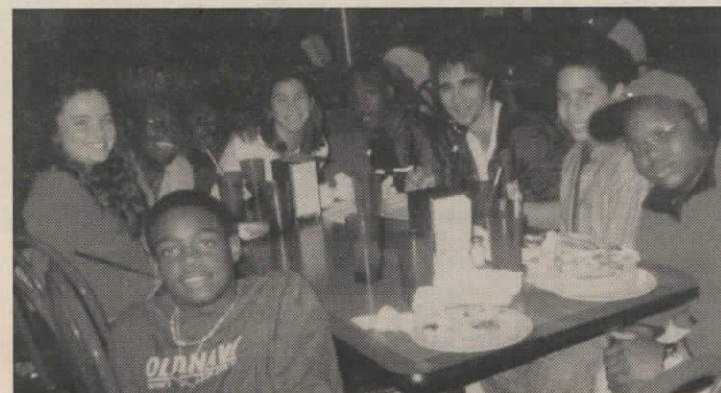
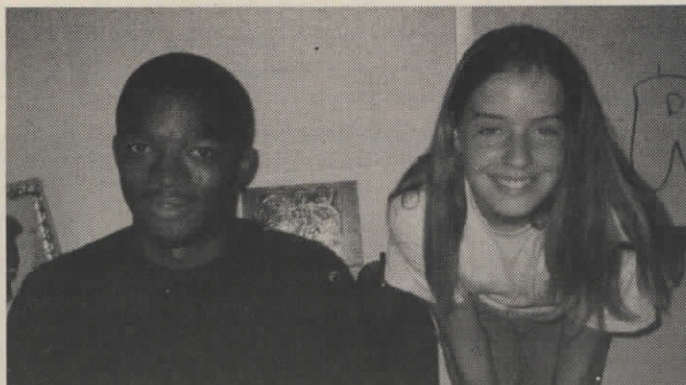
When **Bryson** went kayaking behind the Black Box. -**John Folley**
All the musical performances. Guys and Dolls, Fantasia. -**Alexander Collier**

Last year, on the bus when we had a substitute and there were only 4 people left, **Tiffany Talley** and **Quenisia** threw soda bottles at each other. Always being clueless about Being in **Mr. Murray's** class. Everyone should have Mr. Murray at least once. -**Sarah Harper**

John Folley shooting **Ms. Lawson** with a spitball in 8th grade. I promise he didn't mean to hit you **Ms. Lawson**; he was aiming for **Anna Marcell**. -**Elizabeth Holmes**

The long and winding road. I had girls from the junior class acknowledge me as BIG NASTY. My pants falling down outside of recess and everyone trying to feel my sexy body (don't laugh, I'm serious). As a matter of fact...just post. -**Nigel Shine**

When **Courtney Coan** B.K.A Coco beat up **Steeven Nelson**. Also, when **Mr. Orvin** proposed to **Ms. Lasley**. -**Danielle Daniels**



John Yang was shot at with a nerf gun by **Mrs. Hovis** in strings one day. The little bullet thingy hit him directly in the middle of his glasses lens and it was so hilarious. And then there is **Mr. Rivers...** what can

I say about him? I had the best time in his class and I remember almost all of it, as well. But, you had to be there to understand most of the stuff that happened, so I won't bother mentioning details. -**Whitney Perdue**

One day it was raining really hard and I attempted to walk back into **Mr. Orvin's** trailer, but instead I slipped and fell on my face. A moment after our class of 25 or so stopped laughing, **Chris Gingrich** made up a catchy song about my fall. -**Traci Trotter**
When **Emily, Rae,** and I ran down the hall with trash bags tied to our butts just because we could. -**Kerry Gallagher**

My first day as a sixth grader with everyone cramped in the cafeteria with their instruments and loud excited voices -**LaNice Ravenel**

Having **Mr. Foburg** call me "A walking advertisement for birth control." -**Tim Clemons**
When **Mr. Wood** cursed out **Mike Seabrook** in the 10th grade. It was the funniest thing that I have ever seen. My second favorite most memorable moment is when **Mr. Younts** cursed us out in eighth grade and gave us the **Michael Jackson** speech. Those theater teachers are so kind. -**Emory Frazier**

Bryson Cook kayaking around SOA and the Italy trip 2004. -**Daniel Bentz**
Our trip to Italy with the art class, and **Bryson** kayaking in lake SOA. -**Philip Chevrier**
April 21, 2003 was my most memorable moment. My life changed



drastically when I was approached by an upperclassmen who made me realize the importance of possessing three key elements: faith, hope, and love. -**Christi Norris**
Harmony's Performance with the Charleston Symphony Orchestra. -**Robbie Madison**
Broke clavicle (collar bone). -**Chris Polk**

Once in tenth grade, when I was skipping school, we all planned to jump the fence parallel to the theater room, and when everyone had made it over and it was my turn I ripped a giant gapping hole in my pants that revealed the entirety of my right butt cheek. -**Emily Aton**

When **Mr. Orvin** asked **Ms. Lasley** to marry him over the announcements. And when **Traci** tripped in **Mr. Orvin's** class and I wrote a song about it. -**Chris Gingrich**

My most memorable moment at SOA was being awarded for having the highest average in Visual Arts at the award ceremony. At the end, **Dwan Miller** congratulated me with a HUG! I LOVE DWAN! -**Greg Colleton**

Watching **Bryson** kayak across the SOA pond. -**Luke Hanagriff**

Theater memories are always the best. The first was in 8th grade, **Mr. Younts** told us how Michael Jackson missed and missed and missed.... and one day he made his first shoot.... Thank you **Emory** for making him mad. The second, which is one that is always funny, as a class we always tried to teach Sam (**Mr. Wood**) his colors because he is color blind. -**Beatrice Heyward**

My most memorable moment at SOA wasn't at SOA. Instead it was a band trip to Indianapolis. My junior year the School of the Arts High School Band performed at BoA (Bands of America). Along side of that I played in the National Honor Band of America. That whole week was filled with the good memories, and the not so good memories (**Trevor "Fireman" Murray**) -**Ben Fine**

Um, so many. The time **Mr. Orvin** fell off the desk. **Emory** and **Jake** dancing to the music in all the chemistry movies. Our Birthday/ Thanksgiving/ Anniversary feast in **Ms. Hamilton's** class and playing hot potato. And I can't forget Fantasia rehearsal, dancing with **Ben**. Oh! One more thing: **Ms. Smyth** yelling at **Terrence Freeman** in the hall. The whole guidance office was silent! -**Tedra Coakley**

When I think back on the past seven years, the things that stick out most in my mind are the performances. I will never be able to forget singing with some of the most talented people I have ever known. -**Courtney Clark**

There are way too many memorable moments at SOA to put onto paper... *sighs*... good times! -**Colleen Cullinan**

Being read The Polar Express the last day before Christmas break and having to read the end for **Mrs. Miles** because she's a crybaby. -**Elizabeth Bowers**

Watching **Mr. Rivers** get beat at Uno by a rock and an apple. -**Jessie Rumph**

When **Traci Trotter** came running into **Mr. Orvin's** trailer and fell flat on her face. Then having **Chris Gingrich** sing and play a song on guitar about it. -**Jason Rodriguez**

My most memorable moment was the first weeks of tenth grade. I left for ninth grade and when I came back, it was like I never left. There were a few new people, but it was like I was coming home from vacations for a year. That is when I remembered why I like SOA so much and why I belong here. -**Jason Epstein**

The high school Winter Formals and Fall Ball dances. SOA, invite me to next year's dance, PLEASE. -**Mark Heyward-Washington**

'Chillin' with my homeboys and 'hangin' with the lovely ladies. Only the nice ones. -**Michael Seabrook**

Making history with **Mr. Orvin** and stealing **Mrs. Olson's** magic green pens! -**Chris McDermott**

My Italy trip and Jennings. -**Michael D. Jamison**

I remember any free periods where I got to slack off and hang out with my friends. -**Lacey Gomez**

Walking down the halls to my classes, playing football on the big field, **Diamond** trying to jump over **Mrs. Tisdale's** car, **Michael J.** playing capture the flag and attempting to take out one of the black posts on the bus thing, **Mr. Orvin** exams, and Art exams (What art exams?). -**Shelton Simmons**

Playing soccer everyday at lunch during eighth and tenth grade, string performances, and making movies. -**Richard E. Bickerstaff III**

A lot of people probably use this to talk about inside jokes; I will do the same. Only this is probably the most widespread inside joke of them all. As many may or may not know, breath support for a singer is crucial. Some of us take it a little too seriously. One day while working on breathing during class- our good friend, **Brian Dobson-** decided to exercise his outstanding breathing skills, and hold his breath. No one really noticed this until he passed out and fell on the floor, the first two seconds were really scary; until he came to, gasping for air. I guess he could be a Theater major, he does a great impression of a dog playing dead. -**Steeven Nelson**

Senior Survey

Doing my Anthony speech for the entire high school, representing the Theater department. -**Erik Ling**

The first day of vocal with **Mr. Rogers** in eighth grade and every vocal trip and concert after that. -**Paisley Boyd**

In seventh grade when a cockroach fell off the cafeteria ceiling on to my head while I was eating lunch...**Ms. Ambrose** yelled at me for making a scene.

-**Anna Marcelle**

I would have to say that Peter Pan, Playfest, and senior thesis were three wonderful memories for me at SOA. -**Brianna Soto**

When **Diamond** punched **Steeven** in the face. (LOL) -**Marcus Richardson**

2002 Junior-Senior prom, because the moment I had with that special someone, has never left me, and I hope you won't either. -**Michael Steele**

All the moments in Visual Arts with **Amanda** and **Michael**. "Oops, splash!" -**Sara Tisdale**

Too many. -**Ben Pooser**

Ahh too many-**Bryson** and **Luke** dancing to techno in art, times with **J. Rod**, **Jenny**, **Luke**, and **Phil** in "**Marshall's** class," **Ms. Jaycies'** anger fits at our class, when **Elizabeth** ate an acorn, **Steeven's** reaction to a certain ugly sweater, dodging **Mr. Davis** with **Melissa** when we were violating "dress code," my one freshman encounter with Chewie, most all of the moments in **Mr. P's** class, and skipping with **Emily**. -**Anna Mossman**

After the All-State Band concert, **Mr. Kerr** gave me a hug and congratulated me on my hard work. He told me he was proud of me. I will never forget Mr. Kerr and his influence on me. -**Stacie Millere**

Teacher monitoring a.k.a free periods. Well let's just keep these events on the down low. -**Gabriela Smith**

There's a lot that I don't remember, and a lot that I've decided throughout the years to block out. There is one thing that I will NEVER forget, but "it didn't happen." Just a little accident with clay sip and **Elisabeth's** new jacket (OOPS). On a lighter note, I remember the ring ceremony. Everyone there was so thrilled to finally be so close to the end of a thirteen-year education, it was so overwhelming. -**Amanda Jones**

My most memorable moment is that glorious morning when **Courtney Cohen** bumrushed **Steeven Nelson** with a clothesline. Steeven retaliated with, "I'm not gonna fight you CoCo!" What a wuss! -**Tara Rivera**

My most memorable moment is when **Courtney Cohen** slammed **Steeven Nelson** on top of a car. I never laughed so hard in my life. It was sad, but it was funny at the same time. -**Nikita Johnson**

Coming up out of the pirate's ship in front of 2000 people... with that 10lbs of jerrycurl of a wig... -**Heath Richardson**

When we were at B.O.A. (Bands of America) last year. We had a little incident with a freshman who placed his tux on the fire sprinkler and when he took it off, the system came on. Also, on the way home there was an announcement from the captain asking me to come to the cockpit. I wonder who did that. -**Karvelis Flowers**

Being nervous out of my mind in the moments before playing the Swan Lake solo. -**Eric Newman**



throw rocks at small woodland creatures, and he actually hit one. There was an enormous explosion of feathers, followed by an enormous explosion of swear words from all of the girls. The poor thing was twitching on the ground and Ben claimed it was a sin to kill an animal, so **Josh Vaughan** had to drop a cement block on it. Then we had a funeral for it. -**Emmy Harkins**



Oh...there are just so many! The time **Ben Pooser** nailed that bird with a rock...the time Ben Pooser handcuffed **Taylor**...the time **Mr. Wood** almost set himself of fire...and the time **Mr. Younts** threw the chair across the room...Oh good times! - **Bessie Edwards**

I'm not sure if this is the MOST memorable but it definitely tops the list: In Statistics class this year **Ben Fine** was at a slight disadvantage since the girl boy ratio is 6:1. So **Mr. Smyth**... I mean WE decide to slowly inch towards Ben throughout the whole class and see what happens. By the end of class we had our desks covering every free inch around him and he was... stuck. - **Isabelle Selby**

Congratulations
to the SOA graduating class
of 2004
from the *Applause* staff



When **Bryson** kayaked through campus, and being put in the corner in AP lit. -**Amanda Thompson**

1. My Senior Thesis
2. **Ryan Scott's** Roast of the first graduating Theater class. -**Josh Vaughan**

Junior year. I didn't read *Huck Finn* on time and was being quizzed on it. I faked sick and said that my tooth hurt so I could go home and watch T.V. That afternoon, my mother made me go to the dentist. The next day I had to go to the oral surgeon and have my wisdom teeth removed. I couldn't eat for two weeks. I highly recommend reading *Huck Finn*. -**Carrie Cummings**

Ben Pooser decided it would be fun to

CASE IH
Zetor



Club Cadet
Kubota

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Congratulations, Class of 2004

LaNice Ravenel



To the graduating class of 2004, I will miss you all very much, and my love for you will never fade.

Always remember,
LaNice Ravenel

Emory Frazier



Congratulations on a job well done! We are so proud of your accomplishments. Always remember that you are a young man of unlimited promises. All you need to do is accept the challenges that life brings to you.

By your success, you have raised our spirits. With your determination, you carry on our dreams. We pray for continued success in your life.

Love
Mom

Brian Dobson



Congratulations,
Brian!

May you continue on your quest for knowledge with curiosity and enthusiasm! Knowledge is a treasure that cannot be stolen.

Love, Grandmama
and Granddaddy

Whitney Purdue



Congratulations Whitney

Always know wherever the paths in life take you, our love and support go with you. Always know how much we love you and want the best for you. You are our beautiful shining star.

Love
Mom and Dad

Michael Steele



From the first time we saw those green eyes and the devilish grin, little did we know that we'd be the ones benefiting from the jokes and laughs. Your passion for life compels you to live every moment to the fullest. Your vocal talent is gift and your love of competition is revealed in the sports you've played. You are a wonderful son, an even better brother and an irreplaceable friend.

We are so proud of you and love you!

Congratulations, Mom, Dad, Elizabeth, Matthew, and
Emily XO



Feature

Outside the Arts: A Look at 2003-2004

by Ben Forney

The School of the Arts has had a very eventful school year, both with the arts majors' performances and the multiple other areas in which SOA students excel. SOA impacts not only the local community, but spreads its influence across the globe like hot butter over a flaky croissant.

In November, **Sara Houser** visited Nashville to record some of her original songs. She was awarded this once in a lifetime opportunity after her mom, also a songwriter, won a contest through a national music magazine. **Jonathan Squires**, 9th



grader at SOA, traveled across the globe to see the world premier of *The Return of the King* in New Zealand. He too was awarded this opportunity after winning a contest. He made acquaintances with several famous movie stars from the film and toured the beautiful and diverse landscape of New Zealand. **Dr. Cusatis** traveled to Jacksonville, FL this year to complete his fifth marathon. He ran his fastest time ever and hopes to qualify next year for the Boston Marathon. The Ecology Club, under the tutorage of **Dr. Ball**, voyaged to Homosassus Springs, Florida to swim with the manatees in February. The strings and band went to Chattanooga where they received top honors at the Grand NAI Competition. The vocal majors visited Chicago in April where they won several trophies for their bird-like singing capabilities. Back here in the Lowcountry, School of the Arts gained several new teachers this year that have made a great impact on the school atmosphere.

Ms. Rogers came to teach Geometry and Algebra III/Trigonometry. **Mr. Johnsen** was a new recruit hired to teach health. **Mr. Eakes** was the new vocal teacher. **Ms. Colquitt** was a new addition to the science department. **Mr. Dawson** has joined the ranks as a history teacher. Finally, **Ms. Wentworth**, South Carolina Poet Laureate, became a faculty member this year in the area of creative writing.



Ms. Slowinski was nominated as one of sixteen finalists for Charleston County Teacher of the Year. This is a great honor and brought more recognition to the school as a place of great achievements.

Many SOA students are gifted not only as artists, but as athletes. This year Sophomore **Daniel Vincent** ran cross-country and track for Wando High School. He finished first in the Wando Invitational and the Susan B. Komen Race for the Cure and is recognized as one of the best high school runners in the state. In April he placed first in the 800 and 1600 meter runs at the All-County meet. There are also several SOA students who participate in swimming at their local high schools. **Angela Hood, Josh Vaughan, Heidi Vaughan, Emory Frazier, Anna Marcelle, Jenna Tuttle, Brianna Ridge, Louis Marcelle, and Robbie Amick** all compete for WestAshley High School, yet they constitute only a portion of competitive swimmers at SOA.

Felicia Simmons is an accomplished gymnast and competed in the Florida Sand Dollar Invitational where she won first place on the floor competition in the senior age division.



It is clear to see that the School of the Arts possesses students that are well rounded and eager to play competitive sports despite their busy schedules as artists.

Speaking of sports, tennis star **Venus Williams** presented a gift of \$15,000 to SOA while she was in the area for the Family Circle Cup. Her own artistic interests influenced her decision to make the donation.

SOA started two new programs this year to honor those with a high caliber personality and character. The Tri-M society was started at SOA to reward those who excel in both the arts and academics. Also, the honor council was created to compile a set of guidelines that would serve as the honor code for SOA in years to come. The National Honor Society inducted many new members this year, continuing their reputation as a club filled with the creme de la creme of today's finest young people.

All of the art majors worked together this year to produce the hit variety program, *Fantasia*, at the North Charleston Performing Arts Center this November. Incorporating separate works by theatre, band, dance, piano, strings, creative writing, and visual arts majors, this extravaganza kept audiences captivated for two magical nights.

SOA hosted two exchange students from Germany this year. **Benedikt Baumgart** and **Dana Busse** came to America as juniors to study a year overseas. They will surely return to Germany with many positive memories about the great people and warm weather here in Charleston. SOA also hosted two student teachers, Ms. Mitchell and Mr. Reese, who spent several weeks shadowing a teacher and learning what its like to be in charge of a class.

In January, **Dr. Cusatis** interviewed writer Donn Pearce, author of *Cool Hand Luke* at the writer's home in Ft. Lauderdale, FL to enhance his A.P. English students' study of the novel. Pearce also inscribed copies of his book for each student. Dr. Cusatis also traveled to Carmel, CA, and Houston, TX to present papers at two international literary conferences, and published several others in various books and journals.

On November 1st, the Fall Ball took place in the SOA cafeteria. I'm told it was great if your one who enjoys loud rap music blaring in your ear in a dark, cramped kitchen. The prom on May 14th, offered more of the same exhilarating fun, this time on a boat with music from Plane Jane. In February, SOA students had the opportunity to showcase their own musical talents in the Battle of the Bands. This well-organized event was filled with great bands, playing musical genres that ranged from metal to classic rock to Irish jigs. The winners, The Spicy Bandits, took home three hours of recording time, and were awarded the opportunity to write the morning show jingle for 96 Wave. Hopefully next year a rematch will take place between all of these bright young musicians.

Indeed it is hard to list all of the great feats SOA students have accomplished during the 2003-2004 school year. We have all changed a great deal and undoubtedly the 2004-2005 school year will be filled with the same excitement and creativity that shaped this year in many positive ways.



Student Art



Lacey Gomez



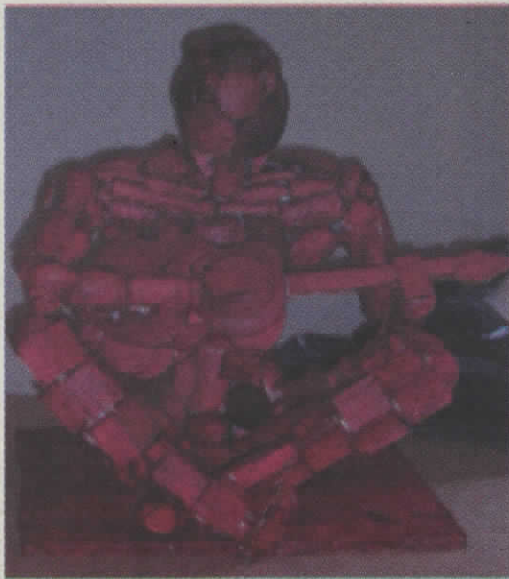
John Folley



Amanda Jones



Jessica Fink



Jason Rodriguez



Bryson Cook



Daniel Bentz



Greg Colleton



Anna Mossman



Chris McDermott

Dance 2003-2004



Emma Chilcote



Samantha Hill



Felicia Simmons



Postures



Sixth Grade on the Yorktown



Seniors



Lindsay Funderburk



Lane Elsey
Michael Robinson



Seventh Grade Dancers



Diamonds



Currents



Eighth Grade perform at Danny Jones



Felicia Simmons, Robyn Olejniczak,
Kerry Gallagher, Mya Laurie, Traci Trotter



Reba Bowens

Senior Survey

What will you miss most about SOA?

I will miss how personable and funny the teachers are. (most of them, anyway...)

-Sarah Harper

It's really hard to pick just one thing but I guess I will miss the lunch ladies the most.

-Elizabeth Holmes

When I got in trouble, when I got laughed at, when I got mocked, and when I was loved by everyone, and people who don't like me because I keep my friends close and my enemies further away from me (I mean business, this is a serious matter)! -

Nigel Shine

Third period on A days, when all the senior monitors roam the halls and terrorize the school...and Nikita having a crush on Mr. Johnsen. -Danielle Daniels

I'll miss getting in trouble for petty incidents such as dress-code and tardiness. -Traci Trotter

I will miss our laid back environment, our great teachers, and all the friends I have known for years and years. I'm sure I'll end up missing more than that but I don't think I'll realize it all till I'm out of here and in college. -Whitney Perdue

The bond all the students have together. -Kerry Gallagher

Everyone, all of my friends and associates. All of my teachers and anyone that has ever asked to borrow a pencil or wavedhello. -LaNice Ravenel

Being able to run around campus in a four foot tall cardboard box. -Tim Clemons

I will miss constantly being around all of my friends that I have here, my extracurricular activities having to do with the school, and the lunch ladies. (especially the lovely Mrs. Darlene) -Emory Frazier

The crazy unique style of having no particular style, and having no one ever question things you do. -Daniel Bentz

The excuse to get out of work. -Philip Chevrier

I will miss many people at SOA. Through these people I have become the person I am today. I would like to thank the class of 2004, as well as the teachers that I have had throughout the years, for I will miss everyone dearly. -Christi Norris

The music, my friends, and the teachers. -Robbie Madison

Absolutely nothing. Life moves on, stay in the present --> future. -Chris Polk

Maybe it will be the times I went mudding with half the junior class in the back of my truck before school, or escaping to visit Ms. Kay at least once every class period, or pretending the dark room door was a time portal with Lindsay, or playing James Bond for whole periods running around with Nathan. But more than anything I will miss the little school tucked in the "ghetto" that we all learned to appreciate. -Emily Aton

Friends and teachers, I love them all. -Chris Gingrich

The relationships that I have had with everyone, the teachers, and faculty. I will miss the freedom and the art performances and productions. I will miss driving 50 miles to school from my house. AND I will miss Charleston Chicken! ummm! I love chicken burgers! -Greg Colleton

Dr. Parker, the adversity of friends. -Luke Hanagriff

The last variety of talented students with many lifestyles and diverse skills. -John David Hill

The lack of racial barriers. -John Folley

the family-like environment, the open discussion in class. Not doing homework every other night. ALL OF THE PROFESSIONAL EXPOSURE . ex ("playing in the movie") "Notebook." -Alexander Collier

The teachers and the students. And the beautiful scenery! -Ashley Burns

I will miss being able to wear a bathrobe and a prom dress to school and not that many people noticing. I will miss hearing the vocal majors incessant singing, seeing art all over the walls, dancers saut-de-chat-ing over the ditches, the theater majors lying to teachers, and so on. I will miss the chaos of Ms. Hamilton's classes, tsses, and the one-sies and the two-sies and dancing like Pom-Pom would in Mr. Anderson's classes. I will miss Mrs. Myers' announcements, lake SOA, boys wearing dresses, and sneaking across campus in Bryson's car because Mr. Davis closed the gate 2 minutes early. But most of all, I will miss Ms. Anna Crowder. -Robyn Olejniczak

I will miss all of the one on one relationships that the students and faculty here have. Mr. Orvin and Beth, two wonderful people that I have not only had as teachers but as great friends. Dr. Cusatis, because of poetry readings your wife and I became good friends and we were guaranteed a good laugh. Thank you for all that you have done for me. I love you both. Yeager the best cousin I could ever have in school, our family will forever reign at SOA. Tanyesha and DJ (Sexy) my new family. And I will

miss the theater department as a whole because we are one of the few majors that despite our size has allowed us to be as close as we are. I love you all - Beatrice Heyward

The closeness. I love staring out the window and being able to name most of the people that walk by. -Tedra Coakley

Ralph Waldo Emerson said, "It is one of the blessings of old friends that you can afford to be stupid with them." Those are the people I will miss the most when I am gone- the friends who have been there for me through laughter and tears and have contributed to our many moments of stupidity. -Courtney Clark

I'm going to miss the "family" atmosphere with my friends. I'm also going to miss having 100 minutes of Vocal every day... I'm going to have a hard time living without it. -Colleen Cullinan

Canoodling on the couch in Creative Writing. -Elizabeth Bowers

Watching Mr. Murray and Mr. Smyth have light saber battles. -Jessie Rumph

The "O." -Ben Fine

The hard-core 10th grade soccer games at lunch. -Jason Rodriguez

The people. My teachers. My friends, some of which I've known for twelve years. -Jason Epstein

All you folks. I'm going to miss everyone at this school. The teachers, the friends, everyone. Love ya all. HOLLA." -Mark Heyward-Washington

Classic moments with Mrs. Kay and my resource class! -Chris McDermott

The entire high school experience because I know I'll never get this experience again in life. Also some of the pretty faces I'll never see again. So now that y'all know that, I'll Holla." -Michael Seabrook

The music and my little sister. -Michael D. Jamison

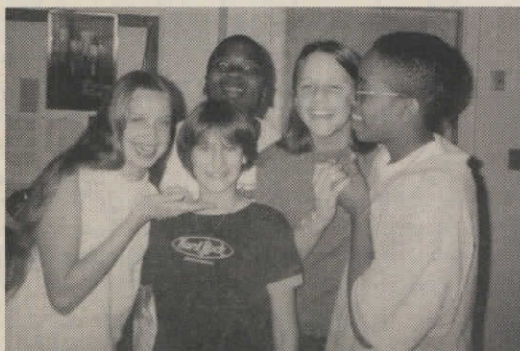
I'll miss the people. SOA is closer as a community than any other school I've been to. -Lacey Gomez

Mrs. Hamilton's questionable new hairdo, soaping the floors on the entrance to the bathroom, saving James from passing out; All the people I've met, Art, Mr. Orvin, Mr. P., riding the bus (and yelling for Pierre to "pick up the shirt, the shirt!!). Oh yeah and everyone have a good summer! -Shelton Simmons

I will miss being able to spend hours singing and talking with my friends in Vocal everyday. But mostly I will miss the people who I feel are now part of my life, people I've spent practically everyday with for the past twelve of thirteen years like Colleen, Ben, and Nigel. I will also miss my best friends: Angela, Lacey, Will, Matt, Laura, Hannah Grace, again Colleen, and pretty much everyone in vocal...-Marian Margiotta

The people and how well everyone gets along. -Richard E. Bickerstaff III

There are so many great memories that I could think of, but overall without a doubt I'll miss the close-knit friendships with the people we refer to as family. Where else can we stop in the middle of the hall and bust out in a song, accompanied with some "Hallelujah" choreography? Where else could we go on a fifteen hour bus ride, bug the crap out of each other at four o'clock A.M., and still be friends later that night? Where else can gossip travel faster than the speed of light, to teachers and all, and then forget about it the next day?



Senior Survey

No where else. This is our Land of Oz, our home away from home. Its our dream that seems to never come to an end. But for us-the Class of 2004-we have come to our hot air balloon that will take us back to Kansas, and though we don't want to leave, we have no choice, but Goodbye is forever, so instead we say... "See you soon." -**Steven Nelson**



By far what I will miss most about SOA is all of my friends and all the times we've had together. -**Paisley Boyd**

Knowing almost everyone a little too well, hearing and seeing art in all the halls, the smooth drive down W. Enterprise Rd. early each morning, watching the ice cream vending machine, the hierarchy of walking down the path between the Arts and the Berry buildings, having the school's unofficial team sport being ultimate frisbee, my boys in percussion class, and band. -**Anna Marcelle**

I must say, there are many, but among some of the best, I will miss my Theater class! I love you guys! -**Brianna Soto**

Everyone being jealous of me. -**Marcus Richardson**

SOA is a secret special place, and only the people who have been there know this feeling, and that feeling is what I'll miss about SOA. -**Michael Steele**

I will miss **Amanda Jones** the most, I love you girl! I will definitely miss Visual Arts and **Mrs. Olson**. I will also miss hanging out with brisco in the courtyard during lunch. I will miss coming to my mom's room to escape during lunch. I love you Mom! -**Sara Tisdale**

All the "special" people. So many different energetic and friendly personalities in one place is rare. I consider myself truly blessed and lucky to learn and grow in such a nurturing artistic environment and have turned out the way I have. (That might be a good thing.) This melting pot of talent is very unique and I couldn't trade my years here for anything. -**Ben Pooser**



I am sure that this is cliché by now, but I will miss my friends and teachers that I have grown so close to over these past five years. -**Mary Antley**

Being in a class where I know everyone, art, **Mr. Moore, Greg**, the times in art with the guys, and all of the memories and the friends that I've made. -**Anna Mossman**

Mr. Kerr. He has helped me with every problem. He is full of endless advice that he is willing to share. "Can I live in the fort?" I don't want to leave! -**Stacie Millere**

The laughter, the music, the spirit, and the fun. -**Gabriela Smith**

The connection. We got to make friends with each other in sixth grade, and that continued to grow into being part of a second family; part of each other. Know that I love you. -**Amanda Jones**

Dr. Ball's fanny pack! Just kidding...I'll miss the close and warm atmosphere we have here. -**Tara Rivera**

I will miss the warm, friendly environment that SOA provided for me. Over the years, I made very close friends at SOA who I will miss dearly. SOA will always have a special place in my heart, and I will truly miss it. -**Nikita Johnson**

I'll miss a lot about this school...the people, the comradery, the environment...everything but these ghetto people yelling at me. -**Heath Richardson**

The people, and not just my friends:

the teachers, and other students. -**Eric Newman**

I will miss going to band and **Mrs. Kay** especially. Momma, I love ya! Thanks for everything **Mr. Kerr**. I'll miss you too

Mrs. Olsen. -**Karvelis Flowers**
I'll miss the intimacy. With a school so small, you really do become practically family. -**Amanda Thompson**

Mr. Wood's speech impediment and tendency to light himself on fire, watching a certain teacher flex his burn muscles in class, starting a feud with **Mr. Orvin**, and starting **Ms. Hamilton** on vehement rants. -**Emmy Harkins**



How well the entire class of 2004 gets along. -**Josh Vaughan**

Stumbling into first period two minutes later, talking myself out of being tardy, and then going back to sleep. -**Carrie Cummings**

It's hard to say what I'll miss the most. I love the environment here. You know almost everybody, and we can all be individuals instead of just one of the crowd. Hopefully next year will be the same, but I somehow doubt that. Above all I'll miss my friends. Being with the same people for 7 years has created some amazing friendships that I will miss so much. I can't imagine what theatre will be like next year without my class and **Mr. Wood**...but I can tell one thing, next year my theatre class won't be nearly as "close" as our class is this year (wink wink nudge nudge). -**Bessie Edwards**

The people that make it SOA. That includes... everyone. Probably I'll miss seeing the brother and semi-brother around. I'll miss hitting **Dan** off the sidewalk. Having **Capers** try to get me cheap food in the lunch line. Ditching **Robyn** for Elizabeth Bowers in PE and then telling Robyn that she doesn't match. Scrounging money, food, etc. with **Elizabeth Holmes**. **Carrie's** openness. **Emmy's** laugh. **Eva** singing the "fuzzyhead" song. Listening to **Chris** and **Ben** in the morning on the guitars... and **Tim's** brownies. -**Isabelle Selby**

Congratulations Emily Harkins

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&

Eva Sclippa

SOA 2004 Salutatorian

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Art Area Highlights

Piano Highlights 2003- 2004

As is the traditional beginning to each school year, the Piano department started off with their annual fall recital. Shortly thereafter, high schoolers **Ronald White**, **Jenna McSwain**, and **Sara Houser** prepared their ensemble version of Debussy's "La Cathedrale Engloutie" for Fantasia. Not wasting any time, **Mr. Clarke** scheduled his very first Jazz Cafe to showcase his side of the department in December. Luckily for the piano majors, things calmed down after those performances...at least until January.

Sara Houser and Jenna McSwain started the new year by competing in All-State Jazz. The first classical competition of the year, District auditions, took place on March 27th at Charleston Southern University. Here, **Jessie McGinty**, Ronald White, Sara Houser, and Jenna McSwain all competed to advance to state level. All received an outstanding, immediately qualifying them to compete in state auditions.



Solo & Ensemble, held at Lander University, was next up for the piano majors. Out of the twenty-seven students from the department that competed, thirty superior ratings and one excellent rating were earned. As if competitions and recitals weren't enough, some Piano majors

were given opportunities to perform in other settings.

Several students were accompanists to seniors for college auditions. Others accompanied for concerto competitions and in chamber ensembles. Jenna McSwain, Sara Houser, and **Mary Reed** (Strings major) performed as a Jazz trio for restaurants, art shows, business conferences, and luncheons. Representing the middle school Jazz department, **Grace Lee**, **Sally Liu**, **Brett Fornell**, **Zan Isgett**, **Jessie McGinty**, and **Bugs Utsey** also performed as a jazz combo.

All in all, the Piano department had an eventful year. If you missed the Spring recital and Jazz Brunch at Satchmo's, then be sure to see State winner, **Jessie Rumph**'s performance at graduation.

Dance Highlights 2003 - 2004

In dance this year, the middle school students were had many performances including their formal performance at the Sottile theater and another performed in the Black Box. The 7th grade was given the opportunity to study tap this year, and performed their first tap number in the Art Smart performance. The 6th grade performed a patriotic piece at Yorktown, and the 8th grade choreographed and performed their solo pieces. In high school the dancers worked on the second act of Swan Lake for Fantasia and their formal performance at Sottile Theater. The high school students were able to attend the Scapherd Convention in Myrtle Beach and the South Carolina Dance Association Festival in Columbia. The seniors also showcased both of their Senior Thesis pieces. The dance fund raiser was the Small Works auction at Sottile Theater where the dancers were able to raise 3, 000 dollars for scholarship money. All of the performance were wonderful this year and we hope next year will be just as enjoyable!

Strings Highlights 2003 -2004

The SOA High School strings has had an action packed year in 2003-2004. In September, seven cellists from SOA participated in the South Carolina Cello Choir. **Terrence Freeman** was selected to play at the master class and **Diego Villena** was selected to play in the advanced choir. In October the orchestra performed three benefit concerts for the Lutheran Hospice, The National Federation of Urban Schools and School District reception, and the North Charleston Victim's Assistance Benefit. Eighteen students were selected for the Lowcountry Region Orchestra, and three out of five first chair players were from SOA. In mid-November the orchestra teamed up with the band for the Fantasia performances, playing excerpts from Mozart's Requium, Swan Lake, and the Egmont Overture by Beethoven. Also in November, the Chamber Strings performed at the Gaillard Auditorium before the Charleston Symphony Masterworks concert. On December 15th they performed their Winter Concert at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church

In January they traveled the globe to Appallachian State University in Boone, North Carolina where they participated in a side-by-side study with their orchestra before spending an exciting day on the ski slopes. In February they performed Swan Lake with the dancers and nine students were selected to participate in the All-State Orchestra. On March 19th, the annual contra dance took place downtown with music provided by Anna's Bananas. In March they received straight superior ratings in the South Carolina Concert Festival. On April 21, the orchestra collaborated with the vocal majors in a performance of Mozart's Requium in its entirety at the Gaillard Auditorium. A few days later they went to Chattanooga, TN, to compete in the Grand National Adjudicator's Invitational where they received straight superior ratings once again. On May 6, they performed the Concerto Concert for Seniors at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, bringing an exciting and very busy year to an end.

"Some are destined to
succeed, but most are
determined to

succeed."
-Unknown

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Art Area Highlights

Vocal Highlights 2003 - 2004

This year the High School Vocal Department had a busy year. At the beginning of the year in September the Chamber Choir performed for the Charleston Exchange Club. The entire department also performed for the Vocal Booster Parents and the School of the Arts PTSA meeting. Then in October the Chamber Choir and Chorale performed for the Lutheran Hospice. Along with that performance there was also a show at Grace United Methodist Church, Saint Thomas Episcopal Church, and again at the PTSA meeting. In December there was a performance at Saint Thomas Episcopal Church. Then in January there was a performance for Prudential Carolina Reality. In February there was another performance for the Vocal Booster Parents and Charleston County Retired Teachers. In May the Chamber Choir and Chorale performed in the North Charleston Arts Festival and had their spring concert at Saint Mathew's Presbyterian Church.

The vocal department collaborated with the School of the Arts Symphony Orchestra on April 21 at the Gaillard Auditorium and performed Mozart's Requiem. The Chamber Choir also sang "O Magnum

Mysterium" for a modern dance performance. They also participated in five adjudicated events

over the last school year. For the All-County and All-State Choirs there were nearly 40 School of the Arts students in each. Two students, Tricia Ahearn and Colleen Cullinan, were selected for the National Concert Choir in San Francisco. Then for the Solo and Ensemble Festival the Women's Ensemble received three superior ratings and six superiors by soloists. The entire vocal department went to Chicago to compete in a national competition and both the Chamber Choir and Women's Ensemble received perfect scores and the Chorale received a 49 out of 50. At the festival of choirs, bands, and orchestras, School of the Arts won four of the nine superiors awarded.



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Art Area Highlights 2003 -2004

High School and Middle School Visual Arts Highlights

In October the following Visual Artists entered in the Coastal Carolina Fair. The winners from SOA include **Trey Williams** 11th, who received the first place merit award. **Quenby Keisler** 11th, **Lainey Harrison** 10th, and **Nicole Williams** 9th all received first place awards. **Greg Colleton** 12th was a second place winner. Third place winners include **Addie Brown** 10th, **Zach Collins** 8th, **Bradley Kennedy** 7th. 3-D 1st place and 2nd place overall winner was **Sklar Spies** 7th.



Bradley Kennedy

SOA Visual Artists also entered the Jr. Duck Stamp Competition. **Maddie Moore** 6th and **Kayla Watts** 6th both received first place. **Camille Pompeii** 8th received second place. **Brittany Wetzel** 6th received third place. Honorable Mentions include **Adrian Brown** 8th, **Kaitlyn Battistelli** 6th, **My Dao** 6th, **Alice Gatnor** 8th, **Toni Jenkins** 8th, and **Mac Rogers** 6th.

Sarah Haynes received third place in the Recycled Art Competition in January.

In February at the Sottile theater the MS and HS Visual artists had a mini gallery showing. In May both HS and MS had another art show at the Jewish Community Center in West Ashley.

In March, we had several winners in the Trident Tech "Quest" Art Contest. **Lainey Harrison** 10th and **Maddie Moore** 6th both received first place awards. **Eliza Morrison** 8th received second place.



Shelton Simmons

In the May North Charleston Arts Festival thirty MS and HS artworks were on display.

The Visual Arts field trips included the Costume Class trip to Hancock Fabrics for a fabric workshop. The Costume class and Costume Crew went to the N. Charleston Performing Arts Center to help with dress rehearsal and performances at "Fantasia." The 8th grade took a trip to the Gibbs Museum of Art to see the Red Grooms exhibit as well as going to the downtown Gallery Walk (Childrens' Museum tour and workshop with Ned Collins). In January,

the 6th graders attended the "Poets and Painters" workshop. In March, the Costume Class went to the Charleston Museum to see vintage clothing, vintage purses and quilt exhibits. High School Visual Artists travel to Europe in April, where they visit various cities in Italy (Lake Como, Assisi, Rome, Florence, Verona, and Milan). The Costume Class went to the Spoleto Costume and Set Design Work



shop at James Is. High for a backstage tour and dress rehearsal for "I Capuletti" at the Sottile Theater. In May the 8th graders go to Bull's Island Eco-Tour and sketching trip.

Several artists have met and visited the SOA students. Dana Meritt visited the 6th graders for Costume Design and make-up. the 6th graders also had a watercolor and portrait demonstration/workshop. Chuck Bates visited the 7th graders for Graphic Design workshop for Art Smart t-shirt designs. The 8th graders had many visits. These include: Bob Doster, SC sculptor-in-residence in April. At the N. Charleston Coliseum students were commissioned by the city of N.



Charleston to work with Doster to design a 12' stained glass steel oak tree sculpture. In conjunction with the N. Chas. Arts Festival, the sculpture will be permanently installed after April 30. For grades 6th through 8th, Nancy Rodriguez, Artist-in-residence will conduct a mandala workshop on May 17.

The following Visual artists were accepted into various art schools and summer programs. **Jessica Fink** 12th was accepted into Rhode Island School of Design for the next school year. **Amanda Jones** 12th was accepted into Chicago Institute of Art for the next school year. Three 11th grade Visual Artists were accepted into Maryland Institute College of Art's Summer Residence Program. They include, **Sam McMasters**, **Trey Williams**, who received a partial scholarship, and **Sarah Haynes**, who received a full scholarship. Many High School Visual artists will also be attending the Gifted and Talented program in the summer.



They include, **Sam McMasters**, **Trey Williams**, who received a partial scholarship, and **Sarah Haynes**, who received a full scholarship. Many High School Visual artists will also be attending the Gifted and Talented program in the summer.

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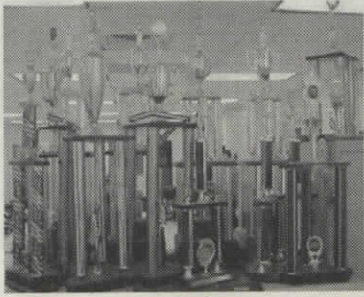


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Art Area Highlights 2003 - 2004

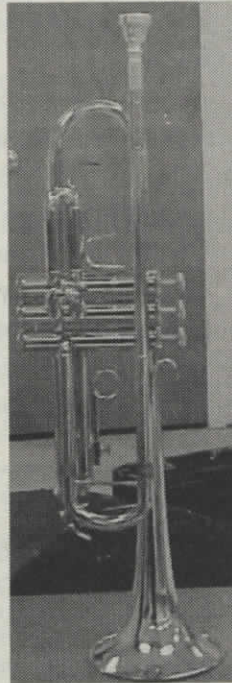
Band Highlights 2003 -2004



The School of the Arts band majors have had an action packed year in 2004-2005. The high school, under **Mr. Kerr**, received several high honors including superior ratings at the South Carolina Concert Festival and the South Carolina Jazz Ensemble Festival. In April the band traveled with the strings majors to Chattanooga, TN

to participate in the National Adjudicators Invitational Festival where they placed fifth out of sixteen bands and were awarded another superior rating. Eight students were selected to the All-State Jazz Ensemble, more students than any other school in the state. twelve students were invited to play in the All-State Band, including four first chair selections. Four students were invited to the All-State Orchestra, and seventeen students were selected to perform in the All-Region Band. Approximately 70% of the band was selected to either All-County, All-Region, or All-State Band. They received numerous superior ratings at the state solo and ensemble festival. Eight seniors have been accepted and are receiving music scholarships to many prestigious colleges.

The Middle School Band, under the instruction of **Mr. Singleton**, received superior ratings at the South Carolina Concert Festival and Dixie Classic Festival where they also were awarded the Outstanding Woodwinds Award. Three students were selected for the All-State Band. Eleven students were invited to the All-Region Band. They received numerous superior ratings at the Solo and Ensemble Festival. While participating in the South Carolina Band Directors Association they won the Outstanding Performance Award. Director Charlton Singleton was invited to conduct the 2005 Berkeley All-County Middle School Band.



Theater Highlights 2003 - 2004

This year was a great one for SOA's theater department. For the first time in three years the theater department took a trip. The trip was to Chattanooga for the South Eastern Theater Conference where the eleventh grade theater majors auditioned for college and the other theater majors attended all sorts of theater educational seminars. The theater majors two main touring acts were the Fighting Gnomes Improv Troupe and the show King Stag. The Fighting Gnomes this year included **Mark Heyward-Washington, Ben Pooser, Heath Richardson, Jenny Klieman, Brian Dobson, Jake Hennsy, Anna Freeman, Tabatha Deas, Jamie Hiers, and Paul Saylor**. The show King Stag was performed all over Charleston County elementary and middle schools by the theater students in the play.

This year the theater majors also had there best collective set of senior thesis yet. "The bar of how good senior thesis was supposed to be was elevated by this class" - **Mr Wood**. Below is a list of each senior and a brief description of what their show was about.

Ben Pooser	Con artist
Bessie Edwards	Lizzy Bordin
Emmy Harkins	The lives of the mentally handicapped
Nanci Cope	doing whatever it is that you need to do to reach your goals
Emory Frazier	Richard Pryor
Nikita Johnson	the rise, fall, and struggle of historic black women
Bea Heyward	covering up secrets in our past
Mark Heyward - Washington	corruption in the church
Mike Seabrook	the struggles of a black man
Eric Ling	corruption in the church
Heath Richardson	comedy act
Josh Vaughn	finding out who you truly are
Brianna Soto	the story of a woman race car driver

The theater department this year continued their annual Haunted House and raised over eight-hundred dollars. The theater department also had it's annual Conviction for the ninth through the eleventh grade in which the winners won prizes and awards.

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Anonymous
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Alanna de la Pena
Miss Deidre
Cris - tal
Adrin a.k.a Deluxe 247
Miss Mandy
Jonathan Platt
Lil Kate
Kathleen Newton
Hamid Williams
The Taliban Man
Shuffle Sagan

Art Area Highlights 2003 - 2004

Creative Writing Highlights 2003-2004

by Noelle Williams

This year the Creative Writing Department won many awards in local, regional, and national writing competitions. Scholastic Art and Writing Awards is the largest and oldest writing contest for young people in the United States. In the Regional Competition, the middle and high school Creative Writers received nineteen gold awards, that then moved on to compete at the national level. In addition they won ten silver awards and twenty-eight honorable mentions. All in all, creative writing won 56 Regional Awards. On the National level, **Eva Sclipa** won a silver award for her writing portfolio and **Rachel Lee** won a gold award for her personal essay/memoir, *The Art of Being Burned* and a silver award for her short story, *Go Ahead and Crave Me*. Both girls will receive their awards at Carnegie Hall on June 10.

In addition, this year the Creative Writers went to the Gibbes Museum of Art to participate in the Poets and Painters Contest. For this contest, students select a painting or sculpture from the Gibbes permanent collection, about which they compose a poem. 8th grader **Harry Harrison** won a Gold Award and was the top winner from the SOA middle school. Other middle school winners were 6th grader **Katie Drennan** who won a Gold Award and 8th grader **Jeffrey Cabiad** and 7th grader **Shannon McNellis** who both won Silver Awards. The top high school winner was Sophomore **Ashley Chaplin**. Sophomore **Anna DunLany** won a Gold Award along with Senior Eva Sclipa who won a Silver Award.

On the regional level forty-nine students won the Celebration of Young Poets Contest that included both North and South Carolina students. Their works were published in a hardbound anthology. Senior **Rachel Goldstein** was presented a monetary award for being one of the top ten winners in her age category, and 7th grader **Catie Donnelly** received a monetary award for being one of the top ten winners in her age group. In addition, because SOA had so many winners with exceptionally high merit in this contest, we received the Poetic Achievement Award of fall 2003.

The Creative Writers also entered the Reflections competitions, which is sponsored by the PTSA. This year's theme was "I am really happy when..." **Tedra Coakley**, **Caroline Rogers**, **Elizabeth Bowers**, **Sean Mackey**, and **Paul Kern** all won on the school level. Elizabeth Bowers won third place on the district level, and Tedra Coakley won first place on the state level. Tedra's piece, entitled "Afternoon in Harlem," went on to be one of the three Winners of Excellence in the national Reflections competition.

Finally, Rachel Goldstein competed in the Archibald Rutledge Scholarship contest. Each high school may send only a limited number of students; SOA only has one slot each art area. Rachel won a \$4,400 scholarship for her pieces which were excerpts

from her Senior Thesis. Since there is only one winner in the state, she will be the only one to move onto the national competition for South Carolina.

The Creative Writing Department also sponsored both middle and high school fall and spring literary readings, and the Senior Thesis Literary Reading was held on May 11 in the Black Box Theater. "Curiouser and Curiouser," this year's theme, was inspired by Lewis Carroll's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*. At the reading each student read a selection from her Senior Thesis, which was published by BookSurge in early May. Elizabeth Bowers' collection of poetry was entitled, "Thinking About Thinking: An Examination of Unconscious Habits." Ashley Burns wrote "A Place Called Reality," which is composed of a science fiction and a fantasy story. "Open: Poems of Reflection" was created by Tedra Coakley. Carrie Cummings fashioned the novel, "Evelyn Rice: The Siren Song." "No One Eats the Scales" is a collection of poetry based on love and was written by Rachel Goldstein. Eva Sclipa produced the novel "The Silver Branch" and "Caught in the Wind" is comprised of poems written by Amanda Thompson.

Creative Writer wins prestigious scholarship

Applause sat down with Rachel Goldstein, a senior creative writer who currently won the Archibald Rutledge Scholarship Competition.

When did you first hear about the Archibald Rutledge Scholarship contest?

I first heard about the Archibald Rutledge Scholarship contest when Mrs. Miles gave me the flyer.

Were you immediately interested?

Yes, I was immediately interested. It was scholarship money, who wouldn't be interested? Not to mention there wasn't an incredible amount of work involved, which would be right up my alley.

How did it feel to know that Mrs. Miles chose you for the competition?

I was honored to know that she chose me for the competition. It's always a good feeling to know that someone values your work.

What did you have to do to participate in the competition?

To participate in the competition I had to send in one poem along with a statement of intent and a documented process folio in which I included drafts of the poem with comments and critiques written on them from Mrs. Miles, peers, and my mentor Linda Ferguson. Then when I heard back from the scholarship competition I was required to bring with me a portfolio of no more than five pieces no longer than one page length. Once I turned that in I had to go into a conference room and was required to write one poem based on three prompts they had given me.

Describe the pieces that you submitted to the competition.

All the pieces that I submitted to the competition were from my thesis, which is based around a central theme, love. Once I had the opportunity to send in the five poems I was sure to include a wide range of topics, instead of poems that are centered around just romantic love or just poems about familial love.

Did you ever feel as if the works you submitted would not be good enough for the competition?

I didn't really know what to expect from the other contestants. I'm always confident in my abilities as a writer but I had no way of knowing what kinds of talent I was up against, so I didn't know what to think.

Were you surprised to find out about being a finalist for the competition?

I was excited more than surprised. I had kind of forgotten about it, until I saw a letter in the mail.

When you were on your way to Columbia, did you feel nervous?

I wasn't nervous on my way to Columbia. I did get nervous once I was actually there and saw how many people I was competing against and that the judges were mostly male. I thought that would count against me since my poetry was all about love. Obviously I was wrong.

When were you first notified that you won for the state?

I was first notified at the awards ceremony they held at the Rutledge building in Columbia. They selected a first and second runner up then a winner.

Did this come as a shock to you?

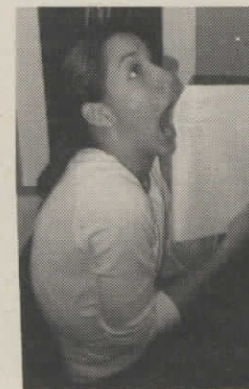
It wasn't really a shock, just exciting.

Looking back, do you think that any of your experiences at SOA helped you to do well in the competition?

Of course all of my experience at SOA have helped me as a writer. One of the things I realized there was how lucky we are to have the programs we do. We not only develop our talents but we learn how to visually place poems and stanzas, the aesthetic aspects of poetry as well as the talent side of it. I think anyone coming from SOA in those types of competitions has the upper hand automatically just from the backgrounds and the privileges of having the gifted and extremely helpful teachers we have. I don't think a lot of people realize how lucky we are to be where we are.

Would you consider this to have been a good experience for you?

Of course it was a good experience. I mean who wouldn't say that about making 4,000 dollars? Mostly, I think the biggest reward is knowing that people enjoy and value my work outside of SOA, outside of my comfort zones. That gives me hope that maybe my work can stand on its own one day in the real world.



Congratulations, Class of 2004

Brian Black



Congratulations! We are so proud of you. All of the possibilities of life lie ahead - follow your dreams!

**Love,
Mom, Dad, Scott, Eric, and Keith**

Elizabeth Bowers



Use the talents you possess; for the woods would be very silent if no birds sang except the best.

**Love
Momma and Sarahann**

Eva Sclipa



**Eva still tops!
Love Mama and Daddy**

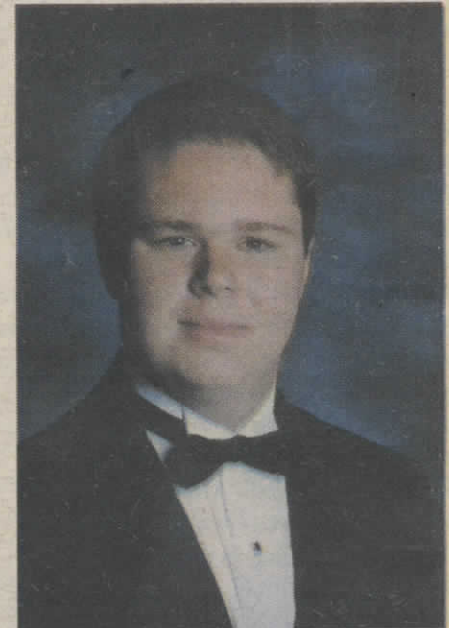
Marian Earle Margiotta



Let your talents live through you. Music and art are special gifts; use them to become the wonderful person I already know you are.

**Love,
Mom**

Chris Polk



**Your Family is Very Proud of You,
and We Wish You Great Success.**



Jessie Rumph

Jessie, Living on an island, we are blessed with a life that is different from most. Sometimes our life seems like a hurricane, hurrying us along and pushing us too fast. But on an island, we go with the currents, plan around the tides, and follow the sun... remembering the great value occasionally doing nothing. When you are away in Nashville have a wonderful time but, keep in mind that life on our island is good. Remember your way home.

We love you.

