

Applause

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The School of the Arts Graduating Class of 2005

Editor's Page



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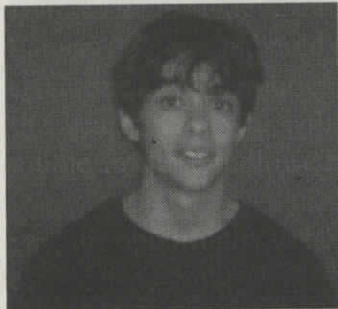
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A note from the editors

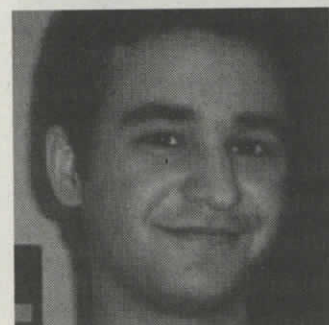


This forty-eight page paper is the result of many, many hours of hard work by myself, Lane, Noelle, the *Applause* staff writers, and the most dedicated person of all, Casey. We hope you enjoy this issue, which gives all the seniors the chance to express themselves one final time before graduation. As we leave this colorful cage to flap our wings in the whirlwind of society, I hope that everyone enjoys themselves in life. Steer away from worry, and

always remember to take it easy.



Well this is it, my last year of high school and the last *Applause* I will ever have the honor to edit. We have all worked hard here at *Applause* to bring you the final issue of the school year and we hope you enjoy it immensely. While I will miss SOA very much, I am off like many of my fellow seniors to experience new and different things, and that, my friends, is an exciting feeling. Congratulations to all the graduates and good luck in your future endeavors. I will miss you all!



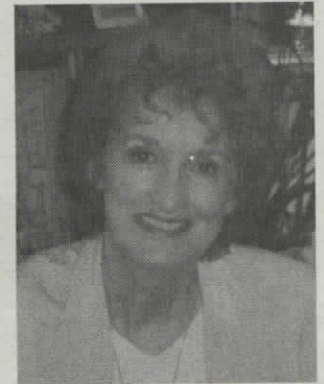
I am honored to have been able to edit and design the news and feature pages of this massive, record-breaking *Applause* graduation issue. For those not graduating (like my junior self), come September, you will be bombarded with a new wave of some seriously-high class editions. As one of the editors for next year's *Applause*, I intend to use the skills I learned while working on this issue to bring the *Applause* to an even higher level of glory. An SOA

journalistic revolution is on the horizon! Do you read me? Prepare for more pizzazz from your paper! Until then, enjoy this issue and have a fantastical summer.

Omi Naderi

A message from our principal

You are ready to take flight and continue your journey toward your destinies. Your flight plans will surely change as you gain greater insights into who you are, your strengths and your opportunities. Your talents are strong, and you have made great strides to develop not only your talents but also your individual personality. I congratulate you for your accomplishments thus far and look forward to your future achievements and the differences you will each make in this world.



Sincerely,
Rose Marie Myers

A word from our assistant principals

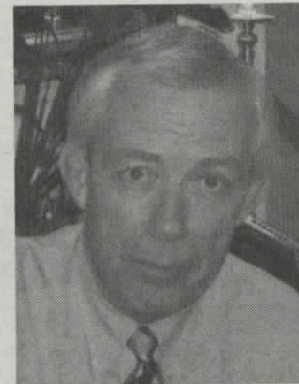
Congratulations to a fantastic Senior Class!

What a joy and pleasure it was to watch your commitment to SOA. Your desire to achieve the best in yourselves will always be remembered. Never forget all the special times and memories you had at SOA. As the years pass, you will greatly appreciate your time in these hallowed halls.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to be a part of your Senior Year.

Best of Luck to You,

Roy Davis



To the Class of 2005:



You have a style and personality all your own. You will be remembered at SOA as artists, dancers, musicians, writers, and actors who lived their art. You have big talents and even bigger hearts. As you have matured, you have helped SOA mature.

Thank you for choosing to be a part of the magic that is School of the Arts. Good luck on your way to great things. I'll miss you all!

Myrna Caldwell

A note from our Applause advisor

It has been gratifying for me to read through these pages and hear what a fulfilling experience our seniors have enjoyed at the School of the Arts. But what's more gratifying is to hear *them* acknowledge it. Too often great privileges -- such as the privilege to study, perform, or teach at a school as incredible as the School of the Arts -- are taken for granted. This is not the case with our seniors, as these pages attest. And I will take the liberty to represent all of us at SOA in saluting its founder and tireless advocate of arts education, Mrs. Rose Maree Myers, for making it possible for us to send yet another group of well-rounded, dignified, clear-thinking *individuals* out into the world. Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote "To be great is to be misunderstood." If one does not *understand* the value of an SOA education, which Mrs. Myers' selfless dedication continues to make available to Charleston County, let him take a look at SOA's Class of 2005.

Sincerely,
John Cusatis, Ph.D.

Senior Survey

What is the most important thing you've learned at SOA?

I've learned so many important things at SOA. Everything happens for a reason. People change. Friends change. You change. It's okay! I also learned not to underestimate myself but to have faith and persevere. -**Shannon Gaetke**

That almost every single person is a comic genius.- **Ashley Coon**

An advanced appreciation for the diversity that is found in the people around me.- **Cameron Ulmer**

How to be myself even when everyone is watching.- **Ryan Graudin**

The most important thing I have learned at SOA is to be respectful and open to all students' ideas and opinions - **Ronald White**

Everyone is different. -**Philip Lipton**

Being different means you have more to learn from everyone around you, it doesn't make you "incompatible" with others. - **Elana Kraft**

That the words "due date" mean just get it in sometime in the next month, or in the cafeteria, if you can't tell what type of meat it is, just stick it with the chicken sandwich. -**Jake Hennessey**

Sopranos have more fun. Pj's are acceptable any and every day. Being "normal" is so overrated. - **Ashley Taylor**

Crazy people are more interesting. Accept everyone for who they are. Quiet people are apparently evil.- **Kayleigh Fort**

I've learned that if you want something you must work hard to get it, and that is how we have made it here today. We worked our butts off to get through, and now we're SENIORS and we can see our high-school days coming to an end. As we approach the finish-line we will soon have the satisfaction of knowing that WE FINALLY DID IT! - **Tricia Ahearn**

People are always there for you. -**Jason Basile**

In your art, what you mean is inconsequential when weighed with how the people interpret it. - **Frederick Hiers**

Do the best that you can do and you will always succeed. -**Hannah Metivier**

It's okay to be different; Be yourself. -**Stacy Tokarczyk**

Drawing techniques. -**Thomas Tanner**

That you don't have to be smart to be a 12th grade male math teacher. - **Josh Jordain**

The most memorable thing that I have learned at SOA would probably be that people aren't what they seem. -**Paige Goodwyne**

It's important to understand who you really are. Understanding and accepting yourself is the first step in great undertakings. - **Korinna Sheahan**

How to write a research paper. - **Paige Schaberg**

Some people will never be able to grasp the concept that everyone will like them. - **Tanyesha Sumpter**

Don't let your business out because it will get around within a day. Annoy your enemies because it's very fun. - **Kala Ward**

Never take anything too seriously. - **Dustin Davis**

Always be yourself and don't take things so seriously. - **Amanda Derodo**

You will succeed if you have a good attitude. Do your homework. - **Angela Hood**

Don't trust just anyone and tell anyone your business unless you want the whole world to know. Some of your closest friends aren't really your friends at all. But I've learned to make the best out of everything and look on the bright side. - **Michael Robinson**

I've learned to be myself. I've learned that you can do anything you put your mind to. I've learned to have confidence in myself. I had and still do have the hardest time learning that all people won't accept you, but to be truthful and honest with myself. - **Ava Hill**

That friends will come and go, but momma Roper will always be there to say "Everything will be O.K.!" - **Jocelyn Roper**

If you want to be successful there is no room to slack off in high school. SOA exposes you to many opportunities but if you don't take advantage of them, you've wasted a good education. The only person who determines your future is you, not your teachers, not your friends, you. -**Trey Williams**

That I love chemistry, it helped me decide what to major in at college! - **Kristen Young**

The most important things I've learned at SOA would be to make friends with everyone, because SOA is a small school and it's real easy to do. Another thing I've learned is to be yourself because at this school diversity is popularity. - **Ryan Crawford**

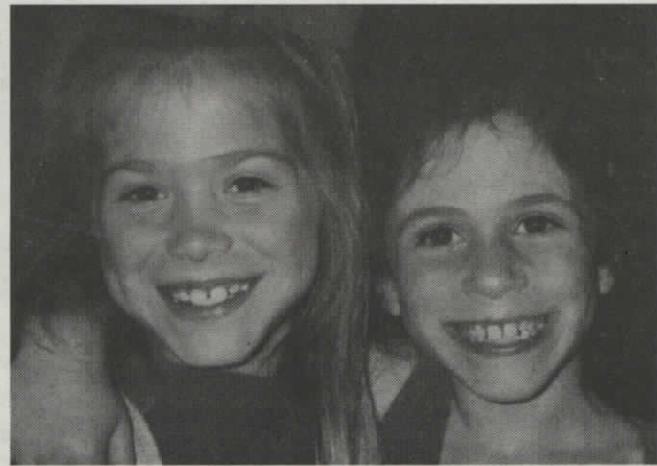
Trust and appreciate the value of true friendship. - **English Tompkins**

How to think out-side the bubble and see it all from every possible and impossible angle. Oh FIVE! - **Ashlyn Blakey**

Grab life by the horns and take it for a ride. -**Austin T. Dukes**

Be yourself and be confident. It's so much easier to live your life not worrying about what other people think. - **Leah Crooks**

Art - **Sam McMasters**



Senior Survey

I learned a lot about respect. There are a lot of different people that go to this school, and if we are going to make this a good learning environment, we have to have respect. - **Oneka Delancy**

1 - To stay on top of the game, never fall back

2 - Enjoy highschool while you can. Don't let people stand in your way

3 - Be appreciative of what you have, you never know what you got until it's gone. - **Rachel Patrick**

The most important things I've learned are that hard work pays off and that it is good to be confident in yourself. - **Noelle Williams**

Finish everything you start and don't take things too seriously. - **Katie Parvin**

Who cares about what your wearing or how your hair and makeup look - if you like it, do it. - **Lindsay Hood**

I have learned to speak my mind and to have fun. Also, to be relaxed and be myself. - **Angela Wade**

Don't make Mr. Anderson angry. - **Lane Elsey**

Always trust your instincts. If you feel something is wrong or you can't trust someone, then don't do it. - **Ayuna Gordon**

Always have a teacher for 1st period that doesn't care if you're late; if you act like you know what you're doing you can get away with anything; don't say bad words around the middle schoolers; push your teachers buttons but still find ways to make them like you. - **Jenny Kleiman**

I've learned the importance of good character and open-mindedness. -

Sarah Johnston

Don't tell Sam what you hate. - **Casey O'Neill**

Being different means you have more to learn from everyone around you, it doesn't make you "incompatible" with others. - **Elana Kraft**

Don't take anything too seriously, which I'm still learning how to do. - **Sarah Haynes**

A place can feel like home even if you've only been there a year. - **Kaitlyn Flanagan**

I've learned how to be an individual without compromise...and SOLFEDGE! - **Liz Eckbreth**

Although you may be AT school, there is still a way to avoid it. - **Tyson Cantwell**

There is a certain elevated knowledge that one acquires from an SOA education. While many who have never experienced the-true SOA may see this as conceit or immaturity, they are way off the mark...we're crazy. SOA has taught me to see through a child's eyes, and there is nothing more beautiful than being yourself no matter what. Without SOA, I would have no idea what it is to drop expectations and let the real me shine through. - **Jeanne Albinger**

I've learned that you have to be yourself and don't take everything too seriously. - **Sam Danna**

You'll survive longer if you keep quiet. To have a cool relationship with your teachers because you may need them along the way. - **Nisha Brown**

MAKE JAN EVANS YOUR BEST FRIEND. If not, don't be late. - **Josh Smoak**

Not to tell your business to anyone. Don't trust anyone because everyone doesn't mean you well. - **Tynesha Chandler**

How to read and understand music. - **Taylor Schaberg**

Be yourself and don't worry about what other people think about you. - **Leah Crooks**



Be nice to everyone because you might have to run for senior class president. - **Yaeger Deas**

It takes a long time to become the person you want to be. - **Lindsay Funderburk**

How to be an individual. - **Jonathan Hershenson**

What quote do you want SOA to remember you by?

"Faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see." (Hebrews 11:1) - **Shannon Gateke**

"I'm working on it." -

Paige Goodwyne

"I will find my life by losing it, and maybe I'll get abducted by aliens, but I'm pretty sure I won't" - **Joshua Jourdain**

"It's okay to be different; be yourself" -

Stacey Tokarczyk

"Good hygiene is top notch." - **Cameron Ulmer**

"The Light shines in the Darkness, and the Darkness has not overcome it." (John 1:5) - **Ryan Graudin**

"Humor is your own smile surprising you in the mirror" (Langston Hughes) - **Hannah Metivier**

"Wit is nothing more than educated insolence-Aristotle" - **Fredrick Hiers**

"Genius is one percent inspiration, ninety-nine percent perspiration-Thomas Edison" - **Jason Basile**

"Music is the joy of life!" - **Tricia Ahearn**

"May you live all the days of your life." (Jonathan Swift) - **Ronald White**

"Why be normal? It's more fun to be crazy." - **Kayleigh Fort**

"Did anyone ever tell you how beautiful you look when you're looking for what's beautiful in someone else?" (Barbara Johnson) - **Ashley Taylor**

"Shuffling through these hallowed walls, with buckets of liquid sunshine, whether it be mopping in the glory of morning's dew, or refilling the urinal cake in the still of the evening, there is no God that walks among men quite like the unsung hero, the janitor." - **Jake Hennessy**

"I'm too school for cool." - **Philip Lipton**

"I came, I saw, I conquered." - **Austin Dukes**

"Don't be a speculator, find it out for yourself." - **Ashlyn Blakey**

"Holla-lujah" "Crunk" - **Liz Eckbreth**

"I am but mad north-west. When the wind is southerly, I know a hawk from a handsaw." - **Kaitlyn Flanagan**

"Love conquers all." - **Inglish Tompkins**

"Seven years, conquered fears, no tears" - **Ryan Crawford**

"I'll never be old because my last name's Young" - **Kristin Young**

"Those who make the worst use of thier time most complain of its shortness" - **Trey Williams**

"You have one life to live, live it to the fullest, and remember to take chances!" - **Jocelyn Roper**

"The best thing that you could ever do is be yourself, no matter what the circumstance. Don't take a chance for anyone, it makes you weak in the end." - **Ava Hill**

"If at first you don't succeed, cheat, repeat until caught, then lie." - **Kala Ward**

"If you talk to God, you are praying, if God talks to you, you have schizophrenia." (Thomas Szasz, The Second Sin) - **Dustin Davis**

That's strong. - **Sam Danna**

"I love you." - **Josh Smoak**

"Hated by many, confronted by none." - **Tynesha Chandler**

"Jump on the bus/ Come with us/ They'll be no fuss/ Just jump on the bus./ Please no lust/ What's just is just/ On the bus." (Ryan Crawford) - **Taylor Schaberg**



Senior Survey



Patrick

"I, Oneka, aka Akeno, aka Juundie B have many names, but I'll only Represent one class...OH FIVE!" -**Oneka Delancy**

"How happy is the blameless vestals lot, the world forgetting by the world forgot." -**Sam McMasters**

"You gotta do what cha gotta do, Aye?" -**Leah Crooks**

"I just happen to like apples and I'm not afraid of snakes." (Ani Difranco) -**Lane Elsey**

"Mrs. Awkerman-Earmuffs!" -**Shawn Jordan**

"Support wild life, throw a party!" -**Jenny Kleiman**

"Never come to a point in life where you are unable to laugh, and never limit your laughter to a certain class, subject, or moment. Laugh at your friends, your enemies-Never discriminate. For all men are created equally stupid." -**Ashton Coons**

"Care about everything, worry about nothing." -**Ben Forney**

"Attitude is everything" -**Elana Kraft**

"If you wanna be somebody, if you wanna go somewhere, you better wake up and pay attention." -**Leah Crooks**

Some situations are mighty, others are strong... this has definitely been STRONG!- **Yaeger Deas**

As the light changed from red to green to yellow and back to red again, I sat there thinking about life. Was it nothing more than a bunch of honking and yelling? Sometimes it seemed that way. (Jack Handy) - **Casey O'Neill**



"I am ready to go!" -**Angela Hood**

"Life may be hard, people may not understand you but hold your head up high, stand tall and let haters hate." -

Michael Robinson

"Some of you loved me, some of you hated me, and for this I love you all."

-**Tanyesha Sumpter**

"Laugh as much as possible." -**Katie Parvin**

"Live life to its fullest." -**Angela Wade**

"Y'all!" -**Lindsay Hood**

"You must do the thing you think you can not do." -**Noelle Williams**

"A true friend is the greatest of all blessings, and the one, that we take least care of all to acquire." -**Rachel**

What are your plans after graduation?



After graduation I plan on enjoying my summer by participating in a musical, going to New Orleans for a week, and spending as much time as I possibly can with my friends and family. I will be attending the Honors Program at the College of Charleston as a biology major starting in the Fall 2005. Hopefully I will later be able to transfer to MUSC and become a pediatric occupational therapist.- **Shannon Gateke**

Couch surf over the summer and travel to Europe and the US West for the first time ever. I also want to go to C of C for a year, then go to some other college.- **Ashley Coons**

Music major and honors student at

the College of Charleston. - **Cameron Ulmer**

I'm attending the Honors College at College of Charleston. I plan to continue writing while at the college. After college I'm considering going on short term missions to Newcastle, Australia.- **Ryan Graudin**

My plans after graduation are to attend Berry college and move back to Charleston where I will reside on Isle of Palms as a private Investigator.-

Paige Goodwyn

Attending C of C in the fall, rooming with Katie P! -**Stacey Tokarczyk**

Go to missionary school, become a missionary, get married, have children, invest in maple syrup, get old, die. - **Joshua Jourdain**

Go to Winthrop University, get a degree in Communications, and travel for a while. - **Hannah Metivier**

College and Grad School.- **Frederick Hiers**

Attend Furman University, go to parties, find a girl, figure the rest out later. -**Jason Basile**

I will be attending American University in the fall and this summer I will be spending 3 weeks in Australia.- **Mariel Conway**

I plan on attending the University of South Carolina School of Music in the fall as a voice performance major and then it's off to Grad School. -

Tricia Ahearn

I hope to attend Emory University and pursue careers in science, math and music.- **Ronald White**

After Vacation I'm going to Winthrop to learn to be a teacher. - **Kayleigh Fort**

Follow the plan that God has prepared for my life to the best of my ability. (Tentative plans to major in broadcast journalism)- **Ashley Taylor**

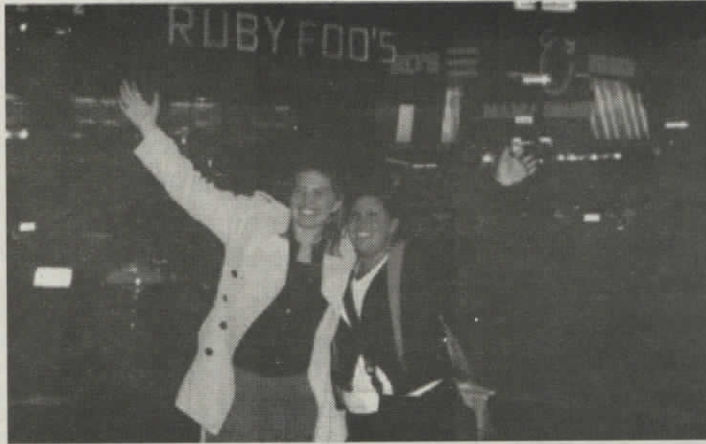
Going to college of Charleston, try to play music, invent a flying carpet, raise a multibillion dollar company and buy the moon. . .yes, the entire moon, and use a laser to engrave my face on it. - **Jake Hennessey**

Gonna work, surf, sleep, eat, learn and love. - **Phillip Lipton**

I plan to work all summer so that I can have enough money to travel around the world. Sure, I'm going to college as well, but I want to see what else is out there. - **Austin T. Dukes**

Party hard all summer and get ready for college. OH FIVE! - **Ashlyn Blakey**

Senior Survey



school!- **Kristen Young**

My plans after graduation are to attend Atlanta College of art where I will receive my Bachelors and then go on and graduate school for my masters. After busting my @\$\$, my future as a fine artist or any other branches will be visible. -**Trey Williams**

More school. - **Sam McMasters**

Live my life to the fullest and live my dream of being an artist. Also going to college so that I can make something of myself. - **Oneka Delancy**

My plans after graduation are to attend UNC Charlotte to get a masters in nursing as a physician's assistant, specializing in mid-wifery. - **Rachel Patrick**

I plan to go to USC - off to college like everyone else. -**Noelle Williams**
Still undecided. . . Hopefully I will be traveling with Nathan. - **Lindsay Hood**

Go to college and become a nurse. - **Angela Wade**

I'll begin classes in the fall at Loyola University in New Orleans (yeah!) Most likely I'll major in communications and minor in theatre. After that, I'm taking over the world.- **Korinna Sheahan**

College - **Paige Schaberg**

A couple of weeks after graduation I'm going to Europe to visit family and friends for three weeks. Then relaxing for the rest of the Summer and in the fall going to The College of Charleston and rooming with Stacey T. - **Katie Parvin**

After graduation I plan to attend Winthrop University and from there to start my [. . .]- **Tanyesha Sumpter**

I plan to move to Los Angeles and pursue my dance, acting, and singing career. Basically being a triple threat, and famous. - **Michael Robinson**

Attending Winthrop University and majoring in accounting. - **Angela Hood**

Super-Human Vigilante or James Bond.

- **Dustin Davis**

Go to college and live my life.- **Kala Ward**

I plan to go to L.A. to meet an agent who will hopefully help me with my major,



The summer after school gets out will involve being with my closest of friends, staying out late, packing for college and starting over at USC upstate. - **Ryan Crawford**

I am going to USC-upstate to study Pre-Pharmacy then I'll be on to Med-

music theatre. I then will attend Coastal Carolina Univ. - **Ava Hill**
My plan after graduation is to attend University of North Carolina at Greensboro. I plan to major in sociology with a concentration in criminology, and hopefully I will become a spirited teammate on the Spartan Cheerleading Squad. - **Jocelyn Roper**

I'm going to Hawaii to visit family for three weeks. - **Shawn Jordan**

College. - **Lane Elsey**

After graduation I plan to relax for a couple of months.- **Ayuna Gordon**

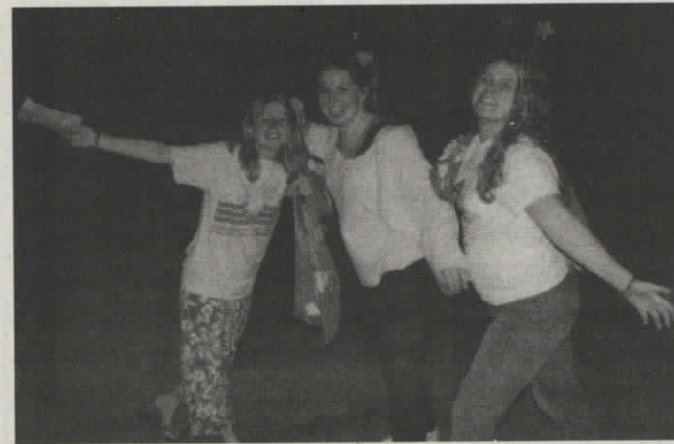
I'm going to play professional basketball for the Boston Celtics. - **Ben Forney**

Go to the University of Colorado at Boulder and study theatre. In the meantime, try not to get into too much trouble and learn how to snowboard. - **Jenny Kleiman**

I plan to have a fun summer and then attend Columbia College. - **Sarah Johnston**

To attend the University of Rochester and from there, figure out what I want to do with my life.- **Elana Kraft**

Move out, travel, try to chill out, hopefully I won't plan things out too much. - **Sarah Haynes**



Going to college and getting an apartment. We'll see how long both last.- **English Tompkins**

The summer after school gets out will involve being with my closest of friends, staying out late, packing for college and starting over at USC up-

state. - **Ryan Crawford**

I am going to USC-upstate to study Pre-Pharmacy then I'll be on to Med-school!- **Kristen Young**

College. -**Jonathan Hershenson**

Go to College of Charleston Honors. -**Lindsay Funderburk**

College of Charleston here I come. -**Yaeger Deas**

I'm going to go to Spartanburg Methodist College for 2 years and then go to College of Charleston. -**Leah Crooks**

Going to Wisconsin to eat cheese and freeze. -**Taylor Schaberg**

Go to college, live, and die. -**Tynesha Chandler**

You know... -**Josh Smoak**

During the summer I'm working, and hanging out with people. Then in the fall I'm going up to Clemson. -**Sam Danna**

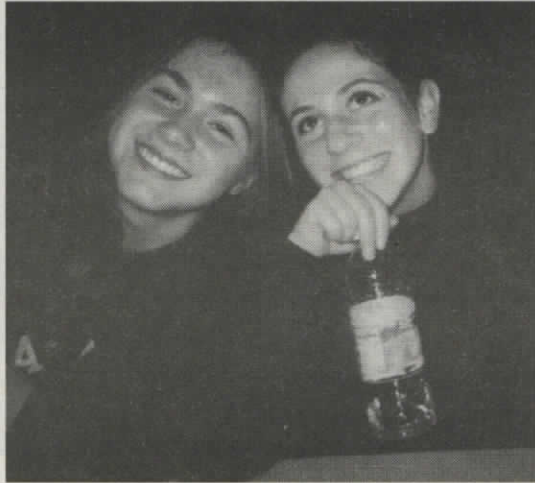
I'm joining the competitive eating league in order to eat my way to fame and fortune. - **Casey O'Neill**



Senior Survey

What advice do you have for underclassmen?

Life is stressful. That's a given. Just deal with it the best you can, one day at a time. If you worry too much, you'll miss out on all the beautiful things



life has to offer, but don't slack off! And SMILE as much as possible. You may never know the impact it had on someone's day. - **Shannon Gateke**

Just slack off some...- **Ashley Coons**

Don't be discouraged if you don't end up where you had hoped you would be. - **Cameron Ulmer**

Be yourself in every circumstance... always seek the truth even if it isn't the "popular" thing to do. - **Ryan Gaudin**

Respect the senior class because you will want and expect it when you are a senior. - **Hannah Metivier**

Don't stare janitors in the eye, it dishonors them and they must kill your extended relatives to save face. - **Joshua Jordain**

Try to get teacher monitor classes and early outs. If you're a senior, try to park in the senior parking lot, because if you don't then you'll have to wait for the buses to leave.- **Stacey Tokarczyk**

My advice for underclassmen is that no matter how much life throws at you, an education is the most important thing. I know you have heard this over and over and you probably want to beat the next person that tells you in the face, but it's that important. No matter what your plans are for the future, an education, at least a diploma, is absolutely necessary to keep your plans firm. Think of how far you've come. Do you really want to just throw all of that to the wind? All of those years, just for nothing? If you do, it means they won. When you walk across that stage, it means you won. - **Paige Goodwyne**

Don't drink the water.- **Frederick Hiers**

Try to have fun your senior year because you can't go back. Help one another. -**Nisha Brown**

I AIN'T GOT NONE. -**Josh Smoak**



Just have fun. Don't get caught up in the moments of high-school. - **Jason Basile**

Work hard, college will be here before you know it. - **Mariel Conway**

Meet all your deadlines, do all your work, and DON'T BE SLACK! - **Tricia Ahearn**

Don't give up, strive to do your very best.- **Ronald White**

Try to get along, school is a lot more fun when the entire class is friends.- **Kayleigh Fort**

The only new thing that you will hear around here are new rumors and if one comes your way, take it for what it is. . .BS. Get to know every person by who they are, not who people say they are. Regret nothing except a wasted opportunity to be kind. - **Ashley Taylor**

Don't worry about what anyone thinks. Be yourself and you'll be happier. - **Jake Hennessey**

Don't take school TOO seriously. - **Phillip Lipton**

Do what you think is best and don't always be only about yourself. Also, be cool and stay in school. - **Austin T. Dukes**

When class of '05 is present you better bow down. OH FIVE! - **Ashlyn Blakey**

Take full advantage of being a senior. Enjoy your last year and do what you want, don't worry what others think. -**English Tompkins**

Advice for all underclassmen, always be yourself, never conform to others, love what you do and always have fun doing it. - **Ryan Crawford**

There is always time to have fun just make sure it's the appropriate time.- **Kristen Young**

Don't take too many classes if you want to keep your sanity. - **Kaitlyn Flanagan**

The reputation you make for yourself will carry through-out high school. Think about what you want to be known for. - **Liz Eckbreth**

Enjoy your high school years now because they go by quickly. -**Tynesha Chandler**

Have lots of good, clean fun. -**Lindsay Funderburk**



Senior Survey

Worrying about what other people are thinking is time consuming--don't waste that precious time when you can be something that will create more meaning in your life.- **Elana Kraft**



Having good grades makes life easier. Study really hard until you're a Junior, then have a relaxing Senior year with a lot of scholarship opportunities because you've worked so hard. - **Sarah Haynes**

Even though you may possess a great talent, and it's got you into SOA, you still need to apply yourself in your academics just as hard. You've proved what you can do at SOA, but that's only one step in a long line of things to come. That talent exposes you to great opportunities, but without a strong foundation that talent can only get you so far. - **Trey Williams**

If you want to go to a decent college, don't slack off at school like I did. It helps to study.- **Leah Crooks**

Take your time. Patience is a really important virtue. - **Sam McMasters**

Pay attention to your teachers and get to know your classmates before it's too late. Time is short.

- **Oneka Delancy**

My advice would be enjoy life, never give up, follow your dreams because once you're a senior, that's it. - **Rachel Patrick**

I don't think there is any advice I can give to help you get through high school. I guess you should do things the way you always have. -

Noelle Williams

Have fun and don't be in a hurry to get out of school, because before you know it, it will be over. David hood is hot stuff, but if anyone messes with my boy, I'll be back. - **Lindsay Hood**

Don't slack off. Work your hardest and be true to yourself - **Angela Wade**

Respect the seniors! You'll appreciate it when you become one. Work hard because the satisfaction of graduating is unlike any other. But also remember to live it up!! You only go through high-school once. -**Korinna Sheahan**

Enjoy yourselves- **Paige Schaberg**



make everyone else associates. - **Tanyesha Sumpter**

Stay true to yourselves. Don't let anyone or teacher walk over you, and stay real. - **Michael**

Robinson

It's not as bad as you think.- **Angela Hood**

Do your work, don't stress too much about grades, and have fun.- **Amando Derodo**

Make friends with your teachers.- **Dustin Davis**

Have fun as much as possible

because your years here will go by fast. - **Kala Ward**

Take advantage of every event your senior year because every event is your last event as a high-school student. - **Ava Hill**

My advice for underclassmen is to hit the books hard from the beginning!

You will have plenty of opportunities to go out and have fun, and party, party, party, but it's what you do in the classroom and at home that will determine your future. -

Jocelyn Roper

Always have an extra pair of boxers. You never know when you'll need them. - **Shawn Jordan**

Wear your bookbag on both shoulders, and run. . .fast. - **Lane Elsey**

Always be yourself, no matter what people think of you.- **Ayuna Gordon**

Make a list of every book you've ever read. - **Ben Forney**

Nobody cares what you look like in the morning so don't waste your time looking for things like outfits, or high heels, or matching whatever. . .sleep the extra 30 minutes. - **Jenny Kleiman**

Be glad that you're at SOA. It's so much better than a 'normal' school. - **Sarah Johnston**

DO NOT SLACK OFF!! The worst feeling to have is the fear of not passing a class for the year. College requirements are strict so get to work! -**Leah Crooks**

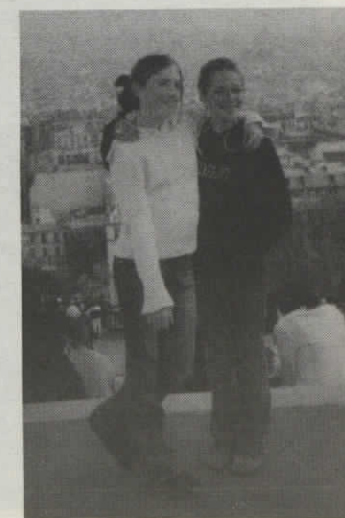
Leave right now!!... Just kidding, I would say take advantage of all of the opportunities that will be presented to you in high school because they are like pennies. They add up to make dollars. -**Yaeger Deas**

Grow up! -**Jonathan Hershenson**



Try to get early outs! Be organized with your college application stuff and don't wait until the last minute. - **Katie Parvin**

When you find what you consider to be true friends, keep them and



Featured Artist

A KNIGHT'S TALE

AN INTERVIEW WITH THE UNDISCOVERED RAP GROUP OF SOA

by Omi Naderi

Today I'm here with the Righteous Knights, SOA's best-kept underground rap secret.

"Tell us about your awesome rap group that's breaking new grounds." The interview with the Knights has just begun.

Matty B., a.k.a. **Matthew Bostick**, begins to explain: "Oh, we're breakin' all kinds of grounds. You know, like cement, wood floor, marble—whatever you got, we're gonna break it; you know what I'm sayin'?"

There is much laughter.

"Well, our rap group recently started earlier this year when we all signed up for music tech," Bon Oui, a.k.a. **Jonothon Brunson**, informs, "And we were like, 'Hey, why don't we do something, fun, exciting, and enjoyable.' So we came up with the Righteous Knights."

"That's a hot name, by the way," I comment.

One member, J.T.-\$, a.k.a. **John Tolbert**, chimes in to say something in the background.

"J.T.-\$, shut up. That's our J.T.-\$—he's always tryin' to increase his shine value by hittin' on every song, every everything."

"He thinks he's a better rapper because he lives downtown. But don't tell anyone. Don't tell anyone," warns Bon Oui.

"Are there any new albums we can expect to see released in the near future?" I ask.

"Yeah, we got our *Bang Bang*, produced by J. Storm (a.k.a. **Johnny Knight**) and **Dominick Palmer** (who is rap nameless). That's something they're about to drop. And we're tryin' to keep J.T.-\$ off all tracks."

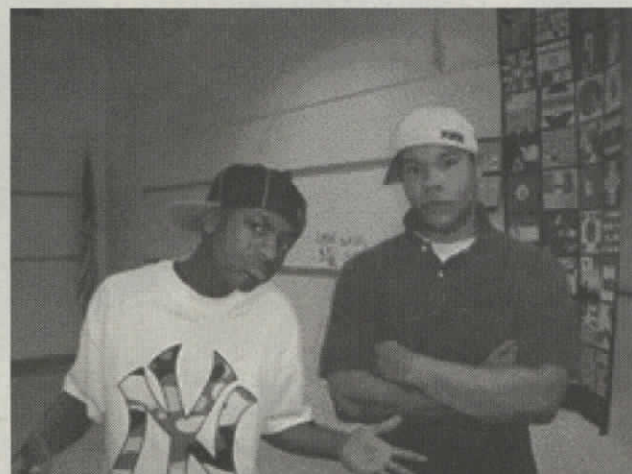
"So are you getting any attention from the chicks for this great music you're making?" Bon Oui bluntly says, "No. Not enough."

As Matty B. puts it, "No, not really. I mean, we get attention from a bunch of old women and **Leigh Dekle**, a.k.a. L-Study, b.k.a. L-Fetti." Bon Oui interrupts to say that Matty B. had conducted a little study.

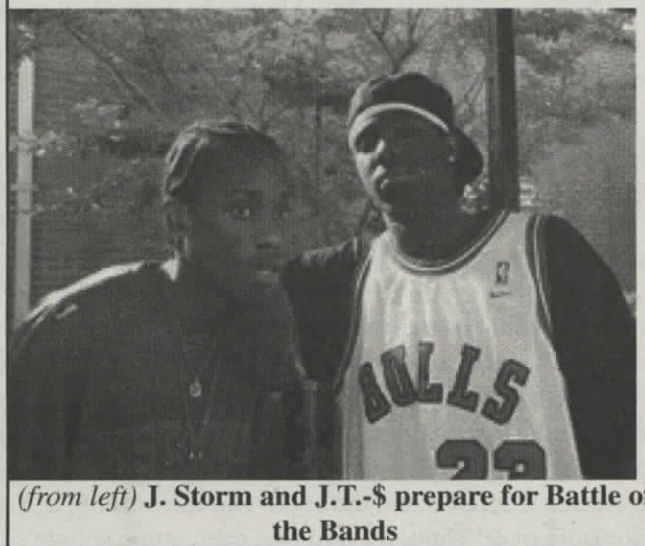
"Please explain this attention from Leigh Dekle. Is it good or bad attention?" I curiously inquire.

"It's half and half," says Bon Oui.

"That's because Leigh is the godfather



(from left) Matty B. and Bon Oui all pimped-out.



(from left) J. Storm and J.T.-\$ prepare for Battle of the Bands

of this rap group," B. elaborates.

"Godfather?"

"I mean godmother."

"She's our inspiration," Oui adds.

"She's helpin' me with my rhymes all the time. If we're bad, Leigh'll tell us, 'Ya'll whack,'" admits Matty B. Bon Oui states metaphorically that she's "hotness in a bottle."

"Tell us about your favorite song. And what does it mean?"

Bon Oui says, "Well, my favorite song would have to be my solo, obviously. It's good because it talks about the streets and the way Matty B. and Bon Oui were raised in North Charleston, the roughest place in South Carolina. Forget downtown, dangit. We're rapping for all our Dorchester homies."

"And how far do you expect to go with this rap group?"

"Well, all the way to Saranac and back."

Matty B. reveals that his favorite song is the self-titled "Righteous Knights": "It's a pretty hard song. It just talks about a lot of stuff, a lot of issues."

"Like what?"

"Issues I can't speak of 'cause I know Mrs. Myers will be reading this, you know what I'm sayin'? Oh yeah, and we've got a little prank tape comin' out."

In that so-called prank tape, the Knights make prank calls to some people, such as **Mr. Davis** and **Mr. Kerr**, around the school and record the conversations. They are expected to be highly entertaining. I happen to be featured on that tape.

"We're tryin' to come up, like from earth to the earth." In other words, raise the standards of Rap.

I ask if they really live up to their name and conduct themselves like righteous knights.

"Yeah, yeah. We treat women well, deliver justice, and stuff like that. Let me tell you 'bout Bon Oui, dawg. Bon Oui gives flowers and balloons to his girl."

"Anyway, we've gotta be out soon for a 9:45 AM appointment." B. and Oui sadly have to end the interview. After all, they are busy men who work hard for their art.

"We'll all say we knew you in high school."

"That's right! That's right, son! I'm gonna say I knew you too because you're gonna be on Live Five News, son!"

"Alright, peace in the Mid-East."

"Holla back."

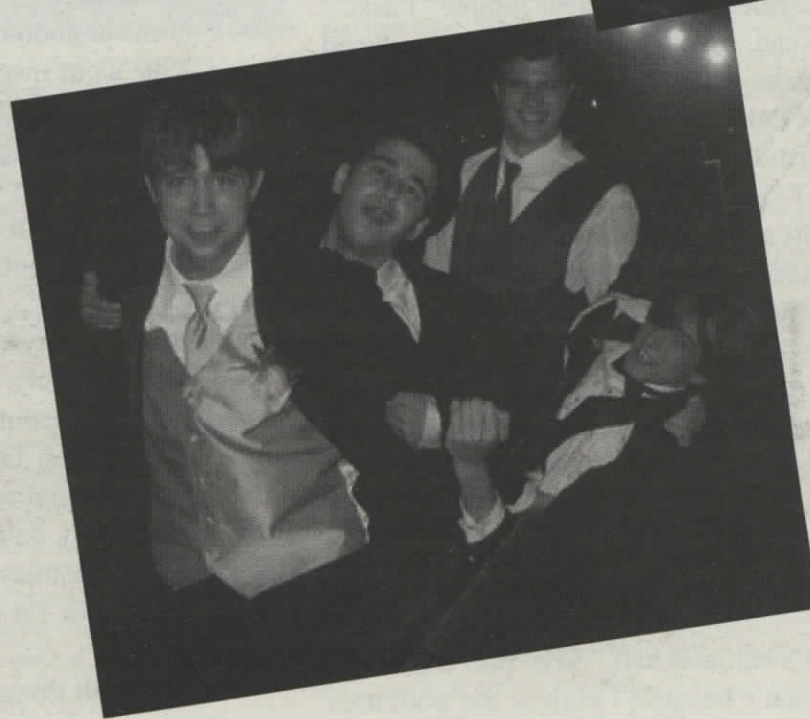
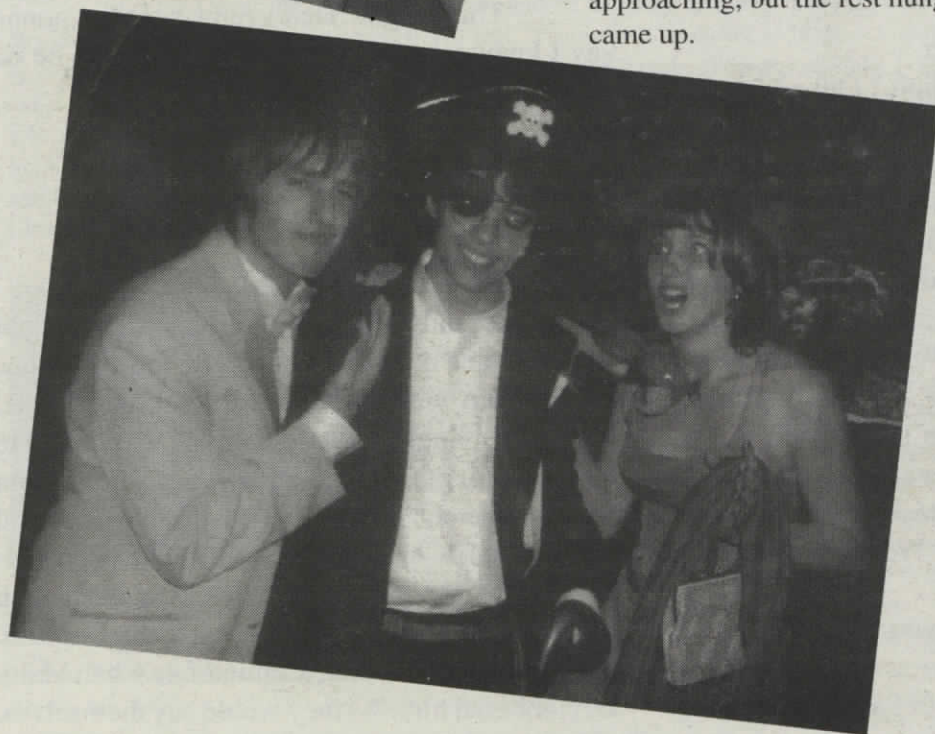
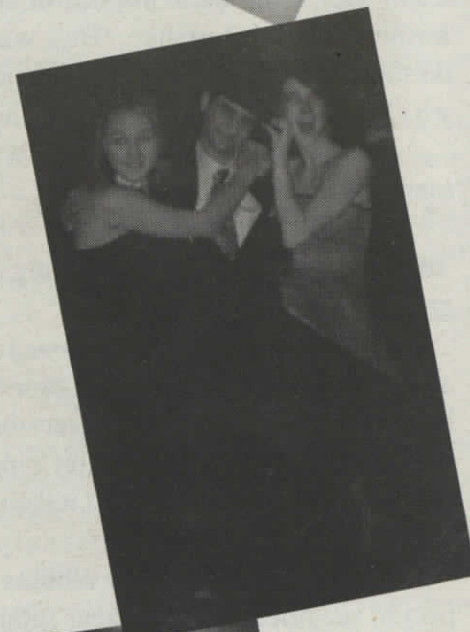
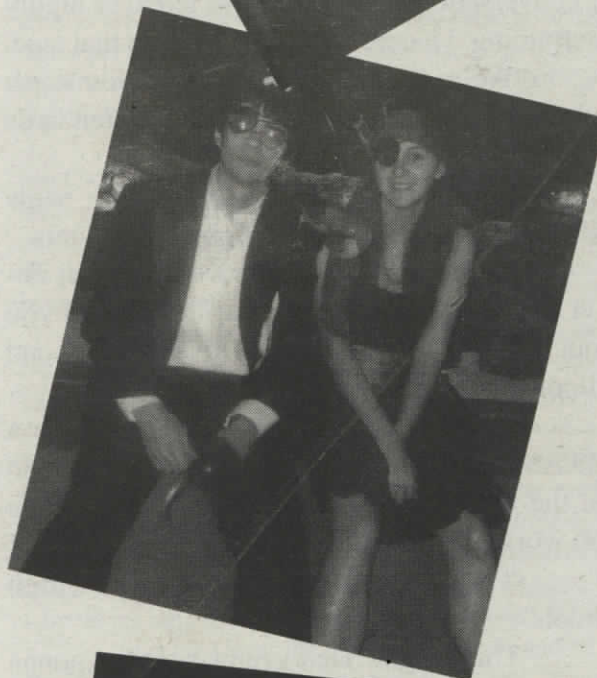
BREAKING NEWS:

Recently, the Righteous Knights have split up. J.T.-\$ and J. Storm left to go their own way, teaming up with X-Righteous Knight Jewelz, a.k.a. **R.J. Singleton**. However, he is rumored to be a member of G-Unit, so they are unable to claim him completely. But Matty B. and Bon Oui stayed underground—way underground. The two rivaling groups are making diss tracks against each other, and J.T.-\$ was recently beat up by Bon Oui. Sadly, J. Storm suffered a similar fate when Matty B. clobbered him. As they would say themselves, "That's real!"

Congratulations, Class of 2005

Prom 2005
Saturday, April 9th
SC Aquarium

The day that most students look forward to finally came, Junior/ Senior Prom. Prom 2005 took place on the delightful ninth evening of April. For most upperclassmen, and a few sophomores (and even a couple freshman), the kick off for a memorable night began at a wonderful restaurant. After their tummies were full, it was time to go dance the night away at the Downtown Aquarium. Immediately after stepping into the Aquarium the students were greeted by their classmates and the music of Plane Jane. People checked out all the attractions. Some promptly took pictures while they still looked their best, others hurried to the hors d'oeuvres table. Most danced and jammed to the music the entire night while the non-jammers took the opportunity to tour the Aquarium and visit with all the animals. Midway through, the verdicts were in and the royal winners were announced. Thankfully no 'Carrie' incidents took place, and Adam Gentile and Acecily Alexander were named prince and princess. The king and queen title was awarded to ... drum roll please ... Michael Robinson and Tanesia Sumpter. After the royalty were acknowledged, the dancing began again. Eleven o'clock came too soon, and the evening at Prom was unfortunately over. Though Prom was over, some people's nights were just getting started. For the unfortunate, their curfew was fast approaching, but the rest hung out with their friends until the sun came up.



Question of the Month



“The front cover because the pictures are totally awesome!!”
Andrin Brown 9th grade
Visual Arts



“The Horoscopes, because they are always so funny!!”
Ashlyn Blakey
12th grade Dance



“Question of the Month because the answers are always interesting.”
Staci DunLeavy
9th grade Theater



“The 3Ds because we absolutely love Mr. Davis!!”
Lyndon Reed and Everett Pompeii
7th grade Theater

What is your favorite part of the *Applause*?



“When we see sweet pictures of Jono flexing his muscles on his Harley!”
Hugo Honhom-Gross and Michael Linog
10th grade Theater and Visual Arts



“We love the *Applause* because of the fact that the JUNIORS run it! ‘06!”
Zak, Clary, Grace, Nathan, Dalia, Jenna, Ben and Senora



“When the different art majors are featured as well as the beautiful artwork.”
Mr. Smyth
Curriculum Coordinator



“Question of the Month because the back of something is my favorite part.”
Ryan Crawford 12th grade
Vocal

Congratulations, Class of 2005



Congratulations, Ashley!

**This ending is now your beginning. Focus on the Lord,
travel His road, listen for directions.**

**We love you
Dad, Mom, Kate, Granny**



**Anna,
We have been around for some of your best perfor-
mances! Congratulations on your graduation.
--With love and best wishes,
Uncle John, Aunt Leslie, Ross, and Caroline**

**The time has come to stretch her wings
She sets out now to see what the world brings**

**Congratulations Anna Freeman
Love,
Leonard & Jennifer**



"It's You I Like"

**...It's you I like, every part of you,
Your skin, your eyes, your feelings
Whether old or new.
I hope that you'll remember
Even when you're feeling blue
That it's you I like,
It's you yourself, it's you,
It's you...I...like!
Lots of Love
to our
Annabado--
moma and poppa**



**Anna Bannana,
Congratulations! We wish you all the best on your
new journey. You are so special and we love you very
much.**

**Our love,
Grancie, Wing, Meme', Mark, Vee, Ellen, Donny,
Jadie, Mary Crawford, and Ellie**

**Annie,
"Love is a seed: it has only to sprout, and its roots
spread far and wide." (The Little Prince)
--I love you,
Mama**

**Stick,
I knew you could do it!**

Congratulations, Class of 2005

Tricia,

There are no words to tell you how much you are loved and how so very proud of you we are. You were "just what we wanted." A little girl with a beautiful smile and a kind and loving heart. A prissy little princess to sing and dance, and guess what! You did. You have excelled in the talent area. Every time you sing, we are so filled with pride. I am so honored for you to be my name sake, Patricia suites you perfectly as you are noble and proud. No grandparents could be happier or more proud than your Mimi and Granddad are of you. We love you!



Tricia,

What can I say, you are inspirational to me and you have taught me many things. You are the reason I started to sing, I wanted to be just like you when I was younger. When I listen to you sing, you are like an angel singing to me. I love you so much, and I will miss you when you are in college next year. Who will I stand with at the Tardy Party in the morning?! I guess I have no other option than to be on time!!

**I Love You,
Kati**



Tiffany Bonaparte



Congratulations, Fatty.

**Love,
Mom, Dad, Grandma, Aunt
Cynne, Aunt Nettie, Uncle
Boogie, and the family.**

Tricia Ahearn



Tricia,

How do I begin... I have been filled with so many emotions this year, as you know all too well. I have so much I want to say to you but space doesn't permit. I could not be more proud of you than I am right now. You have worked so hard academically and especially socially and vocally. You are a truly talented young lady; USC is lucky to have you. Remember you make your own success and you have everything within you to achieve all your goals. You are a beautiful gift from God with a voice like an angel. God gave you wings and now it is time to fly. We love you with all our heart.

Love Mom and Dad

Sharnisha Brown

Congratulations Sharnisha Tuwt Tuwt (Tuwty) Brown! You have made a great accomplishment and we hope that the wheel keeps turning. We are extremely proud of your success and know that you can and will achieve anything you set your mind to. Good knowledge, good luck... GOODBYE (the last one off to college)!

**With love and celebration,
Mommy, Daddy, and the rest of the
peeps**



Art News



Cait Brennan and Mr. Moore admire her piece



Quenby Keisler and her ponies



All the beautiful portraits



Quenby Keisler and Austin Dukes



Ms. Tisdale is quite the patron



Mark Keisler, watch out for that shark!



Quenby Keisler is one happy camper



Omi Naderi sucking up to Ms. Jaycie



Chicks by the bar



Omi Naderi kneels by "George of the Jungle"



Sarah Houser and Trevor Murray set



Brent Sagan's snowcat looks very relaxed

The Art Show

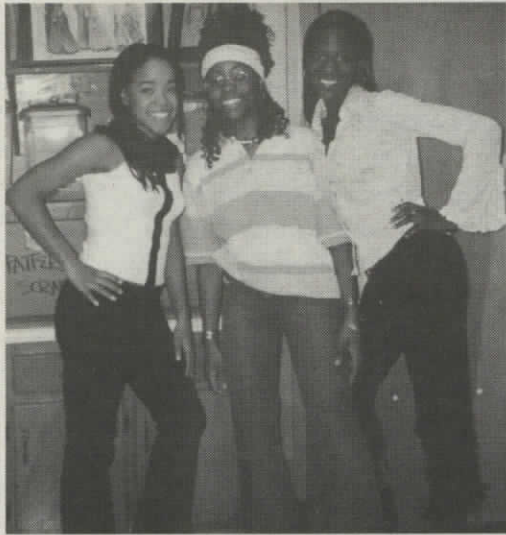
-for those who hear no applause

by Cait Brennan

I opened the doors of the Charleston Visitors Center to be greeted by the pleasant breeze of the AC and the soft chit chattering of the cultivated art lovers. I strolled inside hoping to blend in with the sophisticates. Quickly, I scanned the front room for the pieces of art that caught my attention. I noticed a woman with thick eye-glasses, a tight bun, and a black dress lean in so close to one work that her nose almost skimmed the pastel piece. I thought she definitely defined sophistication in every way because she seemed to know exactly what she wanted to see in artwork. So, of course, I leaned in on the same piece and thoroughly scrutinized the work. It was of a collection of "My Little Ponies" created by **Quenby Keisler**. I thought she did a great, unique job; the whole piece was very Quenby. Anyway, after I leaned in, I realized that I probably looked ridiculous, and I decided to straighten up. I moved on to the refreshment table to make a quick pit stop and then traveled onward through the groups of people to view over all the works. I was most pleased when I saw a small crowd of people surrounding my own piece of artwork. However, I could not fully absorb my second of fame because two talented musicians, **Sara Houser** and **Trevor Murray**, began to play a relaxing melody that truly set the suave mood. The music pulled me into a kind-of daze, and from then on, it was all just a chatty, artsy dream. I think we owe a bit of thanks to all the visual art teachers for making the whole ordeal incredibly classy.

Senior Survey

What's your most memorable moment at SOA?



Nothing can beat the Senior Carnivale/Mardi Gras parade. I mean screaming, dancing, and yelling down the halls? What could be better than that? It's every teenager's dream. We even had a tuba! - **Shannon Gateke**

In 11th grade, I was scatter brained and unorganized and late to 1st period physics every day. One morning, I got there and the lights were off and the door was locked. I banged on both of Mr. Murrays doors and wandered around the hall lost. All these teachers I

didn't know were like "Aw, can I help you?" and I would whine "Aw, I can't find my class." I was really upset and nervous, then Mr. Murray comes outside his room and says all sternly "Report to the band room! Didn't you hear the announcements!?" Then I nervously went there. Then I peeped in the window and opened the door slowly and awkwardly and froze because I had interrupted a band class! I said "Oh," then left. I felt like I lost my mind. I wanted to cry, so I took comfort in Mrs. Benson's room and was like "Aw, Mrs. Benson I'm lost. What do I do! I can't find my class!" Aw, I was at the edge and then as I look out the open doorway to the outside, I see my class racing across the field screaming "Ashley! Ashley! No!" like a flock of crazies. I found out they were hiding in his room. Aw! Then on the way back to his classroom, we stole Mr. Orvin's teepee and put it in Mr. Murray's room. Then we all got detentions from Mr. Davis for being around without passes! Aw! - **Ashley Coon**

Every time the vocal majors sang "angels" before a performance. - **Cameron Ulmer**

Oh gosh! There are so many. Probably that afternoon in Mr. Smyth's class where we abandoned our work and ran outside to play ultimate Frisbee and everyone made fun of the way I dove. Whatever. - **Ryan Graudin**



The first time Cameron Ulmer, Amy Green, and I went and sat on the pavement and talked as if we'd known each other our whole lives. - **Elana Kraft**



The dry ice and glow sticks we freaked out with in art when we were freshmen. The kiln room looked crazy. - **Sarah Haynes**

Either our senior parade or RoRo falling out of his chair in 6th grade. - **Liz Eckbreth**

Just one? Probably music theory, or orchestra. The countless hours I've spent in the bandroom...good times. - **Kaitlyn Flanagan**

At sectionals one Thursday afternoon last year, Ben Fine and Daniel Vincent locked me in one of the band lockers...ah, so much fun...- **Hollie Reeves**

Mr. McKinney's class, making animal noises at him. Go Barn Yard Friends! (If you were there you'd understand.) - **Stacy Lambert**

"Jake, where are your pants? Do you have a costume change?" "No." - **Paul Saylor**

Grilling sausages with Louis during strings. - **Ben Forney**

I know it just happened, but the Senior Parade was amazing...Mad Forest...sneak freakig; Jr. year with Ty, Keri, Anna,...it's never to early when you're in theatre...Mr. Buckley...Tyson inappropriately grabbing me when we were in theatre when we were dating (and no one said anything)...Truth or Dare at Charlestown Landing...so many more. - **Jenny Kleiman**

Sleeping under the girls' make-up room at Fantasia. - **Shawn Jordan**

I'm not allowed to say, but Redemption Song will always hold a special place in my heart. - **Lane Elsey**

The senior parade...it was a lot of fun. - **Ayuna Gordon**

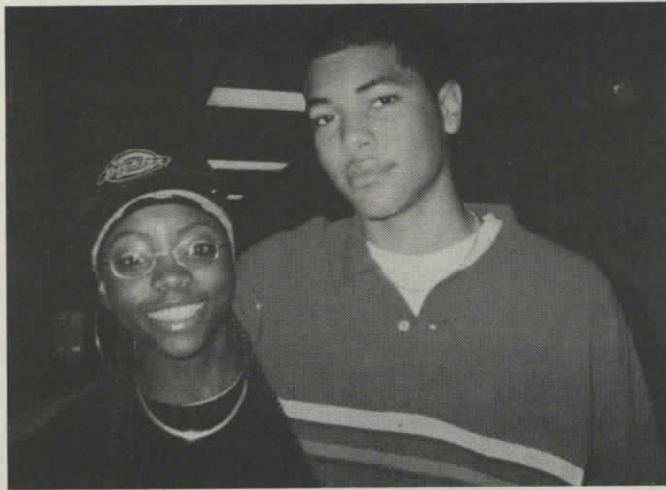
My most memorable moment was auditioning for the Radio City Rockettes along with all the other vocal majors. I was one of the four who made the audition!! It was so much fun to perform with



Senior Survey

professionals. It opened the door to my passion for musical theatre. - **Ava Hill**
 During senior spirit week all the seniors participated in a Mardi Gras parade. There was so much laughter, excitement, and enjoyment flowing through the halls of SOA. - **Jocelyn Roper**

Although I was petrified, in 6th grade our first band concert we were playing the "Can Can" and I had a solo on the triangle and it was broken so when it was



my time to shine...it was silent! - **Katie Parvin**

Prom. - **Sarah Johnston**

My eighth grade graduation and picnic. - **Paige Schaberg**

Not telling... - **Dustin Davis**

Exempting Ms. Marshall's exam. - **Angela Hood**

PROM KING!! - **Michael Robinson**

It's between seeing everyone's face drop when I walked into the first day of sixth grade late holding a Hardee's cup and being crowned 2005 PROM QUEEN! - **Tanyesha Sumpter**

In 8th grade we had a huge water fight. We basically went crazy and Mrs. Lawson came back to where we were and everybody threw their bottles in the bushes and ran to different groups. We acted like nothing happened and Mrs. Lawson got mad. - **Kala Ward**

Our last strings performance I got to sit first chair. It was really scary and nerve wracking but it was totally worth it. - **Kristen Young**

William, who no longer attends, and myself, made a video which contained explicit interviews and great fun the last day of our freshman year. - **Trey Williams**

Senior thesis. After all the work I've done the past 3 years it was so rewarding to go out with a bang! - **Leah Crooks**

Prom '05! Eddie and Darwin sneaking Danny in the girls' bathroom. - **Sam McMasters**

My senior prom because it'll probably be the last event I'll ever see all my friends at and together, and when Gia's weave got caught in the jump rope. - **Oneka Delancy**

When we were in 9th grade and Sam and Quenby had a contest to see how many grapes they could fit in their mouths and Quenby started laughing and spit all the grapes out and we got kicked out of the cafeteria for a week. Also the Manatee trip and my best friend ever, Hope! - **Casey O'Neill**

My most memorable moment at SOA would be last year's graduation! It was a start for a new life without my closest friends that I love the most! It was hard to let go, but I guess you have to sometimes! Love you Steeven. - **Rachel Patrick**

The best memories were on the trips- the France trip-unbelievable! I love all you guys, the crepes, and Jus de Pomme. The New York trip-could I have been any colder walking up freaking mountains and jumping in puddles with Ashley Clarke. - **Lindsay Hood**

All of our fun times in the dressing room in dance class. - **Angela Wade**

My most memorable moment is a recent one-The Senior Parade. Watching everyone, including myself, go completely insane was so amusing! - **Korinna Sheahan**

Easily Senior Thesis, just the entire process of it. It's impressive to put nine months of work into 20 minutes. - **Frederick Hiers**

My most memorable moment at SOA would have to be the last day, though I haven't experienced it yet. - **Paige Goodwyne**

Senior Spirit Week, especially the parade! Also, eating at this Greek restaurant in Greenville during All-State Band. We had this crazy old man as our waiter and every time we ordered something, he could say, "you want plate," in a weird accent. - **Stacey Tokarczyk**

One time in middle school, I had this test on the Hunley. - **Joshua Jordain**

In 10th grade, the drug dogs did a search and Lindsay Funderberk and I got called in for having drugs. After five or six minutes, the police found nothing and left us alone. I had never been in that kind of situation, so it was horrible. - **Hannah Metiever**

All the crazy times in creative writing I can't really write about. - **Inglish Tompkins**
 Back in middle school when we used to run around and drop people, chasing each other down and wrestling. We really used to disturb the peace. "Gosh, I love you guys." OH FIVE! - **Lyn B.**

Running into a bunch of stuff (trees, fences, trailers, girls, and cars). - **Austin T. Dukes**

Mr. Richen following me to the car line from band to yell at my mom about me in a frenzy. - **Philip Lipton**

Doing "Mad Forest" in 9th grade, or Younts throwing a chair across the room. He's better now. - **Jake Hennessy**

I will never forget CP pre cal with Ms. Smyth and the random good times with Tedra Coakley, Hannah Metiever, Robbie Maddison, and most of the class of 2004, We will survive! - **Ashley Taylor**

In 11th grade English, the class was reading an Emily Dickenson poem aloud and the entire class looked at Hollie and me when they read a line about a "blonde assassin." - **Kaleigh Fort**

The most memorable moment at SOA was when Paul Saylor freaked out about a statistics test and Mr. Smyth said, "so much for college." - **Ronald White**

When my best buds Sam and Jamie (Peggy) wrapped my car up with 500 feet of saran wrap for my 18th birthday. - **Tricia Ahearn**

I can not just pick one, we had way too many memorable moments. - **Mariel Conway**

Prom on the boat; I had the best date. - **Jason Basile**

There is not just one memorable moment at SOA. Every class discussion in Mr. Orvin's class, every dance, every flirtatious move I made with Mrs. Emory, and every first and last day of my seven years here. - **Ryan Crawford**

Drawing. - **Thomas Tanner**

My first Jump, Jive, 'n' Wail. - **Jonathan Hershenson**

I'm not allowed to say, but "Redemption Song" will always hold a special place in my heart. - **Lindsay Funderburk**

I have a confession to make... Yes, I threw that piece of paper at Madame Philips eye in French II, not Michael Jamison... but Tiffany made me! - **Yaeger Deas**

Theatre senior thesis. It felt so good to show off all the hard work and dedication I put into it. - **Leah Crooks**

Riding the bus with us. - **Taylor Schaberg**

Any day spent with Ms. Bronk in her wonderful English class. - **Josh Smoak**

The senior parade through the halls, it was off da chain. Also, when Mrs. Miles yelled, "It'll be a cold day in Hell before [she] ever took us creative writers on a field trip out of the country." - **Nisha Brown**

In sixth grade, Roro (Mr. Rogers) got really mad at us and fell out of his piano chair. He grabbed his things one by one and ran out of the room. We were all cracking up!

In eighth grade, we tried to get out of our French exam by yelling "rat!" We all stood on our chairs and started screaming. - **Sam Danna**



Senior Survey

What will you miss most about SOA?

The thing I will miss the most about SOA is the eccentric people and the



artistic understanding we all share. SOA is really different from other high schools. We don't have sports but we have convocation and concerts. Everyone supports each other and respects their abilities. I'm going to miss not singing every day for ninety minutes, and walking into calculus and expecting Mr. Smyth's "Oh well" just when you're really frustrated, and I'm especially going to miss

seeing my friends. - **Shannon Gateke**

Mrs. Benson and Mr. Clarke. Also, students I will not see otherwise and teachers. - **Ashley Coons**

The family that I have grown so close to in the past seven years! - **Cameron Ulmer**

Definitely the people and the close-knit "family" ties with all of the students and teachers. I'll miss writing for 100 minutes a day too!! - **Ryan Graudin**

The convenience of having two hallway doors being replaced with one. - **Fredrick Hiers**

The knowledge that I am in high school, I am still at home where everything is safe and I'm not alone. - **Paige Goodwyne**

Hanging out with friends in the band room and playing the bongos. - **Stacy Tokarczyk**

When I was younger and Taylor S. and I would ac' a fool and burn trash cans and break into cars. - **Joshua Jordain**

The closeness between students. - **Hannah Metivier**

The creative writing sorority girls! - **English Tompkins**

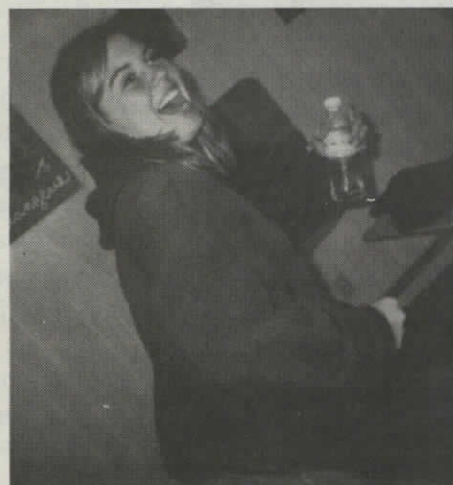
I will miss the close personal relationships with my teachers. - **Ashlyn Blakey**

I'll miss the awesome people I met here. I have met a very diverse group of people here that I will never forget. - **Austin Dukes**

All the artists. - **Philip Lipton**

The rather graphic, albeit poorly done, graffiti in the men's restrooms. Because it keeps me up to date with middle school gossip. Learn to spell, guys. - **Jake Hennessy**

The faces of those who have been through it with me and the ability to



make a fool of myself and know that someone else appreciates it. - **Ashley Taylor**

I will miss all the people here and how everyone knows everybody else, I'll also miss how accepting everyone is, since the student body is so eclectic. -

Kaleigh Fort

Playing the piano 100 minutes daily and the funny people. - **Ronald White**

I will miss the same comfortable environment that I have been coming to for seven years, and knowing everyone around me. I will especially miss my friends. - **Tricia Ahearn**

I will miss English IV with Dr. Cusatis because he gave me time

to read some good books. - **Mariel Conway**

The teachers. I always enjoy discussing topics with adults even though some kids figured I was just sucking up (I did that too). - **Jason Basile**

The thing I will miss at SOA is being surrounded by so many fun and extremely talented people. Not many people get the opportunity to be indulged in such a talented group. It's going to be hard separating from the SOA fam. - **Trey Williams**

Going to Africa and all the fun times I've had over these 7 years. - **Katie Parvin**

The close-knit family feeling. Our senior class too because there is not really the "popular" and then "unpopular," we're all friends, at least during school hours. - **Kristen Young**



Senior Survey



The class sizes, the one-on-one attention with teachers, and the unbreakable friendships that have been together since the beginning. - **Ryan Crawford**

The closeness. "Sometimes you wanna go where everybody knows your name [...] and they're always glad you came [...] you wanna be" - well, that's enough of the Cheers' intro song. My point is that only here can I joke around, be myself, and just be free to express myself without the fear of

someone laughing at me. I mean some laugh, but its not the same as making fun of someone on purpose. - **Ashton Coons**

The familiar feeling you get when you walk through the door. Everyone here is so close and accepting of each other- it makes for a great creative atmosphere.

-**Korinna Sheahan**

The teachers and all of my friends and how close our class is. - **Angela Wade**
Maybe being Tanyesha's shadow, or skipping class with Emily and Raebur, or getting in trouble just for being related to Nathan, or getting radomly taken down in the hallways by Rae, or maybe knowing that I can look out for my brothers and get them out of trouble, but probably, most of all, I will miss all the amazing people I've met and what they have taught me. - **Lindsay Hood**

I will miss my friends, creative writing, and the teachers. - **Noelle Williams**

I will miss the close friendship, memorable moments, and caring teachers. -

Rachel Patrick

How fun and outgoing everyone is. Also, how willing the teachers are to help you. - **Oneka**

Delancy

My friends. - **Sam McMasters**

The people. I have become so close to everyone. They are more like family. We've been through a lot together. I will also miss theatre, a lot.

- **Leah Crooks**

The people and the laid-back environment. - **Sarah Johnston**

1)Failing all of Dr. Ball's tests.

2)Mrs. Smyth!

3)Beatin' up Matthew! Hahaha! - **Kala Ward**

I will miss how "unique" a person could be and how nobody would think twice about it. (I quote "Only at SOA")- **Tanyesha Sumpter**

All the good and bad times together with my class. - **Michael Robinson**

The relaxed environment. - **Angela Hood**

I'll miss all the friends that I won't be seeing when I go off to college. - **Amanda DeRhodo**



HAH! - **Dustin Davis**
Recess. - **Paige Schaberg**

The friends I have made and the SOA family who have made high school oh, so wonderful! - **Jenny Kleiman**

The chance to see such great parts of N. Charleston. - **Ben Forney**

What I will miss most about SOA is the wonderful teachers I have come to know. I want to thank Mrs. Olson, my English II teacher, Mrs. Smyth, BEST math teacher ever, and Mrs. Michelle, my mentor and woman that helped me through life's potholes of pain. - **Jocelyn Roper**

The opportunities I had in my major. Even though I had a rough first two years of high school vocal, it evened out in the end. I have done things that every vocalist would dream of doing. I hope to take that experience with me in the future. - **Ava Hill**

I will miss how everyone is different; no two people are the same. - **Ayuna Gordon**
ALL of my friends... which sums up to Lindsay, I heart you! - **Lane Elsey**
Seeing people with passion for their arts. That's something that I truly admire. - **Shawn Jordan**

The true friends I've made at SOA in the short time I've been here. - **Elana Kraft**
Seeing friends every day. - **Sarah Haynes**

I'll miss a lot of things, but most of all, the smelliest girl I know, Kathleen, and of course her smell. - **Casey O'Neill**

Seeing men run around in dresses and other forms of drag and knowing that everyone in SOA saw it as just another day. - **Tyson Cantwell**

Without a doubt, I will miss my family. The friends I've made here are truly amazing, and I don't know what I'm going to do without them. To the friends I'm leaving behind, don't worry- I'm not going far... and I'll probably end up being one of those crazy graduates who comes back to school all the time. To those going away, don't forget. I miss you already. Much love comes from me! - **Jeanne Albinger**

I'm going to miss the SOA lake that happens at school every time it rains and seeing everyone every day. - **Sam Danna**

Failing every test Ms. Bronk ever gave. - **Nisha Brown**

Waking up at 6 AM, waiting in traffic for an hour, getting to school late. Every day. - **Josh Smoak**

I will miss the laid back environment and the chance to be yourself without being judged. - **Tynesha Chandler**

The Individuals. - **Taylor Schaberg**

Everything, the people, the colorful walls, the smell... OK, maybe not the smell, but all of the memories that started here and ended here, I'll miss them greatly! - **Yaeger Deas**

I'm going to miss all of my friends and the fun times. - **Lindsay Funderburk**

The people and Jazz Band. - **Jonathan Hershenson**



The Feature Corner

Around Town for the summer

by LaToya Smith

The coming of spring is always evident with the falling of pestering pollen, yet the coming of summer in Charleston, South Carolina is marked by the grand sounds of music and festivities. The world class Spoleto Festival USA has always accentuated this little "city by the sea," but for many years now, the Piccolo Spoleto provides even greater fun along with its parent festival. No matter your taste, or your age, here is the guide for a fun summer in Charleston during Spoleto USA and Piccolo Spoleto. Enjoy.

Of course Spoleto USA includes world-renowned acts. If you are an opera buff, then you must go see *Die Vogel* (The Birds), which has never received a full stage performance in the US since it was lost when the Nazis blacklisted Braunfels. Catch it the end of May on into early June. *Don Giovanni* is Spoleto's newest production of Mozart's musical and dramatic masterpiece, a legend about the notorious womanizer promises. You can also catch *La Bella Dormente Nel Bosco*, directed by Basil Twist, a young director/puppeteer for the Dock Street Theater.

So, if you're not into operas, and you like dance, that means you have to attend one of the three major dance performances. What happens when an Italian choreographer (Emio Greco) and a Dutch theater director (Pieter C. Scholten) come together? Well, you get "one of the most exciting, original and eccentric dance vocabularies today," according to *The Times* of London. If you admire dance with lots of range and diversity, then going to see the Hubbard Street Dance Chicago has to be the thing for you. *Improvography* by Savion Glover is the top pick. Since the age of fifteen, Savion has been considered, "the savior of tap, anointed alike by old masters and the press." So don't miss Savion as he tears up the stage for Charleston.

Okay, so if you don't like opera, and you don't like dance, you have to enjoy theater, and there is a big possibility that Spoleto will tickle your aesthetic taste buds. You can find anything from South African centered theater (*Amajuba—Like Doves We Rise*) to experimental theater (*Mabou Mines Dollhouse*).

You can also find great diversity and social interests in *Solo Turns*, *Colla Marionettes*, and *Kingdom of Desire*.

If you prefer familiar faces, then the Piccolo Spoleto is featuring Sheri Grace's production of *Rock and Roll Heaven* featuring your very own vocal majors **Marci Turner** and **LaToya Smith** with many other performers. If you ever wondered what heaven would be like with Janis Joplin, Shangri-La, Elvis Presley, Otis Redding, John Lennon, and many more great rock and rollers living there, then you have to see this show.

Don't miss the art galleries either. I can promise you that they will be on virtually every corner. The Jazz Initiative will be hosting many events all over town, but do not miss what will happen on June 2, a free event and tribute to William Blake of the Jenkins Orphanage. Don't miss the jazz debut of our very own LaToya Smith; the home grown great trumpeter, **Charlton Singleton**; and world-renowned drummer, Quentin Baxter (leading the quintet); along with many other great and familiar musicians. You can find many free events, but if that still doesn't spark your attention toward Spoleto, then simply take a walk in Marion Square somewhere between May 27 and June 12, and I promise you a good and interesting time.

So whatever you do this summer, do something. I could go on and on, but Spoleto has over 700 events in seventeen days, and I would need the entire *Applause* to review them all. There are many more events, but don't just take my word for it: visit www.piccolospoleto.com and www.spoletousa.org for much more information. Have a great summer!

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the Applause staff.**

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The Feature Corner

A Case Study Senioritis: The Remedies and Sublime Fears

by LaToya Smith

Senioritis -n. An imaginary (and sometimes real) syndrome attributed to students nearing the end of high school and college. Its symptoms include laziness, procrastination, failure to complete tasks and an extreme case of the 'oh well,' virus. Many high school seniors contract senioritis during their last semester of school, and the syndrome is said to be highly contagious. People who suffer from severe cases of the syndrome often find themselves "taking a year off" after graduation. Senioritis can only be treated with frequent and overwhelming doses of reality.

Usually the only cure for senioritis is a strong self-desire, knowing what you want and a need to do everything it will take to achieve that. Every year doctors and specialists fear the spread of an epidemic of the syndrome in schools. Let's zero in on a small school and the students who have the highest risks. The patients are real, the interviews are real, and the diagnoses are really real.



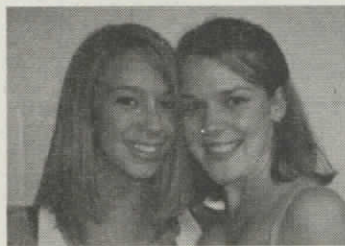
Patient #1: **Thomas Tanner**

Sex: Male
Major: Visual Art

"I'm planning to attend Atlanta College of Art—long hand for ACA," Tanner begins. He says that his biggest

fears are paying for college, borrowing money and finding a good paying job. Tanner believes that if he fails to reach this goal, he will end up "homeless, eating rats, and living under a bridge." He continues, "But maybe I can land a job as a construction worker. I'd really be putting my Bachelor of Arts to use—after graduation that is." The talented Tanner will not have a problem adjusting socially from not having the friends he has had for over 5 years. "I'll probably be pursuing art so much that I won't have time for a social life." Tanner was attracted to ACA because the school offered him money and he really liked the teachers. Although his answer is somewhat highly controversial, Tanner's living plans are "the bowels of Hell." He says that he will have the trolls to help him out. Good Luck, Thomas Tanner the Artist.

Senioritis diagnosis: negative



Patient #2 & #3:
Lindsay Hood and Ashley Clark

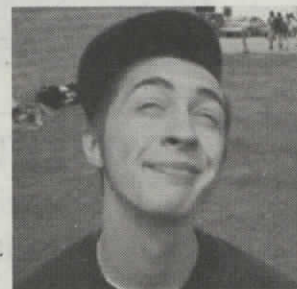
Sex(es): Female
Major(s): Dance
Hood's plans after graduation are to travel with her brother to Costa Rica

for a little while, visit family in South Africa, and attend college after a year. Clark plans to join Hood for a short period and move with her family to Florida. Both girls say, "We'll see what happens." Hood's only fear is leaving her brother at home while Clark is virtually fearless with her colorful outlook on life. Clark wants to meet new people and go somewhere where no one knows her name. While both Clark and Hood will miss everyone, they are ready for their rebirth and fresh start in a whole new world. Who says there isn't life after senioritis?

Senioritis Diagnosis: Positive (Both)

Patient #4: **Joshua "J.J." Jourdain**

Sex: Male



Major: Visual Art

Jourdain suffers from one of the components of senioritis. Here are his words: "I haven't happened to pick a college yet, but I'm doing that. That's on my to-do list. Most people pick a college. I'm not like most

other seniors. I'm not supposed to be a senior. I'm actually supposed to be in fifth grade but I skipped seven years ago." He says this in a pensive manner, recalling those golden years. "I'm a six-foot-three fifth grade senior graduating." Jourdain's fears have depth, "My fears are that I'll try to please myself and I won't try to please God. If you're allowed to put that in the newspaper...God. He's real. He's coming back!" Jourdain proclaims this with a thick southern drawl. In order to cope with this fear, Jourdain explains that "... just praying [helps] because sometimes you don't get an immediate answer and sometimes it's real frustrating. It's my only fear ... Sorry I cut you off, but another fear may be having a girlfriend or a friend of the opposite sex and planning on continuing that relationship. It can be scary for both people." He plans to cope with this fear by staying in touch through all means. In the middle of my study, Jourdain suddenly discovers that this is an interview. His reaction: "Oh sweet, so I get like a whole page?" I tell him that it may not be enough for a page and he responds with, "Get out of my face. Put in what I'm saying right now, get out of my face. That's just got to be enough. I'm having a little trouble deciding what my favorite color is; it's between blue and brown—a brownish color, not really brown."

Finally we return to the topic of the interview. I'm left with the thought that sharp digressions could also be a characteristic of those suffering from senioritis. Jourdain continues with the topic, "I've been accepted into Brevard, Union, and I'm applying to Clemson and another college. I got accepted to a Missouri college, and I got an academic scholarship to Brevard. But I don't want it to be my decision. It would be four years of my life wasted if it's my decision. I

want it to be God's decision. That should be about a page. You would type out everything I'm saying write now and that would be at least a page. And if you have too much space left over, then you can add in words like, 'Bam.' That should take up some space, and increase the font; they won't notice." [Comment from the Editor: I noticed.] Jourdain adds all this with his heart warming and thought provoking humor, hitting on things in the small art room. "It's more like a 'clink.' I'm going to major in Greek and Hebrew and minor in art. I want to be a missionary in the U.S., but if I'm called somewhere else I'll go."

This 485 pound fifth grader is graduating so tell your ma; tell your pa. (Of course Jourdain chimes in) "And if you don't have a ma or pa, tell your legal guardian."

Senioritis diagnosis: negative, but will perform a CAT scan.



Patient #5: **Sara Houser**

Sex: Female
Major: Piano

Houser will be attending Berklee College of Music in Boston, Mass., where she plans to study songwriting. Unlike many others,

Houser has been immune to senioritis because she has stayed very organized. Her intent on going to Berklee kept her focused during the audition and scholarship process. She never got to the point of not caring. Instead of nonchalance, she relaxed and made sure to suppress the syndrome. According to Houser, "I fear being separated from all that's familiar, ... losing touch ... and that I won't be good enough to keep up with the competition." However, she plans to cope with this by being surrounded by people who are better so that she will end up growing as an artist (and, girlfriend, wantin' to grow ain't conceited!). When going off to college, most people take something from home to help them with the transition; Houser gets to take a hometown peer, Josh Smoak. Hopefully fitting in won't be a problem, still she fears walking into a gross bathroom since she will be residing with two guys. Thank heavens that grossness can be treated with a little Lysol.

Senioritis diagnosis: negative

Feature

Next, I went to visit Mr. Smyth's "Statistic Picnic."

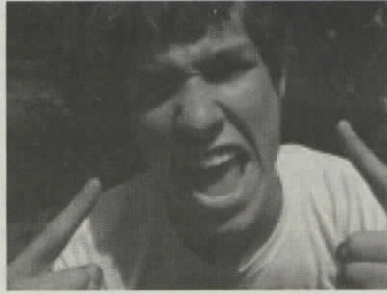
Patient #6: **Austin Dukes**

Sex: Male

Major: Visual Art

Austin Dukes has been accepted to the College of Charleston. He says, "I got a dorm room and everything." His only fear for the next month is losing his scholarship. This fear surfaced after he made a "really bad" grade in English. He snapped back, he says, "because I wanted to have my life scholarship because my family's broke. So I had to deal with my senioritis ... Like right now we're doing statistics and I just want to quit, but you have to do it if you want to succeed." Dukes reminds his peers. His plans at C of C are simply to have a good time, continue his studies and meet new people.

Senioritis diagnosis: negative—is contained but an eye will be kept on it.



Patient #10 **Jason Basil**

Sex: Male

Major: Theater

Basil has been enrolled into Furman University where he will major in Psychology or pre-med and take theater classes. He fears not being able to keep up with his schedule and still do everything he wants to do. He plans to cope by having a strict schedule and simply following it.

Senioritis diagnosis: negative

Patient #11 **Ronald White**

Sex: Male

Major: Piano

White will attend Oglethorpe University in Atlanta, GA. He says, "Currently, it might change, to Emory University, but I will major in engineering." His only fear is making friends, but having family in Atlanta helps.

Senioritis diagnosis: negative



Patient #7: **Mariel Conway**

Sex: Female

Major: Strings

Conway will be traveling to Washington, D.C. to attend American University. She says that her fears are "having a roommate that hates me, doesn't want to hang out, and is like 'I don't want to talk to you.'" It will be easy for Conway to deal with this because AU gives their students the email address of their roommate and Conway plans to e-mail her roommate all summer long. Another one of Conway's fears is keeping her grades up. Her parents have already given

her the ultimatum of returning to South Carolina if she doesn't maintain her grades.

Good luck Conway.

Senioritis diagnosis: negative

Note: Threatening students seems to help suppress senioritis.

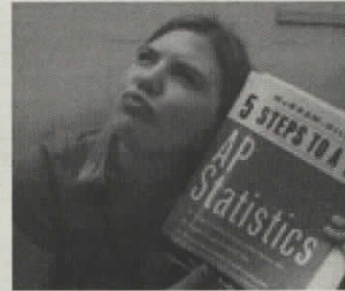
Patient #8: **Cameron Ulmer**

Sex: Female

Major: Vocal

C of C will also be home and school to Ulmer who is majoring in vocal performance with maybe a double major in religion, foreign language, or business. Her fear is keeping her honor scholarship, which requires her to keep a 3.0. She is also nervous about competing with other vocal majors. She says that "I can only do what I can do. It gives me a chance to see what I'm capable of. If I don't fulfill these expectations I have, I'll just move on."

Senioritis diagnosis: negative



Patient #12 **Samantha Dana**

Sex: Female

Major: Vocal

Dana plans to attend Clemson University but has been suffering from a mild case of senioritis. Dana says that "It's not that bad until I get grades and I realize I haven't done anything for my entire life." But Dana is on the right track now. We'll see how it goes.

Senioritis diagnosis: negative

Judging from this small study, it appears that approximately 17% (2 out of 12) of high school students actually contract the senioritis syndrome. Regardless of the situation, please continue life after high school. But before you graduate, set goals, take risks, and just avoid senioritis.



Jennifer--I hope you'll dance!!!
Congratulations on your graduation
from SOA. I love you forever
and always and wish you all the best at
the University of Colorado at Boulder--
Rocky Mountain High--Colorado. You
are a joy -Hugs & Kisses.

-Mom

Tyson

Always "let choice whisper in your ear
And love murmur in your heart." ..Be

Ready--

Here comes LIFE. --Maya Angelou
Congrats on graduating from SOA.

Love, Cathy Kleiman

CONGRATS TO JENNY KLEIMAN!!

SOA 2005 THEATER MAJOR

Always build an image of the possible-

I Love You, Mom

Quality is never an accident - it is always the
Result of high intention, sincere effort, intelligent
direction & Skillful execution - it represents
the wish choice of many alternatives...

William Foster



Patient #9: **Jenna McSwain**

Sex: Female

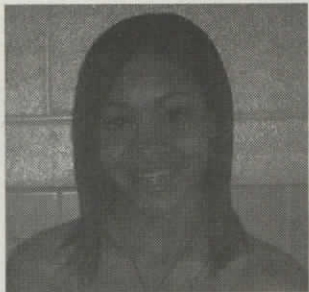
Major: Piano

McSwain will be attending the University to South Carolina where she will major in jazz piano. She says, "I'm afraid of getting a crazy roommate or someone who doesn't like me. Keeping up with my studies is another fear." She plans to cope with this, in her words, "by just taking it as it comes. You never know how you'll handle a situation."

Senioritis diagnosis: negative

Senior Essays

Tanyesha Sumpter



As I reflect on my whole wonderful seven years at School of the Arts, all I can do is be grateful. There are many different things that SOA had to offer that other schools did not and vice versa. My favorite thing about SOA would have to be the tolerance level from the faculty members. If anyone with an "SOA attitude" even attempted to enter the "normal school life" (especially high school), I think they would fail miserably; well I know I would. From my many years here, I have learned plenty from both my peers and my teachers. I have learned that people will love you for who you are, so do not be afraid to find and be that person. I learned who I really am through people I got along with and people I did not get along with. I have learned that no matter what you may believe, it is fine to stand up for it no matter what anyone else has to say, and that people will respect you more for standing up for what you believe in even if they do not agree with your specific beliefs.

To my SOA family I would like to say that I love you and I will never forget you. I would like to start off my thanking my girl Rachel Patrick. She has been there for me when I felt like I was at my worst and when I have been at my best. You have had my back in every situation that I have been in, even if she did not agree with what I was trying to do. Thank you for everything Patrick. To my Brie.... I do not even know where to begin. Who would have ever thought that watching you break your foot would have started a beautiful friendship? Thanks for putting up with me when it seemed like others could not. I cannot wait to come and visit, so we can sit on the beach and enjoy your wonderful occupation provided by your daddy. To my Scoop, despite what everyone may say I love you and I will miss you very much. You have always been there for me and I appreciate this in ways that I cannot even begin to explain. I guess what I am trying to say is thank you for being my brother, which is more than a friend. Fathead, you will always be my Little Lindsay no matter how big you get. I will always remember your face as I dove face first into Mrs. Newell's couch from the arm rest or sitting at silent lunch with you because you ate the tiniest piece of a Reese's... Good times. New York was great fun...LOL... remember this, "Why didn't you sleep then, BECAUSE I WAS IN SHOPPING MODE THEN!!", and "Hi, I'm Tanyesha and by the way your head is way too big for your body."

To my Jaeger, my "cousin" lol gotta love Mrs. Phillips. I will miss the way you laughed at people in their faces without thinking about their feelings. No I am just playing, but I will miss the way she shared a heart throughout high school. Remember if you do not do anything else in life, do not get a heart without consulting me first. To Kala, my "lighskinned sista", this has been our best year. My, how I have enjoyed just sitting in class with you and laughing about all of our wonderful years at SOA. CEC!!!! My own personal honorary senior, I will miss you so much. Make sure you keep your head up for me next year and do not let anyone bring it down. Thank you putting up with me in my most spirited moments and my not so spirited moments. To my family at home, wherever you may live, I would also like to say that I love you all more than I can even begin to write about and thank you for loving me and getting me this far in life. To everyone who feels like they were left out you were not I love you all, you know who you are, I am just trying to save space so other people will have a place to put their essay. Love always, SOA's 2005 PROM QUEEN!!!

Tanyesha Sumpter

Sarah Haynes



I entered School of the Arts coming from home school, where I lived on a boat until I was 14. I was never exposed to mass numbers of kids, as I was usually in small groups of friends that I felt comfortable in. I was completely overwhelmed in 8th grade. They put me in a high school math class for some reason and didn't figure it out until two weeks into the year, but they were always very kind and helpful. Although a certain English teacher who I never had and doesn't know who I am, absolutely

yelled at me for getting a candy bar at lunch, marching me up to the teachers' table scolding me for something that I have no idea what I did to this day. That was pretty awful.

The really bad part? I feel like I missed a lot of fun because I just got into this routine where I wouldn't talk to people because I self-labeled myself and thought everyone expected that out of me, so I got slack and stopped trying. But SOA is still full of amazing and really nice kids that I wish I had the chance to get to know better. I can't imagine going to a different school.

I was talking to a mom who was thinking of sending her son to SOA for vocal, and as I was reflecting, I couldn't say any bad things about my school. Everyone is friendly (unless you buy a candybar?? Then they're the meanest ever), accepting, no cliques, good classes, great teachers, and it floods every time it rains. You can seriously kayak at SOA. I love my major and it's really wonderful that we are able to have the same teacher for four years. Miss Jaycie is the best. SOA made high school unique and bearable and pretty fun sometimes.

Casey O'Neill



I have been having a hard time writing this essay because I have spent a little less than half of my life in this school. How could I possibly reflect on that many years? I'll tell you how! If, when I started school, I had had cameras implanted in my eyes that took one picture every hour on the hour at whatever I was looking at at that very moment I think, I could easily reflect back on my years here, but as it turns out I don't have camera eyes and probably

never will.

So I have decided to pick just a few memories that really stick out. First of all, when I was in eighth grade, all my friends were leaving to go to new schools and I too wanted to leave for something new and different. As it turns out, my Mom wouldn't let me and I have to thank her for that because the truth is, the only way to experience a new and different type of school was to stay here. The second memory is of the manatee trip, and for those of you who were there I know you will never forget the tub of gravy, Jamie "I'm gonna get it," or the Flautas. Well I guess that is about it.

I hope that one day when I am very old and wrinkly, I will still remember the good times on the bus (or love bus as it is sometimes called) when I had no problems because by that time my life will be full of problems. I also hope that life treats me well, cause if it doesn't...! Well I guess what I'm trying to say is, maybe in order to understand mankind we have to look at that word itself. MANKIND. Basically, it's made up of two separate words "mank" and "ind." What do these words mean? It's a mystery and that's why mankind is too.

Senior Essays

Noelle Williams



I don't think that I can truly say how important an SOA education is to me. I have learned so many things over the four years I have attended, and it is hard to sum up the value of all that I've learned. Although my classes have been great and I have learned a lot about each subject, it is the lessons I've learned that have nothing to do with history and literature that I value most. I think the two most important things I've learned are to work hard and to have confidence in myself. There were many

more lessons taught to me, such as writing bigger on a dry erase board, but as one might guess, the two I've chosen to discuss are more important.

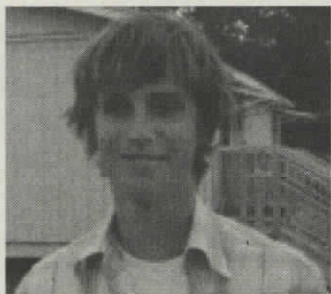
Perhaps it is easier to understand why such things are important to me if I took you back to my freshman year. It was the year I first came to SOA. I was nervous because I didn't know what to expect and it was my first time going to school outside of Hollywood (yes, there's a city named Hollywood in South Carolina). I immediately threw myself into the routine of greeting new people, asking for directions, and meeting new people, still unsure as to what my new school would be like, everyone had settled down and all the excitement of being someplace new faded away.

I think I was a different person then, though it is hard to believe. To my friends here, I might not have changed much since my freshman year, but to others who knew what I was like before high school, I am totally different. For one, I learned from my classmates to work hard. All of my classes were incredibly competitive, something I was not used to. I remember when I left SOA for summer break my first year, I wondered if I would ever be able to keep up with them. It seemed as if I was the only one not used to the work, and I soon wanted to work hard too. I now take pride in much of the work I do, and I have become a hard worker, just like the rest of my peers.

More importantly, however, I learned to have self confidence. My classmates showed me how to laugh at myself, and how to take criticism. I began to become confident in who I am and my abilities. I think it is one of the most important gifts my peers could have given me. It has changed the way I look at myself as well as the way I interact with other people. I am proud of myself and not afraid to show it, though I often grow nervous in front of a lot of other people. I still have a fear of public speaking, although it is not as bad as when I first came to SOA.

Ever since 9th grade, I have been pulled into the positive peer pressure of my classmates. In a sense, an SOA education is valuable because of them. They taught me the most important lessons I could have learned in high school, lessons more valuable than books, the periodic table, and algebra equations. An SOA education is as valuable as its students, which makes it priceless because it is only at SOA that there can be such a mix of personalities. I can only hope that other students will learn to appreciate the value of SOA and see how much their education is truly worth.

Taylor Schaberg



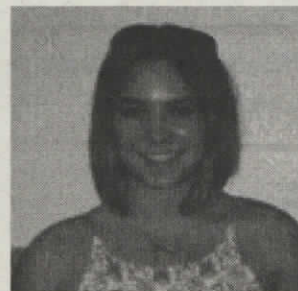
My Years at The School of the Arts are years I will look back on and smile. I have met and been good friends with many of the students and the friendships we have made are ones I will take with me. Each person is different at this school and that's why it is so great. Every student has a story and that story has influenced my life in one way or another. If I needed help I would trust any of my fellow students to aid me.

Over the years from middle to high school, I have considered the thought of changing schools. My parents would never let me do this, but now that I am graduating I am glad they stuck by their decision of keeping me here. Many students I know that have transferred have all wanted to come back. The reason I think this is, is because SOA is completely different from those other places. We have a close knit group of students that would do anything to help another. Its not like Bishop England or Wando where you would never even know the names of all the people you are graduating with. Its special here because we know each other

so very well. There are no "cliques" or selective groups at SOA, just everyone hanging out with everyone else.

I can't believe I'm graduating this year, and I don't want it to hit me because the thought of not seeing the faces of the people I've grown up is to hard to bear (tear). Although I am a culprit of saying, "I can't wait to get out of here," writing this and really thinking about leaving is tough. If I see any of you later in life I would be very obliged to know what you are doing and how you are doing. I hope to keep in touch with as many of you as possible because SOA has done an awesome job bringing talented and just great people together that I wont ever forget.

Shannon Gateke



Throughout my seven years as an SOA student, there have been two teachers that have made a significant impact in my life, Mr. Varner and Ms. Marshall. These two individuals have helped me surpass my own limitations and overcome obstacles I thought I could never achieve.

I must admit that I was terrified when I first entered the high school vocal room. Upperclassmen had promised the freshman that we would be locked out of the room if we were late on the first day, so naturally we all made sure we were on time. I took a seat on the end of the second row in the alto section and waited for the bell to ring. Mr. Varner immediately sent us to work with solfege and sight reading. Some students found him an uncompromising teacher who was out to get everyone. I can honestly say that he is the most professional person I have ever met in my life. He expanded my musical abilities not only through sight reading, but also learning to work as an individual and in a group. We were called on a countless amount of times to do solo and group sight reading. We were also encouraged to build and maintain a group spirit. Before every concert we would hold hands in a circle and sing "angels," the seniors would share some words and make us all cry, and Mr. Varner himself would affirm how hard we had worked for the moment and to now share all of that hard work with the audience. The music he required us to learn was challenging and after struggling with a piece for weeks and finally hearing it come together so beautifully sent chills through the room.

I have also had the privilege of having Ms. Marshall as my English teacher during junior year. This year, I see her everyday whether it's as a teacher monitor for the juniors or in speech class. She is truly an inspiring lady. Her classes are so intense between lectures, discussion, and Socratic seminar. Day after day as a junior, I remember I was so impressed by her teaching methods, her composure, and her discipline. She pushed me to new levels in my academics. I don't think I've ever written so many notes in one class in my entire life. She also took everything we were learning and put it into today's context. She encouraged us to think for ourselves and learn the beauty of communicating our ideas to other people in seminar. I never quite realized what exactly it was about Ms. Marshall until I entered speech class my senior year. I noticed that it was the way she spoke, her facial expressions, the passion and conviction behind her words that drew me in. She once told me as a junior that sometimes she loved to walk around the room while students were testing so that she could look at their faces and the expressions they show while they think. She taught me about discipline, confidence, and the power of words.

Mr. Varner and Ms. Marshall are two of the most amazing people I have ever met in my life. Both have helped me, not only in school, but with life in general. They have never babied me, and I'm grateful for that because I know that I can accomplish anything that I set out to do. They have continued to believe in me, and though they may see me rise and fall through the years, they're always there to help me back on my feet again. Anyone is blessed to receive the lessons they have to offer.

**Congratulations to *Applause* Associate Editor
Noelle Williams for being chosen for the 2005
Post and Courier Journalism Scholarship**

Congratulations, Class of 2005

Amanda de Rhodo



We are very proud of you and your accomplishments in life and in school. We love you, and wish you happiness and success as you take the next step in your journey toward adulthood. Enjoy college, and have fun!

Love,
Mom, Dad, Alex, and Emma

Quenby Keisler



Quenby,

The first eighteen years are the foundation of your life. I am so proud of you and all you have accomplished.

Love,
Mom

Tabatha Deas



This world is a stage we're meant to play on
Directions from inside on what to do
You'll find the script within your heart
a script God has chosen just for you.

Tabby, you are the "script" that was chosen for us.
We love you, Mom and Dad

Samantha Danna



Congratulations Sam!

We love you and are so proud of you!

Love,
Alex & Mom

Sara Houser



"Sara, you are the poet in my heart. Never change. Never start."

You have graciously earned respect for your thoughts and music.

Congratulations!
Mom and Dad

"There's nothing you can do that can't be done
nothing you can sing that can't be sung,
Nothing you can do but you can learn how to be you --in time..."
The Beatles



Congratulations, Class of 2005

Paul Saylor



Paul,

We are so proud of the man you have become! Keep "fighting the good fight" and know WE LOVE YOU-- Mom, Dad, Maggie Jo, and Sara

Katie Parvin



Congratulations Katie. We are so very proud of you and wish you great success and happiness in all that you do. Love Mom, Dad, and Sam

Noelle Williams



Dear Noelle:
On the day that you were born you weighed only 2 lbs 14 ozs, and we knew you were a gift from God. We nurtured you and watched you grow into the beautiful young lady that you are today. We thank God for blessing us with such a special daughter. We thank God for choosing us to be your parents. May God continue to bless you and shine his light upon you.

**Love Always and Forever,
 Mom and Dad**

Lindsay Funderburk



**Loving, compassionate,
 Intelligent, independent,
 Beautiful, talented,
 Creative, sensitive,
 Honest, principled.
 The most valuable gifts
 In life already belong
 to you!**

**Know that you will never travel a moment of life's journey alone.
 And always remember how very much you are loved!**

**We are so very proud of you-
 Mommy, Daddy, Cameron, and Bubs**

Josh Smoak



Josh:

Use those talents you've been given. You will make it! With persistence and hard work, you will create the life you were intended to live. You will give joy to the world, just as you have given joy to me since I first laid eyes on you.

Love, Mom



Senior Essay



Jocelyn Roper

The year 2015 is so long away, and I do not think my deficient young brain can think that far ahead. Well, 2015 is ten years from now, and that means I will be out of undergraduate school, out of graduate school, and finishing up my first few years in a Law Enforcement Program. Wow! It's so far, yet so near, and I guess it would be wise to start

living life with the theme, "Carpe Diem "(Thanks Bronksters)!

Ever since I was a little girl I would stay up with my mamma and watch Unsolved Mysteries. It was the unknown, the craziness, the fugitives, the sadness, and the creepy music in the background of the cold case files that grabbed my attention. Now, you can still find me watching First 48 Hours, City Confidential, and Cold Case Files, all of which are real-life shows that seal my eyes to the television.

Growing up, I experienced the injustice of many minorities in the Juvenile Correctional System. Hearing and reading this information gave me another incentive to go into Law Enforcement. I feel everyone deserves a fair chance, and as Johnny Cochran would say, "If it doesn't fit, you must acquit!"

I guess the idea of having a job that everyday something fresh or unanticipated may take place gives me a drive like no other. I guess the idea of trying to help mourning families feel at ease, and locking cold, hard criminals behind bars is the path I desire to follow.

Aside from the working prospect, I plan to be living life as a very financially stable woman. I will not be living life "check to check." I will be "living the life." Furthermore, my beautiful, influential mother, Belinda Ann Landor Roper, will be given riches of love and money, money, and more money!

You may ask how I plan to achieve such aspirations and the answer is simple: hard-work, focus, my mother, drive, and confidence. You never realize that someone you know may need some sort of Law Enforcement help and you will need the help of Lt. Roper or Detective Roper!

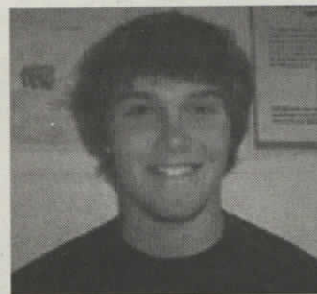
Rachel Patrick



Wow, I never thought I would make it to the end. Looking back at my years at the School of the Arts, there is so much I've learned. It seems just like yesterday was the sixth grade open house, when I saw this new place that would soon become my home. This place of creativity and talent has definitely given me a door for new ideas and somewhere to go to dance my anger out on a bad day. The teachers at this school have respect for their students and strive for them to do their best. Everyday at SOA is a new ride, full of concerts, tests, re-

wards and finding out about that last minute homework assignment the day it's due. Being exposed to several different groups of people made me realize that there is so much more out there than what I was used to.

Most of all, I learned about friendships and love. I never knew how close you can get to people in just seven years, some just four. You see the same people everyday and everyday the friendships become stronger. They have been there for me in every way, and I've learned to appreciate life and what it has to offer. These people I have adopted to have become my new family and I will always cling to them for support. Some have already graduated and some are still here, but they have taught me what love is really all about. I certainly can't name them all, but they know who they are. They have helped me grow in all areas of my life and gave me a reason to keep going. I wanted to thank my family for giving me the opportunity to have this kind of education and support for the past seven years at this school. I regret leaving, but I'm thankful for every moment that I have spent at this school and the people that I've come in contact with. It's time to say goodbye, but I'm ready to start a new life. I wanted to say thanks to everyone, and I hope this crazy adventure will never end!



Ryan Crawford

Instead of choosing just one of the topics given, I've decided to combine all of them and make one of my own. Each year has given us a different, value of education, a strong impact, and has shaped our future in one way or another. When we move on to the next year at SOA, we always think about how we could start over and make it easier for us now.

In ninth grade, a great teacher by the name of Heath Orvin taught me to think on a different plane, so as to not conform to all other thoughts, but to think higher than the rest. He wasn't teaching philosophy or teaching different ways to solve a geometry problem, no, he was and still is teaching history. If it wasn't for Mr. Orvin and his practical thinking on the history of the world, then I would not be going to college with the interest of becoming a history teacher just as influential as he was to me. The question of "why?" will forever be a social ice breaker for me thanks to Mr. Orvin. Making an innuendo for every comment anyone ever makes is also Mr. Orvin's influence. When I do become a history teacher and a student makes a somewhat relevant, but correct comment, I will shout "A for the Year!" Without the impact of having a teacher like Mr. Orvin for 9th and 10th grade, I know that I wouldn't have such an interest in the area of history and teaching.

This brings me to the value of an SOA education. The value of an SOA teacher or class has molded my mind for seven years. I would not know three years of French one and two with out the assistance of Mrs. Phillips and Ms. Emory. Thank you both, especially, the ever getting hotter Ms. Emory. The computer world would be a complete blur if it hadn't been for the combined forces of two teachers by the names of Mrs. Grayson and Mrs. Awkerman. These two ladies have showed me that Bess can block anything you can throw at her. When learning the fine art of English literature I have had the best of teachers. My first great experience was with "Dr. J." Now for all of you, who don't know Dr. J he isn't a PHD, in fact I think he was a little confused about who he really was. He taught my 8th grade English class that Tina Turner's best work wasn't in the late 70's, but the early 80's and 90's. Moving further ahead but still involving the English department, there comes a teacher by the name of Ms. Marshall. This witty, yet strict teacher has filled the minds of many eleventh graders with fear and terror about not missing any assignment in her class and to always be on time.

When giving advice to any underclassmen, whether you are a seventh grader, such as my young brother Blake, or a tenth grader, you should always remember this: Keep your friends close, flirt with all your lady teachers, get on Dr. Ball's good side and there is no wrong answer to the question "Why?"

Paige Goodwyne



Of all of the teachers at SOA, Mrs. Emory has had the most impact on me. The teachers at School of the arts are all set apart in that, they seem to be genuinely concerned about the academic well-being of their pupils. This is, of course, exempting certain vindictive teachers who probably aren't to blame on account of a rough childhood or a lack of mental sanity. But I believe Mrs. Emory goes above and beyond that call to duty, being culpably involved in the academic, mental and physical well-being of all her students, or children, as she

treats them.

"I'm here everyday after school, sometimes until five or six o'clock!" Mrs. Emory shouts to a class after returning a quiz which highly disappoints her. Mrs. Emory knows that her students can succeed and she usually knows the extent to which that success can be reached. It is true. Mrs. Emory stays after school every single day, unless an emergency calls her elsewhere. How full is her classroom on any given day after school? At most, one or two, maybe three students who are

Senior Essays

interested in receiving a good French education. For some, French comes naturally to the accepting mind. For others, it takes hours of time in the mental hands of a good professor, namely Mrs. Emory, or her father, a foreign language professor at the Citadel.

Ava Hill



I can't believe this is it! I remember touring the school in the fifth grade and thinking how the concept of the school was so cool. I also remember telling my parents that I was going to attend the school, and I was going to do whatever it took to be prepared for my audition in order to be accepted. I was determined to get accepted! The thought of being able to do what you loved everyday excited me because not only would I learn so much, but I knew I would have

fun doing it, which brings me to two of my favorite moments of middle school. My sixth grade year, the vocal majors had a competition to attend in Florida. I remember the fun we had; we were all so close. Every now and then, the vocal majors will look back on the pictures we took then and laugh about how silly and young we looked. I also remember when the Radio City Rockettes came to the school my seventh grade year to give the vocalists an opportunity to perform with them in one of their Christmas shows being held at the Palace in Myrtle Beach. I was so excited that I didn't even care how stupid I looked with my little dance steps and expressions. I was determined to be one of the four chosen, and I was. Performing with the Rockettes not only allowed me to experience an actual professional show, but it opened the door to my passion- musical theatre. My first two years of high school vocal weren't my best, but it all evened out my junior and senior years, which brings me to my favorite moments of high school. I finally had the opportunity to audition for things. One of those things was All State. I attended All State my junior and senior years and loved it! I enjoyed being able to meet other vocalists all over the state, and also I enjoyed our free periods after having our concerts. We all sat around laughing and talking about things including the memories of the past years. Even though it hasn't been the easiest seven years, School of the Arts has taught me positive things about not only myself, but also music. It has taught me to not change for anyone and to be proud of who I am, because in the end, only you determine your future. I have also learned to have confidence because when you have confidence, you can conquer anything you put your mind to. Most of all, SOA taught me to have confidence. I have learned and have grown to love the stage. It has also taught me to appreciate all kinds of music. With the things I have learned, I plan to take them with me wherever I go in the near future. Before I attend Coastal Carolina University in August, I plan to meet an agent in Los Angeles to help start my career, which I am majoring in at CCU.

Sam McMasters



Over the past seven years I have taken many classes at SOA. I've found ways out of taking classes and made time to take some elective classes. All of the classes I've taken have influenced me, but none so much as my major and government. My art classes with Ms. Jaycie, Mr. Moore, and Mrs. Nichols have helped me to find my direction in art as well as life. My government class with Mr. Brehm has taught me how society works and how I can change it.

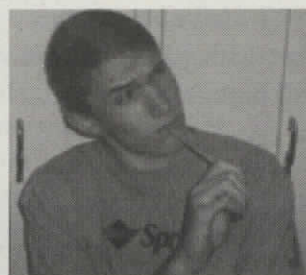
Mrs. Nichols was my first art teacher at SOA. She taught me the basics of drawing and shading; how to see things in 3d and put them into 2d. Ms. Jaycie has taught me how to paint and how to use my voice through art. Mr. Moore taught me how to develop my own film, and is now teaching me in Graphic Design. Ms. Jaycie has been the most influential of all my art teachers. This year she has really pushed me to use my voice. She has cheered me on while I've completed my AP Concentration which consists of some of my

most controversial pieces. I feel that being in her class and having a teacher as understanding as she is has helped influence all of this year's visual arts' seniors.

Many of my pieces in art have come from my growing opinions of government. While attending Mr. Brehm's government class, I have learned so much about the "system." I've learned so much that I have even joined a Peace Group that holds marches against political issues. Next year, while I'm attending USC Upstate, I plan to minor in political science. I don't want to go into politics really, but Mr. Brehm has been such a great teacher that I can't help but want to learn more.

Art has always been my favorite class, while government is a new found interest, it has become one of my favorites. I hope that when I leave SOA I will be able to continue my education in both of these subjects. Both art and government have helped me find direction in life and have influenced me more than any other classes.

Paul Saylor



Well, as I soldier through the final weeks of school here at SOA, it's hard not to have a somewhat jaded outlook--the push of exams, deadlines, essays, and whatnot tends to leave one feeling less than bright and sunny about the whole SOA experience. As bad as it may seem as I approach the finish line, however, the good times I am able to reflect on--some funny, some profound, and some just plain bizarre--make it all seem worthwhile.

I arrived at SOA freshman year feeling awkward, alone, and confused. I was immediately overwhelmed by the sensation that there was no one there like me. It wasn't until later that I began to understand that one of the greatest things about this school is the fact that there is nobody like anybody. Every School of the Arts student is a one-of-a-kind, eccentric, creative individual. As a confirmed geek, dweeb, dork, or outcast, call it what you will, I found it extremely liberating to discover a place where everyone was a geek, dweeb, dork, or outcast, in one way or another, and hence where no one needed to fear being themselves.

As my years progressed, I started to learn many other valuable life lessons from the students and teachers, such as:

1. Flying is a LOT less magical to experience than to behold.
2. Your older sister will always outshine you. Get used to it.
3. Always defer to the seniors, for you will reap what you've sown.
4. Teaching is redundant...teaching is redundant...teaching is redundant...
5. The solution to all life's problems can be found in a simple declaration of "Oh,well."

There are of course, countless other tidbits of wisdom that one will invariably discover over the course of a four year stint at this school...but a lot of senior essays need to be in this paper, so brevity would seem to be a virtue. Methinks you get the idea.

So now I suppose I should get to the point of this little reflection. Looking back as I approach the threshold of college, business, retirement, and eventually death, I am filled with gratitude for what SOA has given me, and I guess my cheesy bit of closing advice to all you future generations is this: don't squander the incredible gift of being enrolled here. SOA is a place of incalculable opportunity, not only to grow as an artist, but to discover things about yourself and the world that you may never have thought possible. Do the extra rehearsal, take the extra time, show up for classes, reach out to fellow students...do whatever it takes to take everything from this place that you can. SOA is a poor choice for one who wants to stay on the sidelines, but a source of limitless advancement for a dedicated mind.

And on that note, I leave my soapbox, hit "save" (just like Ms. Awkerman taught me), and begin to get just a mite teary at the prospect of leaving all you fine people reading this. Thank you all for the best four years of my life. Abrupt as this farewell may be, I'm afraid that is all.

...really, it's over. You can go read something else now.

Senior Essays

Kristen Young



Wow! 2015! That seems like years from now, but it's actually only ten! What do I plan on doing by 2015? Well, being the person that I am, I have a plan already for my life. Let me lead you down the road that takes me to 2015!

Let's start with the present. First, for 2005, I have to successfully complete all the required courses, so that I can graduate from SOA. Second, for 2005, I am going to begin the biggest change I can make. I am off to college, USC-

Upstate in Spartanburg, SC, where my parents will still support me, but I'll be on my own. I have to fend for myself and make sure that I go to class so that I get good grades, and I don't flunk out! When I arrive at my new school, and begin classes on the scary day of August 18th, I will begin studying pre-pharmacy, a two year program that I will hopefully complete with no problems.

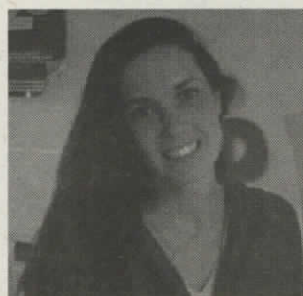
The reason I chose to study pre-pharmacy is that when I was a junior, I took chemistry with Dr. Price and I had a blast! I was really successful in that class and enjoyed everything about it.

After completing the pre-pharmacy program, I have to take a test and then I will have to apply to medical school. My first choice is MUSC, even though I am a Clemson fan; my other option will be USC-Columbia. Completion of medical school will be around 2010 and then I'm really on my own!

The next big mountain I will have to drive up is making a life for myself. After med-school, I will find some great job working in a pharmacy, putting to good use what I've learned and what I've loved.

Somewhere in the future trip through my life, I'll find the man of my dreams, fall in love, and at least ten years from now, I'll be thinking about kids, just thinking! By 2015, I'll be 28! Right now, I'm only 18, and that's a long way to think ahead, but I've got a pretty good idea about what it is I want to do!

Cameron Ulmer



I came to SOA in sixth grade, so I'm one of the veterans. I've gone to school here for the past seven years of my life. (I remember when almost all of the windows had bullet holes!) I quickly learned that this school has 'character,' to use that cheesy term that parents love so much. Middle school was the most fun time I've ever had, but it's helped shape me into the bull-headed person that I am. Everyone desires to fit in, and I admit that I did too, but wanting to fit in stopped

at freshman year. I looked back on those three years of longing to be 'cool' and realized that all I ever had to do was smile and be myself. The School of the Arts showed me that not fitting in is OK in any circumstance and that conforming is never something you want to do under any circumstance.

You don't have to conform to congeal (fun word) into one awesome group. I look around me at school and realize how different everyone is, and yet there is a common rule of acceptance for the quirks that make up each person. If you desire, you can be totally yourself, without restrictions. Some days seemed harder than others, but in the end I will be leaving SOA with the best senior class that I could dream of. I am thankful for the light

that each person has brought into my life... Yea, yea, sounds stupid, but each person at SOA helps to make SOA the bustlingly creative and differently faceted creature that it is. The diversity of this school is not common, so for those of you who take the people around you for granted... STOP! You've learned something from them whether or not you have realized it.

Respect is key; respect for other people's views and ideology is most important. This one principle is what allows everyone to do as they will with far fewer inhibitions than they could have had somewhere else. I guess that is the thing that I prize most at SOA: the open-minded undercurrent. I hope that never changes. Thanks y'all, and to the School of the Arts senior class of 2005, I wish you all the best of luck!

Ryan Graudin



I am a totally different person than I was two years ago when I first graced the halls of SOA. Five years of homeschooling had left me, safe to say, inadequate with my social skills. Although I had a pretty firm idea of who I was, I was frightened of facing the "real" high school world. I soon found out, however, that SOA is far from a normal highschool. We are unique in our lack of cliques as well as our myriad of talents. There is far less backstabbing and deceit in our school than in the others.

Needless to say, by the end of my first semester at SOA I had grown both in my confidence and in my faith. Although I was (and am) still a quiet person, I was no longer so self-conscious. I knew that even though my peers might not appreciate my views or opinions, my confidence did not hinge on that. While I appreciated their opinion of me, I was not defined by it.

In short, SOA has taught me how to live out my faith in a ruthless world. Both the trials and the joys I have faced in the past two years have forced me to rely fully on God's grace, an action I will never regret. I can only hope that I have made some sort of impact on my school and my classmates... Thank-you guys for inadvertently molding me into who I am today. I will never forget these two short, life changing years or the people who defined them.

Thomas Tanner



Attending SOA has provided me with some great opportunities. In my seven years here, I've been able to attend dozens of dances, plays, poetry readings, and concerts. I doubt that I would have developed an appreciation for these things at any other school in Charleston. Most importantly, however, I was able to learn and develop tremendously in my visual arts classes.

I love art and can't help but to draw and paint. If I were completely unsuccessful after college and ended up a bag-boy at Food Lion for the rest of my days with trolls as my only friends because I have to eat goats and live under a bridge with them, and my only consolation was a drug-induced belief that one day a red moon would rise and an army of werewolf pirates would rise from the sea and hold my enemies hostage in their treasure fortress on Mars, I would still be compelled to draw.

Senior Essay

Sara Houser



As the saying goes, "life is what you make it," and I believe that the same goes for an SOA education. When I think back on the last six years of my life, the things that I am most astounded by are all the opportunities I've had because of this school.

Take freshman year for example...When I entered high school, I was merely a classically trained pianist. I had never critically listened to jazz or played in ensembles. I had never been hired to play piano.

All of a sudden I was playing Count Basie and Duke Ellington charts. I knew who Miles Davis and Thelonius Monk were. Within a year or so, I began getting gigs at restaurants and conferences. It was a whole new perspective of what I could accomplish with my instrument.

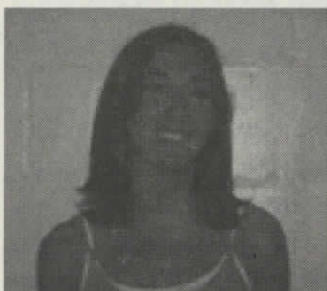
I also had the chance to be a part of *Peter Pan* my freshman year. I was an Indian in the musical, whose main job was to dance...I could memorize music until the cows came home but learning choreography? I thought I'd never get it right. However, doing something that far from my major gave me more confidence for performing. I wasn't as scared to do something goofy or make mistakes in front of people.

In 11th grade, Jenna (my piano comrade) and I became pianists for the jazz band. Up until that point, I was decent at swing, not so hot at improvisation, and didn't know anything about funk. I was thrown Latin, big band, blues, pop, and funk charts all within the first few months of class. It was hard, but I learned things that most pianists will never get exposed to. Being in jazz band has been a musical smorgasbord for my ears and hands.

Junior year was probably the most pivotal year for me. I took some of the hardest classes I've ever taken. I was pushed musically but also academically. A lot of times, students get intimidated by classes or even teachers and the result is that they miss out on a great class or a great teacher. I've never been stellar in math or science but my junior year, I decided to take honors physics with Mr. Murray. I ended the year with a C, but I wouldn't ever trade the time I had in that class for those few points on my GPA. My experiences with Mr. Murray are priceless, and I can't imagine what it would be like to be leaving high school without them.

My point in writing this essay wasn't to highlight my high school career or send me on a nostalgia trip (though it has anyway). Instead, I aimed to encourage students to pursue every opportunity made possible through SOA. Take classes even if you're not good at the subject. Be in a musical even if you don't think you can sing or dance. Go hear symphonies and poetry. See artwork and ballet. Don't think of high school as preparation for college. Think of it as your last four years as a kid, your last go at adolescence. Make sure you go out with a bang.

Stacey Tokarczyk

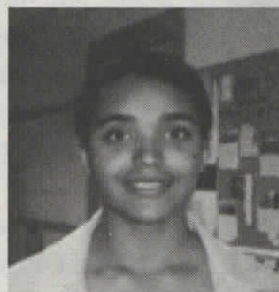


The four years I have spent at SOA have been very special and unique. When I first came to SOA in ninth grade, I felt very out of place and awkward. I remember walking outside, behind what used to be Mrs. Wells' trailer, and asking Katie, Hannah, and Natausha if I could sit with them during lunch. We quickly became friends and most of them are still my best friends to this day. In the eleventh grade, I met James for the first time. He asked me

if he could sit next to me on some random riser outside near the block building. We became very good friends and started going out a few weeks after meeting each other. We are still together, and I think he is one of the reasons high school has been so wonderful for me. Although I got my first boyfriend, I also lost one of my best friends because she was offered a very valuable position at a Tennessee pool club. This was very hard on me and Katie because we had been best friends for years. This put a damper on the end of eleventh grade.

I must say that my favorite year was this year. Although the band did not get to go on a trip, it was still very fun hanging out in the band room and playing all of the percussion instruments as loud as possible. I cannot believe this year is coming to an end. I have made so many wonderful friends and have learned and grown so much from all of the valuable relationships I have made with my friends, teachers, and with James. I am very excited about College of Charleston, and I think SOA has helped prepare me for it.

Ashton Coons



Senior year... man, I can't believe how far I've come. I thought that Jesus would come or I'd be dead by now. It's kind of a bleak outlook, but it's true. When I look back on all of my years, there are two themes that hold them together. First, be passionate about whatever you decide to do, and do it wholeheartedly. Second, everything is relative and you make of the world what you will in every act and thought you make. So many experiences have helped me to come to these

conclusions.

From my Physics "experience," I have learned that any subject can be mastered with time and diligent study. I went from a "D" to an "A" by the end of the year. Though I didn't get all of the concepts at first, I found out that I had the capacity to do it. It took a different type of thinking, but if you are willing to work, the possibilities are endless when it comes to what you can do. From my vocal experience with Mr. Eakes and Dr. Martha Shaw (All-State), I have learned that whatever you sing, whether it be one note or a mass, should be accurate and full of emotion. Music is what you make of it, and what you do make must come across to the audience in the way that you want it. From my AP English experience, I have learned that not every idea is cut in stone. I used to think that whatever idea you believed in you had to believe in all aspects of it, but that's simply not true. Even though there are certain ideas that you don't agree with, there are certain aspects of them that can be true. For example, I used to think that Existentialists believed in nothing and that there was no God, but once I understood it I found that some aspects of Existentialism are entirely true. All in all, I have learned that you can form your own ideas with whatever ingredients you like. Never stick to a certain recipe or label.

Above all, I have learned from SOA that you can't expect things to happen for you, you have to work at it or it won't get done. You also can't expect people to know exactly what you're thinking: you have to figure out a way to effectively get your idea across. I have also learned that everyone has a gift, and it should never be suppressed. Most of all, I have learned to always keep an open mind to everything and all things in the world are relative. You make this world, so for your own sake, make it a good one.

Jenny Kleiman



I want to begin by saying that this is the essay I thought I would never write. No, not because I've been slack these last three weeks of school, but it feels like it was yesterday that I just got to School of the Arts.

Here is a fact that most people don't know about me... I came here in seventh grade from Porter-Gaud. It is unbelievable even now that I survived the years of cliches, judgment, and unhappiness when you see how awesome it is to be in a school community like SOA's.

From my first day of homeroom in Mr. Buckley's class, I knew this would be the place for me.

My advice to the underclassmen would be this: Stick with School of the Arts. You will never find a place so warm, loving, and accepting. You are on the road to establishing who you are, and not one person at SOA will disrupt that process. Learn all that you can from the people around because you'll never know how privileged you are to be with them until you say goodbye for the last time. It may be a long while till the class of 2005 reunites, but thank you for allowing me to be a part of a beautiful family. I love you all!

Senior Essays

Hannah Metivier



Over the past seven years at School of the Arts, there have been many memories and experiences that have helped to shape the person that I am now. However, if I had to decrease my age by seven years and a lot of inches to my height, I would be back in sixth grade, and this time I would do a few things differently. Now don't get me wrong, the past seven years at SOA have been awesome, but just like any

other person, if I had to go back and change things, I would seize the opportunity.

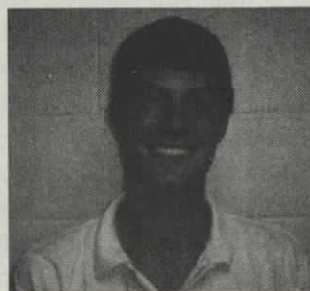
For one, I would have focused more on my art major and not so much on just the fact that I had some sort of musical talent and ability. I wish now that I would have taken all of my lessons more seriously and that when someone gave me criticism, I would have taken it to heart instead of just laughing it off. When I was in middle school, I thought it was cool enough just to say that I played the cello rather than to work on trying to perfect a craft. I know now that everything must be taken seriously when it comes to learning something new.

The next thing that I would like to change from my past years at School of the Arts is the fear that I always seemed to have of the people in grades higher than that of my own. Maybe it was the nerves and jitters of being in a new school or that I never thought that people could actually be so intimidating until I saw them and how they acted. Now that I am in the oldest grade, I have come to realize by watching the underclassmen that there is not a splinter of fear in their eyes. This means that all of the years I spent worrying about the upperclassmen and how big, bad, and terrifying they were, was a waste of my time.

The last thing that I would do differently would be to enjoy high school a little more than I did. High school is really not as bad as everyone makes it out to be and SOA has proven that. School of the Arts is not the typical high school, and maybe that's what has made it such a good place to experience the "stressful" high school life. Everyone has a close bond with each other and most of that is because we have been in the same place with each other for a long time. This closeness has created a bond that has made SOA a very unique environment. High school is not all about studying, and it is not all about your social life. One of the things that are required is the ability to balance the two equally with each other. Looking back on what I did in high school, I wish I could have been involved in more school things like student council or the various academic clubs that we have at SOA. High school is a great time to experience life and to test the waters of freedom that will one day belong to a young adult.

Overall, my high school experiences have been great, and though there are some things that I would change, there are many that I would never touch or disturb. They are things that, if messed with, would change the person that I am today completely. In my opinion, life should be lived to the fullest everyday, and we should never go to sleep at night regretting something that we have done or wishing that we had time to do it. Just live life everyday and try to live your life so that when, if you are an underclassman, have to write a senior essay, you can gladly choose another prompt to write about. Even as a sixth grader entering SOA for the first time and growing into the typical high school student, I have gained so much over the years and making the decision to attend SOA is the main choice that I would never change.

Jason Basile



The year is 2015, ten years after I graduated high school. At this time in my life things will be settling down a bit. After graduating from Furman University, I came back to Charleston to attend the Medical University of South Carolina. During that period of time, I hope to have already found the girl of my dreams. At the medical school graduation, I will ask this woman to be my wife. If she says yes, (which if she does not, my life would be

over and this essay would be done (good form of senioritis)) we can go live in a house with white picket fences (Always wanted). After finding where I will be doing my practice and buying a house with my wife, I hope to start a family. As my father always said, "You can't be a good physician unless you are first a good father and a good husband. Some people may say that my life is all planned out, but it is nice to have at least an idea. If life doesn't work like this, which I'm sure it won't, I look forward to all the adventures I will have between now and 2015.

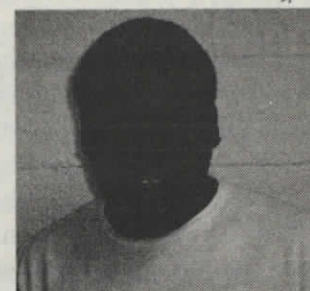
Ben Forney



Asking one to reflect on his times at SOA is like asking to describe fruit salad in relation to only one fruit. And should that fruit prove to be a yellow apple, it would be hard to truly describe the whole dish, as yellow apples are rarely found in fruit salads. And fish are rarely found in fortune cookies, though I think they should be. Wouldn't it be great if, instead of

fortunes, there was something in the cookie that was related to your fortune. For example, there could be a diamond ring, if marriage was in your future. Or a tiny pick ax, if your destiny lies with the railroad company. Anyway, what I'm really trying to say, is that SOA is like the window to my future, and I have certainly tried to break open that window with all of the great experiences I've had here for these past two years. Thanks, SOA, and in the words of the great Bob Ross, "Until next time, happy painting, and God bless, my friend."

Ronald White



School is defined as an organization that teaches students to be efficient in Mathematics, English, History, Science, and a foreign language. It also applies general knowledge and concepts to the real world. Although school is intended to focus on academics, some schools combine academics with the fine arts. One such school is the Charleston County School of the Arts. It is known for its academic and artistic accomplishments. In addition to

providing a comfortable academic and artistic education, it creates an environment more conducive to learning. Therefore, a School of the Arts education is valuable because the environment allows students to sharpen various skills needed for success in the real world.

A School of the Arts education is important because teachers allow students to express themselves. For example, in Mr. Brehm's Gov

Senior Essay

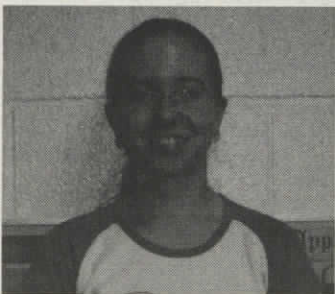
ernment class, we are allowed to express our own opinions on issues, i.e. privacy, gun control, and racism. By expressing ourselves, we will sharpen our ability to communicate effectively in public and show others that we are educated. Furthermore, by expressing ourselves, we will have more successful careers and better lives.

An SOA education is also important because the teachers include hands-on activities with their instruction. Activities enable us to develop a deeper understanding of a particular subject. Activities also allow us to respect and be open to other people ideas. For example, Mr. Brehm used fluffer nutters (graham crackers and marshmallow sauce) to show the law of marginal returns. I love activities because they are more fun than actual lecturing and they allow you to create a sense of teamwork.

Last, but certainly not least, an SOA education allows one to develop their talent. By going to our art area one hundred minutes per day, students are able to perfect their skills. In their art area, students practice and showcase their talents. For example, I go to piano every day to develop my technique and theory skills. I later use these skills to perform at various concerts throughout the year. Developing my piano skills will help me to become a more sensational pianist.

In conclusion, an SOA education will guarantee success in the real world. By mastering all of the skills needed in the academics and arts, students will receive instant job offers in the field of their choice. Students at SOA will "reach their maximum potential through majors in the arts and an integrated curriculum which will prepare them to meet the twenty-first century as competitive members of a global society."

Kayleigh Fort



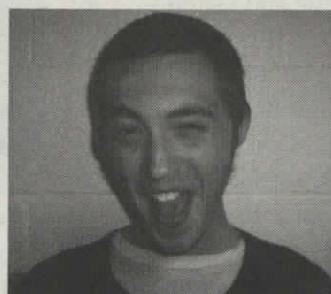
SOA is very different from normal schools. We don't have sports, a wide choice of classes or many boys, but I would rather be here than anywhere else. Classes here are more fun, though maybe harder, than those at other schools are. Everyone knows each other and we get along for the most part.

Only at a small school like ours can everybody know practically everyone else. This allows us to be in small classes, some as small as six students. When classes are this tiny, the teachers get to know their students better and it is easier to learn. Because of this, class can sometimes end early and there is time to have fun or to catch up on homework. I like knowing everyone around me. It seems like we can get more done when the class is friendly and has fun in the process.

Only at SOA do many academic projects have to do with the arts. In addition, this is probably the only school where teachers and students alike can find obscure ways to tie random things like food into an academic class. Several teachers have given us fairly vague assignments in which we were free to be creative and incorporate our majors into research projects. Other schools only assign papers. Since I've been here, I'll know of many ways I can use the arts as a teaching tool in my own classroom when I become a teacher. I've seen how they can catch students' attention when nothing else will.

At SOA, everyone is a little crazy. You know that's true when I'm actually considered "normal." Crazy people are more interesting and fun to be around. The School of the Arts is probably one of the only places in the world where most of us could fit in. This is also probably the only school where students can show up wearing random costume parts (masks, etc.) and not be looked at twice. The academic classes at SOA are apparently much harder than those at normal schools, though it doesn't usually seem that way. Artists seem to be able to make nearly anything fun and interesting, so we

must retain more information when we do so. As a school, we can claim many accomplishments. This school is second only to Academic Magnet in test scores and we've won a Grammy. Not many schools can claim much besides a few sports trophies. Even with its problems, SOA is the best school most of us could attend.



Joshua Jourdain

In the year 2015, I will have robot arms implanted in my hips so I'll be Goro from Mortal Kombat Incarnate. I will have a cookery show on ESPN and I will declare martial law in Las Vegas (because I will also be governor of Nevada for 3 years and will annex the first new territory in Goroland). I will confiscate all the light bulbs in the city and outlaw electricity. I will then go door to door disguising myself as an elderly woman and arrest every lawbreaker who is using my electricity. I will train elephants to patrol the streets and keep the peace. Or maybe I'll just be a missionary and carry my cross (with only two arms) since bionic appendages cast an arm and a leg (and a soul). All this depends on whether the rapture happens before.



Shawn Jordan

What can I possibly say about SOA? The school has certainly provided an absolutely awesome environment for creativity. Seeing the things that other people do leaves me in awe at how strange and creative we all are.

It's almost as if we were somehow in a horrible plane accident and lost out at sea. We washed up on shore, tired and hungry, but we were alive. Alive! Oh-how great it was to feel alive! But before long, the hunger pains began to dig into my stomach. I could see the pain in the others' eyes. We searched for food and shelter, and before nightfall, we had found an orchard of mango trees and built grass huts.

As the days passed, we grew bored. Some sang. Others drew in the sand. Art was being born. We shared the art with each other. We worked together, and we worked alone. But it was all art.

When the Coast Guard finally found us, we were like nothing they had ever seen. In us they saw a primal beauty only achievable through art. They left us on the island. God only knows what happened to us.

Wait. That didn't happen, but we are graduating high school. Hooray! But hey- I'm sure that I'll always remember all of you guys. And if I ever see you on the street someday in the far away future, you can expect me to run up and tackle you. And even when you start kicking and screaming and spraying my eyes with pepper spray, I'll always remember the times we had together. And as I remember, I'll cry myself to sleep in the small jail cell next to the guy named Frances who won't stop staring at me. OK. Maybe that won't happen either.

And.....fin.

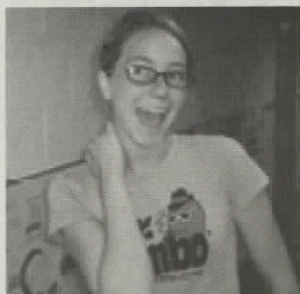


Oneka Buck

If I went back seven years, I would try to get to know people better. I've grown up hanging around with a certain group of people. Now that I'm getting older and on my last year, I wish I could go back and become closer to others because anything is possible and anything can happen. Life's too short to live in solitude. Now that I'm about to graduate, I wish my friends now were my friends before.

Senior Essays

Anna Crowder



Writing a senior essay is like the ultimate declaration that I won't be at SOA next year. It's actually kind of odd to think that it's over. I mean, I have been here for quite a while and I suppose I'm ready to go off to college but I'll genuinely miss School of the Arts. Everything about this establishment is familiar and accepting, including the majority of the people. The school provides a really comfortable environment, which is ironic because of our prime location, but it seems like everyone is so calm. What this has to do with the value of a School of the Arts education, I don't know. I'll try to return to the topic. To be honest, I don't know the value of a School of the Arts education. For me, it's pretty much priceless. The people that I've met here provide a lot of support that I don't think anyone else understands. Everyone is open-minded, which is a crucial quality to develop, and SOA teaches this. Something about attending the school makes people let go of judgments and stereotypes. It's so nice when everyone gets along. I feel like now is the time to thank people for impacting my life. First off, Thanks to Ms. Slowinski. I know our class wasn't always the best behaved, but you have to admit that it was funny when we came out of the dressing room with our tights on over our street clothes. I can definitely credit her for all the passion and the little bit of talent that I have in dance. I think it's amazing that I got the chance to choreograph on other students and showcase my work. Senior Thesis is also another great opportunity. Those were definitely two of the most rewarding moments of my life, and I'm grateful for being allowed the chance to do this. I never realized the beauty of SOA until I left. I went to Moultrie Middle School for the first semester of my seventh grade year and as soon as I got there, I knew that I had to go back for some reason. Maybe it was the cliquey kids or how I felt like everything was too institutionalized, but it wasn't right for me. One of my favorite memories was walking back into the SOA and being greeted by about ten people who I didn't think even knew who I was. They seemed so excited to see me and I understood then, even when I was only 12 or 13, that these kids are different. It's a really nice thing to be surrounded by people who you can respect for oh so many reasons. I have faith that I'll stay in touch with all the friends I've made here. I can't imagine letting some of these friendships fade like most do when kids go off to college. These people are unforgettable, to say the least. To find yourself sitting on a dock in front of a rusty train track discussing your passion for the arts with two amazing people is a SOA moment. All through my high school education I can pick out these certain SOA moments where I know that I could not have said this or done that had these people been from any other school. I don't know what it is but like I said, SOA teaches acceptance. That's so important. I think School of the Arts had a lot of influence on the way I turned out and I'm very happy about that. It's going to be frightening to leave my School of the Arts comfort zone, but I suppose it has to be done. I'll be attending University of North Carolina at Asheville next year, and the main reason I chose that school has to do with it being a liberal arts college. Hopefully people will be just as accepting, but I'm scared regardless. I don't know how to end this essay. The only advice I have is to work hard until your junior year, because you really won't go to class as a senior. I know I sound like the biggest SOA lover in this essay and I didn't even have a desire to go to class this year. Oh and if you're nice to your teachers they will be nice back. Most of them are actually really cool if you overlook the fact that they're teaching you stuff that you don't necessarily care about. School of the Arts is an excellent place, and if I ever make any money, which is highly unlikely if I pursue choreography, then I'll try to pay back the value of my School of the Arts education but as I said, it's priceless. And I definitely won't have any money. So it works out.

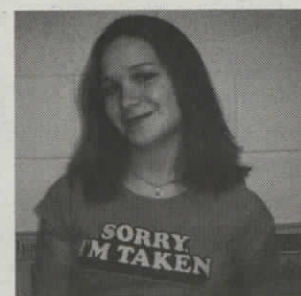


Ashley Clark

School of the Arts is a really special place. We don't have sports or a cheerleading squad and the total number of our students is about the same as most schools freshman class, but these differences are my favorite things about SOA. There is no pressure to be popular, and you aren't expected to dress a certain way to fit in. Or at least that's how it's been; I hope the underclassmen keep it that way.

Okay enough with my babbling, now onto the important things, all the fun things I remember. I came to SOA in the 7th grade and I only have one thing to say...find my middle school pictures in your yearbook and you will get a really good laugh! That was all I really needed to say about middle school, on to High School, 9th grade I had Mr. Orvin and Mrs. Lasley, two of my favorite people of all time! They are amazing people and wonderful teachers. Mrs. Lasley, I'll never forget pokie in the face, neck, and your favorite place...between the fingers. Okay I know you and me are infamous for running late but if you ever feel the need to iron your clothes while they are on you again, please stay away from the steam button. Mr. Orvin you ROCK! You always kept me out of trouble and helped me out when I had a gimp foot. Thank you soo much for all that you have done for me, you are truly a Renaissance Man! Doctor Marty Ball...I love that I can call you that and you can't give me a lunch detention (lol) I'm going to miss our love/hate relationship! Miss Emory thanks for putting up with me, prom was beautiful and no I didn't stand over any air vents this time. To everyone in my chemistry class I hope you remember Dr. Price yelling "DON'T CHALLENGE ME IN MY CLASS...MS. CLARK!" Oh gosh that was hilarious. Nesha I will never forget "Freezing in French." Hey Michael, "Do you like it? I love it!" Lil Lind even though we won't see each other every day we still need to practice our cheers! Madison, "you are everything to me." "Whitney What In The Blazin Are Ya Doing!!!" This could go on forever but I will spare you! Graduation is going to be soo bitter sweet; even though I can't wait to get out of here I'm going to miss everyone SOO MUCH!

Ashley Taylor



There are many words that I could use to describe my years at SOA, but very few of those words would make it to print. Overall, the past five years at this school have brought me knowledge of many more subjects than I signed up for.

When I began attending SOA in eighth grade I had all the usual fears and expectations of a student coming into a new school. Looking back I was far more unprepared for the next five years than I ever could have imagined. The very structured classes and activities of that year left me in total fear of high school. Finally after the first year of trials and odd occurrences, I decided that high school must have something better to offer to those who stuck around for it.

Oddly enough, I was right. Even though we stayed on the same campus and still saw the same one hundred or so faces each day, attitudes and expectations changed. Teachers embraced our quirks and ten-second attention spans with the understanding that this class was truly "special."

Over my four high school years, I learned the value of finding a place with similar goals and people who provide a challenge to what you know to be true. Though each person may be out in left field and have no intentions of trying to understand you, we all share something in common. Being an artist in a normal public high school allows you to be looked at as exceptional in comparison to those who enjoy mediocrity in your art. By coming to SOA you subject yourself to higher standards and increased chance of being second to someone else in one area or another. When you come to SOA you quickly learn that good will barely get you by,

Art Area Highlights

and normal is unacceptable. Everyone here took that risk, and as a senior I see myself walking across the stage with the select few who succeeded in being outstanding.

So back to the few words that could be published regarding my years here. Unique is simply over used in describing artists, so I will say extraordinary. Congratulations to the class of 2005 and to all those who have graduated or will graduate from this school. You are truly extraordinary.

Elizabeth Eckbreth



Before I begin delving into my senior essay, recounting how much SOA has touched me, I'd like to start by saying that no words could ever convey the deep emotions that I have for everyone in my life, particularly my friends and mentors here at SOA. You will remain with me forever.

The first day of sixth grade is pretty much a blur. The only thing I really remember is walking awkwardly through the hall trying to balance like fifty tissue boxes and other school supplies without falling on my face, and wishing that I was the girl walking in front of me with beautiful brown hair (realizing later that it was Ziyad). Some of my fondest memories include free time in Ms. Dirkes' room when we'd play BS, Ava's fanny pack in Disney World, RoRo falling out of his chair, and movie time in vocal! I also have to say that Ms. Livengood ("Mama Furby" or "Ms. Lookin' good"- Josh Yelman) was one of the coolest teachers I've ever had! Probably the coolest and one of the only academically stimulating activities I'm sure we all can remember is the crime scene she set up for us, which took up her entire classroom! That was awesome! I think most people would agree that seventh grade was insane- from knives, "slam books", and Mr. Buckley- this was the year that we were crowned, "The Worst Class at SOA!" Our notorious reputation has followed us ever since! RoRo put it best when he said, "You're great as individuals but together you're POISON!" Eighth grade, however, was probably one of our better years... from K-Juice, and water fights at recess to the mysterious destruction of pine straw homes, Mrs. Caldwell's obsession with Billy Bass, and Mrs. Lainey's French class when we all stood on our chairs screaming "RAT" in an attempt to get out of our final exam! And I can't forget "Big Yella" memories- "I smell oranges", Taylor K. sticking a lollipop in Melissa A.'s hair, and Ms. Campbell taking us to McDonald's! What I find so crazy when I think back on middle school, is that I don't even remember meeting anyone; we all just kind of fell into place- growing an attachment for each other immediately!

Ah, High School! Crazy days... There are so many memories it is hard to remember any right now... I think I'll wait (I don't want to feel like it's over quite yet). So for now, I'll savor my last days of high school and hangin' with friends before it's "Time to Say Goodbye." I do, however, have to take this fleeting opportunity to congratulate the CLASS OF 2005! - We've seen each other grow up since age eleven and through the most difficult times of our lives! Y'all are like family to me and we've finally made it! To my friends and my mentors (you know who you are): I love you and thank you for seeing me through my worst and best! God Bless and remember to "Have a nice wet afternoon!"

Jenna McSwain



Ah, SOA. On my first day here, I was absolutely horrified. I only knew two students and because I didn't come until ninth grade, I was sure that everyone would already have their comfortable group of friends and not want anyone new. That would have been true if I had gone to an ordinary public school, but students at SOA don't have the stereotypical high school attitude of "you stay with your group, I'll stay with mine." Everyone was so welcoming, and since that first day I have had numerous experiences that

have molded me into who I am today: the coolest girl EVER. Just kidding! But seriously, I am.

Two of my most memorable experiences occurred on birthdays. On my fifteenth birthday, I was at the Beta Club Convention in Myrtle Beach having a blast when I lost my voice. The people on that trip made me totally forget my frustrating mute status by making sure EVERYONE knew it was my birthday. After belting out the Johnny Rocket's birthday song and practically screaming at the waiter who brought ice cream on my cake (I was lactose intolerant), they showered me with gifts of underwear and we all danced the night away. On my sixteenth birthday I was in New York with the piano department eating lunch when all of a sudden, in the middle of this big business building's food court, Sara stood on her chair and explained to everyone that it was my "Sweet 16," and the next thing I knew, a big crowd of strangers were singing happy birthday to me. It was really swell.

Positive memories of SOA are countless. AP Theory trips to Africa, the long mestizos, Quenby's amazing knowledge of centripetal force, Ronald's ability to sleep through the loudest noises ever, Sara's PB & J dance, freestyling with Ashley Coon, climbing trees with Lainey, mad jam sessions with Harry (and Cait's jugs, of course) and rockin' renditions of "Heart & Soul" are a few of the beautiful memories of SOA that will thrive in my heart forever.

Aside from meeting some of the greatest friends I've ever had, I've received an invaluable education at SOA. I don't think I could feel more prepared to take on college and the music industry. Mr. Clarke, Mrs. Benson, and Mr. Kerr have been wonderful teachers and wonderful supporters of my music career. As I plan to attend the USC school of music in the fall, I appreciate immensely every member of the SOA family and how each unique personality has contributed to the upbringing of hundreds of students. In fact, when I finish this essay, I think I'll stand and sing our Alma Mater. Yes, I will, but first, I give this advice: Don't try to be who anyone else wants you to be or you'll let yourself down bigtime, and don't eat the salad that looks like coleslaw. Peace & love to everyone.

Jamie Hiers



We all have personal goals and aspirations as to what we would like to do and/or be. By 2015 I'd like to be building housing with integrated computer systems. While the market right now is certainly not aimed at the middle class, hopefully ten years from now the technology will be affordable and more advanced. Such technology could make life much easier for the elderly and handicapped. Voice recognition technology is becoming cheaper and more advanced, available to the general public. For around \$2000 one can get a tablet PC, which they run entirely with their voice. When applied to a household, one could run the majority of their house from wherever they are. If they need to call for help, all they need to do is speak a few words and they can call someone. Simple tasks such as turning on the shower or the oven could be made easier. Many things could be set on timers so a meal could be ready for you by the time you got home.

First off I plan to get a four-year B.A. in computer science with a minor in business then go straight on to a masters in computer science. After college, go to work for a computer company and get some sort of salary position. During my employment with this company, become a licensed realtor and work till I can afford to build a house. Build a house and live in it for a year and then sell it (this helps with taxes) under my own private company. At this point I continue to save (although hopefully I'll make enough profit from the first house to start a 2nd immediately). Continue with this pattern for a couple of years, and hopefully have enough with the combined income of houses and salary from the computer company to invest in some land. By this point, I hope to be in the position to build houses without having to live in them. Finish whatever contract I may be on with the computer company and take the company public. Get some investors yet maintain control of the company then advertise and begin building and selling houses.

Senior Essays

Kaitlyn Flanagan

This, my one and only year at SOA, has been one to remember. I came to the south unwillingly, resentfully not wanting to go anywhere my senior year. Of course being a Yankee (which according to Mr. Kerr is only half a word) I automatically assumed I wouldn't fit in at any school. Not here, where they fly the confederate flag. I had several plans of coming in, to be home schooled, to take credit hours at Trident, because I flat out refused to attend a regular public school. Luckily the Friday before school started I got an audition to this arts school. I was skeptical, a little uncertain. But the rest is history.

It only took me a few weeks to realize that this school was unlike any I had ever attended. Yes I was the new kid, but I was embraced, welcomed, not shied away from. I came in expecting to eat lunch alone, and to have no one to talk to, let alone have friends. I am so grateful I was accepted to SOA and even if I did nothing but complain for the first semester, I enjoyed it. Once I even said y'all (Shame!). It was this year that convinced me not to take on too many tasks at once, not to go for a double major. Focusing on music alone for, well, the second half of the year has been one of the best experiences of my life. Now it's hard to say goodbye. This school and Charleston, South Carolina will always have a place in my heart. If I hate the bugs and the weather, I'll remember the teachers, the people, and everything I learned here. Not the academic things, (no offense, Mr. Murray, but I will be forgetting physics as quickly as possible), but lessons in friendship, in music, and in life.

Kala Ward

At first, I really didn't want to go to the School of the Arts. My mom forced me to audition. I remember walking in there for dance when I was in sixth grade. I didn't really care too much about it, so I tried to mess up on purpose just so they wouldn't pick me. But it didn't work; I ended up getting into the school.



I remember the first day of seventh grade. I didn't know anybody and I felt too lost. The first friend I made was a girl by the name of Gia Williams. I met her in dance, then she introduced me to most of the people that I'm cool with today. I started to think to myself that SOA isn't all that bad. I had some fun times in my middle school years. Sometimes I wish I could go back to the moments that made seventh and eighth grade memorable for me.

Especially the time in seventh grade, Mr. Buckley locked himself out the classroom and everybody in my active lifestyles class was being loud and beating on the tables. Finally, when he unlocked the door he started yelling at us screaming, "Folks, we're not going to lock the teacher out the room!" We simply replied, "Mr. Buckley, you locked yourself out the room!" Then of course, he got mad.

I love my class so much because we are the craziest people at SOA and we have the worst reputation for being rebellious, breaking windows, having "class meetings" in the cafeteria every other week, making certain teachers or substitutes leave, and cursing out anybody who gets in our way. I just want to take a moment for shout outs: Tiffany, you know you'll be my dawg till we old and dead. Tynesha, my K-5 home slice, I will truly miss you the most! Ava, girl, you will be alright! Keep your head up! You know you will always be my dawg. Michael, cuzo!! I love you manna when you go to L.A. remember who your cousin is!

My other peeps Tanyesha, Patrick, Nisha, Oneka, Trey, Ashlyn, Clark! I'll miss you guys soo much! Love ya! Jonothon, my little brother! I love you! Hold 'em down when I leave!

To my last shout out to my good ol' buddy Jocelyn!! Girl, this year has been so great! I enjoyed being your enemy this year! It was good entertainment! Lets do it again sometime! Love ya!! SIKE!!!

To everybody else, the rest of my class love you guys and good night!!!

**Katie Parvin**

Seven years is a long time. Seven years at School of the Arts seems to have gone by in about seven seconds! Even though meeting our homeroom teachers in the cafeteria on the first day of sixth grade seems like forever ago, these seven years have gone by really quickly. I truly cannot believe that graduation is just about one month away and that in August I will not be driving along Iroquois Street getting ready to start another year at SOA, rather I will be walking to class from my dorm in Downtown Charleston. This realization is bittersweet; starting something new will be exciting, but not having the comfort zone of SOA and not knowing what to expect is quite scary. As well as figuring out what leaving means, having to write this essay has flooded me with seven years of memories at SOA.

Sixth grade was the beginning of it all. Two things stick out in my mind from this year-when Ms. Dirkes' class won some contest and got to rent a jump castle and they let all the homerooms jump on it and in our holiday Santa Swap, I got Jelly Belly's from Jason Basile! Not much, but that is what comes to mind!

I do not know how many people can actually say they liked seventh grade. For no specific reason, it is just a bad year. I just remember having to type a certain amount of words per minute in the beginning of Mrs. Grayson's class, watching movies about Shania Twain in Dr. Jay's class (while he was our teacher), and who could forget out time with Mr. Buckley...?!

Eighth grade was not too bad and all I remember is our band trip to Atlanta and when Anthony Olasov won the Pie day contest and everyone ambushed him to get a piece of the pie that he won!

Ninth grade was so nerve racking. I probably said a total of ten words in band class and having real high school classes like geometry and biology was overwhelming and scary. PE with Miss Hurtado was funny...watching everyone from Lane to Stacey to James trying to do dances for our end of the nine weeks projects!

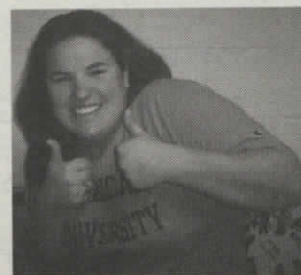
Two instances stick out from tenth grade; Lindsay and Hannah getting called into Dr. Price's room when the drug dogs came, and Nathan Hood making a brief announcement to the entire airplane on our way home from Indianapolis!

Eleventh grade seems like it was just yesterday. While hoping that I would understand what was going on in Mr. Murray's physics class, I also had health class with Hannah, JJ, Shawn, and people from last year's graduating class. I must say, I have never had a class that was so much fun and one where I laughed so hard every single day!

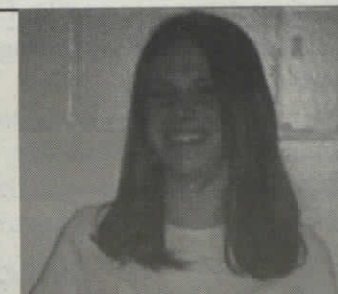
And now here it is, the end of senior year. What with early outs, Mr. Brehm's class, and just the fact that we are seniors, I couldn't have asked for a better final year at SOA. This has been a short reflection of my seven years at SOA and if I really thought about it for a few days, I could probably write a book on all the fun, memorable times I have had at SOA.

Mariel Conway

In the year 2015 you will be seeing my name in the movie credits; you might ask how will I get there, well here is how. In the year 2009 I will graduate from American University and from there I will go on to grad school (not sure where), hopefully NYU or the Prague International Film School. Once I am done with grad school I will start working for an independant production company where I will produce documentaries on everything and anything.



After producing documentaries I will move out to LA and hopefully produce major motion films, after working my way up, so that I can make money to retire on, so that I will not starve. So, in 2015 you can go see the major motion film that I produced that is if everything goes according to plan.



Student Art

The Spirit of the Seniors

by Rachel Maguire

Monday, April 4th, kicked off Senior Spirit Week. Day one was to dress up as your favorite teacher. Part of the excitement was Diego Villena, who sported a red skirt suit, pearl earrings, and a pearl necklace to be Mrs. Caldwell. Shawn Jordan dressed up as our own Dr. Cusatis in khakis, black dress boots, and a black fitted T-Shirt. There were others such as Lane Elsey and Lindsay Funderburk who dressed up as Ms. Hurtado in her dance garb.

Tuesday: Day 2—Wacky Tacky Day

This was possibly the funniest day of week. There were crazy seniors running around in speedos, pajamas, and rash guards. Yet again, Diego Villena showed up in purple flowery leggings, a rash guard, and millions of layers of tacky non-matching items. Josh Fernandes however took the cake in socks with rainbows, pajama pants, bathing suit, ace Ventura boxers with suspenders attached, topped off with a speedo. Then, his top layer he wore a rash guard, Mardi Gras beads, and a bow tie.

Wednesday: Day 3—Time Warp

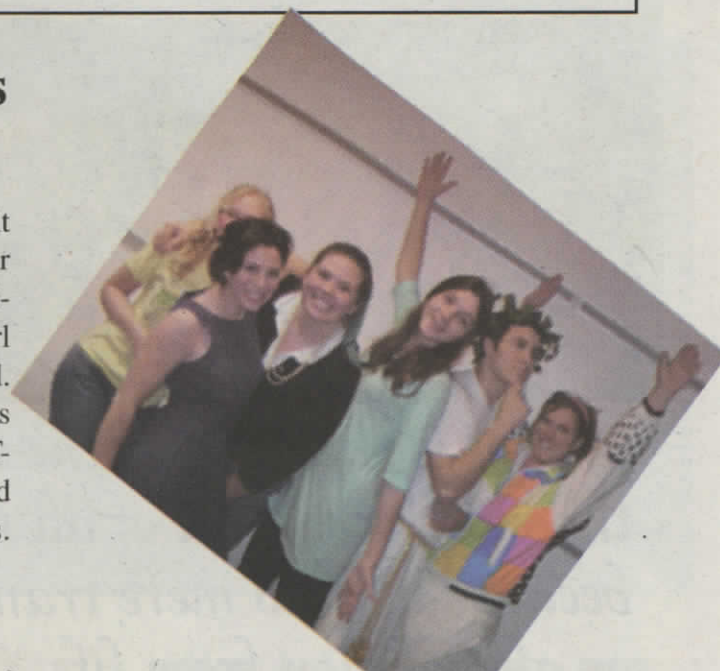
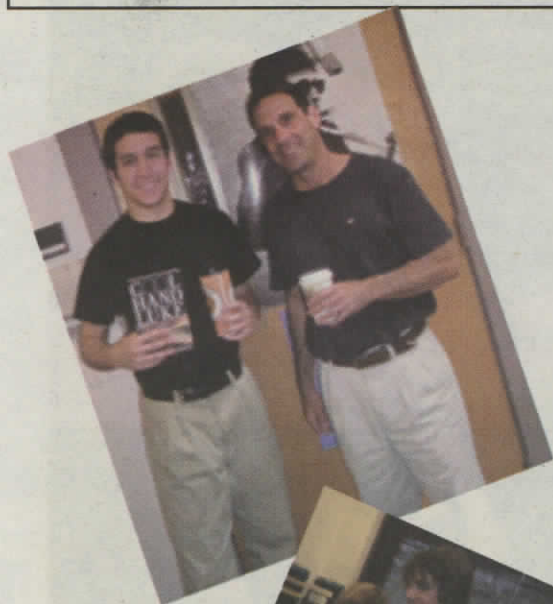
Yet again, Diego Villena rocked out in a Samurai costume, but the overall spirit had certainly dwindled from the previous day. Some girls represented the 80s with a side pony tail, but other than that, Way back / Time warp Wednesday was a flop.

Thursday: Day 4—Carnival

Boy did it ever feel like we were in New Orleans celebrating Mardi Gras. There were beads galore. Star shaped beads, traditional beads, and wild beads shown throughout the campus. We kept it clean though; there was no flashing necessary to get your beads, just some good old senior spirit.

Friday: Day 5—Last But Not Least...

Senior T-Shirt day brought the senior spirit back to a high. There were, as usual, a few stragglers, but after all, this is SOA. Seniors all wore red T-Shirts with their Nintendo systems pictured because that was a big part of their childhoods. Congratulations to the Class of 2005 (and to Diego Villena for his everlasting school spirit)!



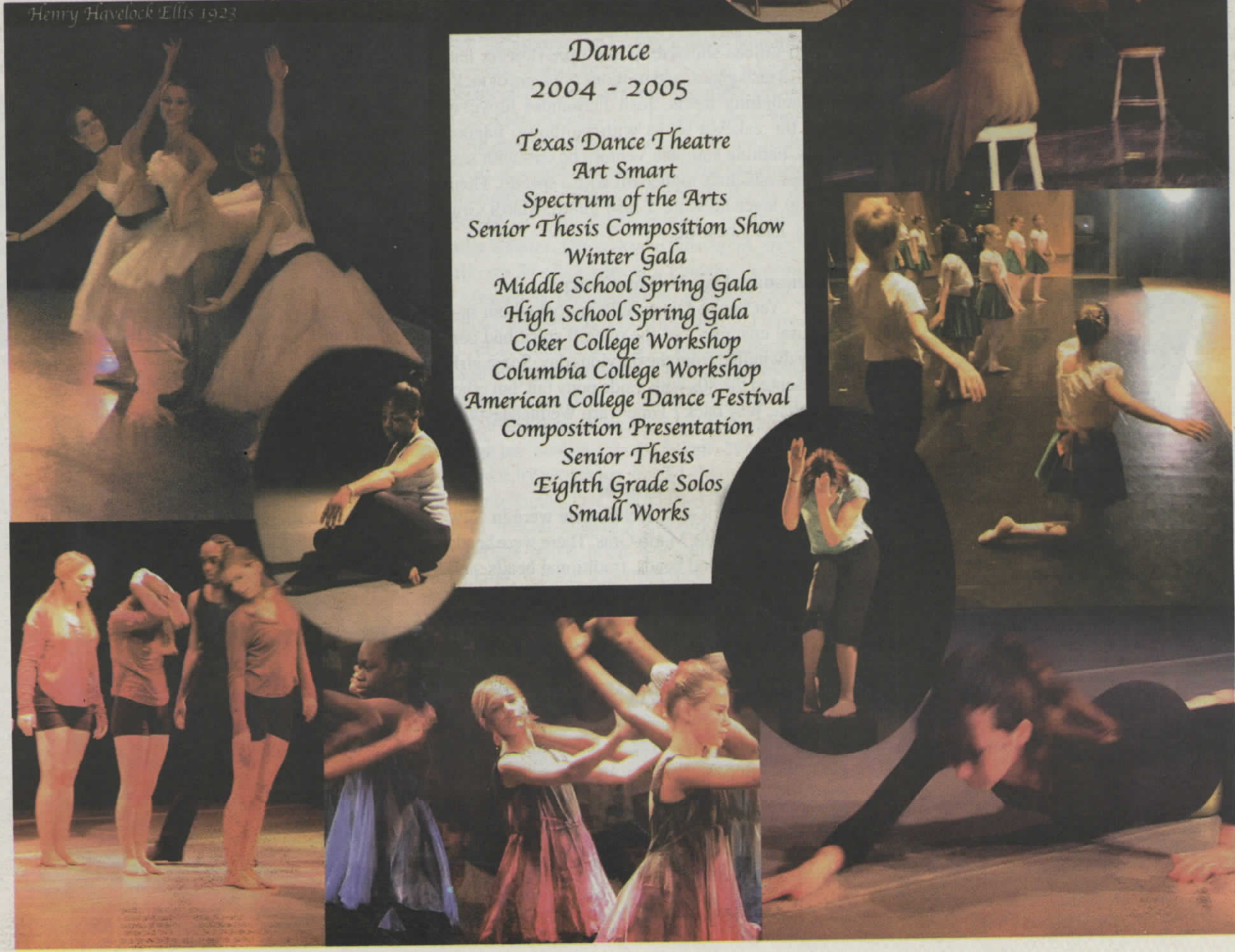
Arts Highlights: Dance



*Dance is the loftiest, the most moving,
the most beautiful of all the Arts,
because it is no mere translation
or abstraction from life: it is life itself.*

Henry Havelock Ellis 1923

*Dance
2004 - 2005
Texas Dance Theatre
Art Smart
Spectrum of the Arts
Senior Thesis Composition Show
Winter Gala
Middle School Spring Gala
High School Spring Gala
Coker College Workshop
Columbia College Workshop
American College Dance Festival
Composition Presentation
Senior Thesis
Eighth Grade Solos
Small Works*



Art Area Highlights: Vocal

Vocal: A Year In Review

This year the vocal majors participated in a mix of activities from concerts, to trips, to try outs for various choirs. The vocal majors' greatest accomplishments this year include 11 students being selected for the National Concert Choir performance in Springfield, Massachusetts, having all 39 students who auditioned for All-State Chorus being accepted, and an

invitation to sing in Carnegie Hall next year in January along with Davidson College.

The concerts this year include a performance of the combined works of Dvorak and Beethoven last winter at the Sotille Theatre with the SOA

Orchestra, the Madrigal Singers Concert in March at the Church of the Holy Communion, the Masterworks Concert with the orchestra at the Gaillard, and the spring concert and senior theses performances at Westminster Church.

The vocal majors also went on several trips during the school year. The Women's Ensemble went to a performance of Macbeth by Opera Carolina in October and received the opportunity to tour Queens Univer-

sity. In March, the All-State Chorus visited Rock Hill, and the National Honor Choir went to Massachusetts and also visited the New England Conservatory of Music and Boston during their trip. Finally, vocal seniors went to see Altar Boyz, Rent, and Avenue Q in New York City.



Dear Vocal Major Seniors,

What a quick and fun-filled two years we've had together! Scores of songs and trips across the state and country created many memories for us. It has been my pleasure to share music with you and to learn about each of you as individuals. Thank you for striving to reach excellence in all genres of music and for your witty comments that will continue to bring me smiles for years to come.

I hope that you all will find ways to maintain music as a significant part of your lives. Come back and visit us in class and concerts! Remember, when in doubt, sing "te"!

Love,
Mr. Eakes

PS--Thanks for the weekly birthday celebrations too! The cake was great!



Tyson Cantwell and Cameron Ulmer awe the crowd with their solos.



Vocal majors perform Schubert's Mass in G at the SOA Masterworks concert in April.



**Congratulations to
Paul Saylor,
Class of 2005 Valedictorian
and
Jason Basile,
Class of 2005 Salutatorian**



Question of the Year



Evelyn Palomo, not only because she is passionate about Chemistry, but she also helps so many of her other classmates to succeed.
Dr. Price- Chemistry Teacher



Taylor Schaberg, he just lets loose and is a wild and crazy guy.
Nathan Matticks- 11th grade Vocal



Shawn Jordan, because of his morning rituals in the vocal bathroom.
Nicole Brunner- 10th grade Vocal

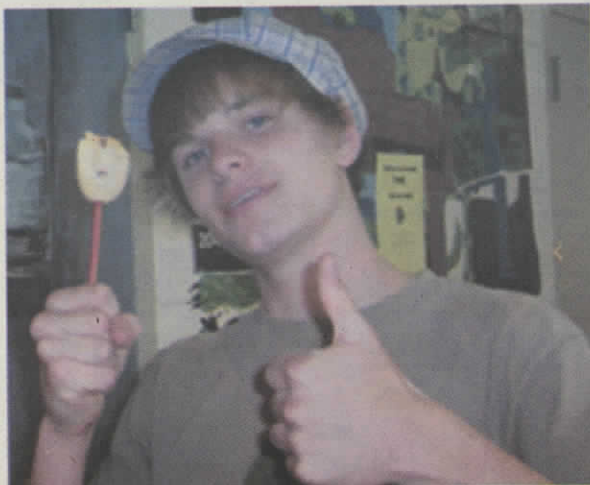


Kristina Kirk, because she is an inspiration to the entire school and senior class. Never give up!
Mr. Orvin -Social Studies Teacher

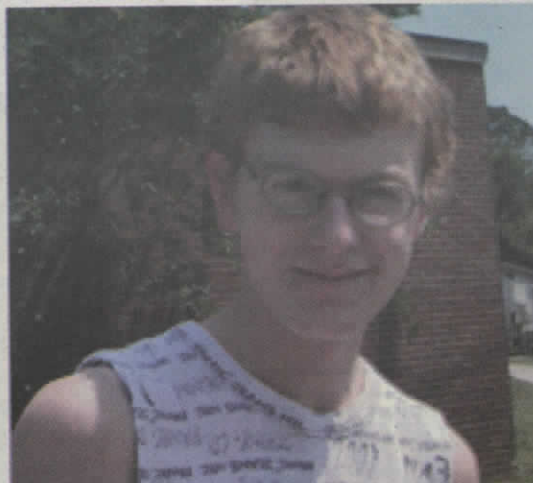
What senior has inspired you the most?



All the seniors have inspired me because they are all so talented and unique in their own ways.
Mrs.Bennet- "Nurse Lady"



Taylor Gaston, I don't know who he is, but I respect him for being there. Plus, he looks like an inspector.
Louis Marcell- 10th grade Strings

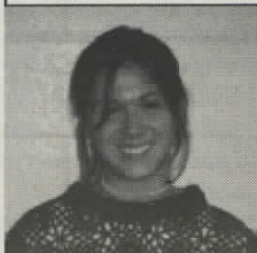


Elizabeth Eckbreth, because she is the strongest Christian at school I know.
Charlie Richardson- 10th grade Band



Jenna McSwain because she taught me how to play the piano and the meaning of life. She's a really good friend too.
Harry Harrison- 9th grade Creative Writing

Congratulations, Class of 2004



Lane Elsey

Wow, my senior essay...if you know me well then you know that this is the type of thing I've been planning out since the end of last year; like my senior page, my senior quote, and my senior thesis. And like all of these things, when the time actually came, I had no clue what to do. What I do know is that I would never be where I am today without the experiences and relationships I've made at SOA.

I came to this school in 6th grade, extremely excited to be in a school where I could dance. More than anything it was just a fun year meeting new people who had a strong appreciation for the work of any artist. We made up dances to every song on the radio and did the infamous "Stars and Stripes" dance, which is basically a mandatory induction for any dance major. 7th grade was the year I discovered boys and the year Anna discovered C3PO! Although it wasn't my greatest year at SOA (I think 7th grade was everyone's least favorite year), I'll always remember it because of our dance field trip to Florida and how Ms. Slowinski tried to tape the doors to our room every night, but we still managed to get through. Eighth grade was the year of the Hunley, which we certainly learned a lot about. It was also the only year I was actually able to understand math because of one of my favorite teachers, Ms. Fairchild. There are so many memories tied to 8th grade like my first kiss at one of Tricia's infamous parties, our mini prom in the cafeteria, the day Chris somehow managed to break my back, and our mini senior thesis where 70% of the dance majors improved the whole time.

Once in high school, the first teacher I met was Dr. Ball. I don't know if it was his fanny pack, or the organism of the day, but Dr. Ball was always my favorite teacher. All of his lectures and experiments brightened my day and we even got to see him swim with the fishes at the aquarium. Dr. Ball and Ms. Smyth are also two of the teachers that no matter what SOA event you're at, whether it's prom, or any arts performance, there is guarantee that they'll be there. These are two teachers that have always supported me academically and with dance, even if it's out of the way.

Every experience at SOA, no matter how small, has always been fun for me. In 10th grade I was able to have a date with Jamie Hiers every other day in Chemistry and watch the whole health class terrorize Mr. McKinney with weird questions and unknown pizza orders. And, just for Ashley, it was also the year of my mad dash to the car. My entire 11th grade year was spent with two girls who although they were not the brightest in the box, they were way too much fun and sweet to pass up. From constantly "grooving" to early 90's music to getting Taco Bell instead of going to an after prom party, Ashley and Traci showed me that we were definitely not cool, but who really cares what other people think when you have 90210 reruns to watch before you go to the beach, where you know Traci will do anything from pretending to be a softball player to hit on a guy, to "not knowing" that her top was off for 30 minutes, and after all of it, there will always be beach hair.

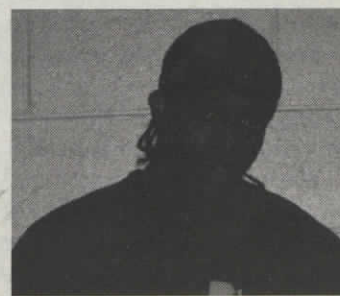
My senior year has been better than I ever expected. And I've spent practically all of it with the main person who's had a huge impact on me throughout my years at SOA: Lindsay Nicole.....Funderburk. I have to admit we weren't the greatest of friends at first...actually we hated each other. But ever since you told Chris that you'd rather fail than work with him for our duets, I knew you were awesome. We had so much fun with our summers at governor's school, but thank God we didn't go there for high school. Instead we stayed at SOA where we began with having to be tutored for Ms. Rickson's scary geometry class, then by 10th grade I knew you were getting way too advanced in dance for me because of Ms. Slowinski's speech for me. We've been through so much together - good and bad. The good including our snake adventures in the park, laying out on your back porch with our bubble blurbs, our "study time" at Barnes and Noble usually spent looking at tips in *Cosmo*, our fancy family picnics, long walks downtown with Charles, and our dates at Meritage...unfortunately, you're still the best date I've ever had. The bad..well basically funny... would be that, yes, I do know my own phone ring, you should really stop making fun of my bra's or I'll start wearing bathing suit tops as my substitute again, and I can finally put my hair in a pony tail by myself all because of your teasing...wow it's really sad the things we fight about. We've spent so much time thinking about how quickly graduation has come and now it's already here. You've prepared me for "real life" in so many ways. I can now actually go somewhere by myself, but instead of hanging out alone like I would normally do, I can actually go up and talk to people...yes! And surprisingly I always shake hands when I meet people..wonder why??? Instead of being shy and never talking to people ever, you've brought me out of my shell, so now maybe I won't be a complete loner in college. You are also someone I can really depend on for advice...even if I don't listen to it and end up screwing up...but even then, you still come to the rescue with a pint of ice cream and the crazy Brittany Spears concert to cheer me up. No matter what happens between now and what's ahead of us I know you're the one person I'll

always be able to go to and hopefully you know that I'm always here for you. Thank you for everything you've helped me through and having you're "unconditional love" for me, because God knows how weird I would've turned out if you weren't around. So whenever we start missing each other and for some reason(I can't really think of one), but for some reason we can't get in touch we always have our memories, like my interruption at Galen's (while you were on the computer), our super awesome prom night, the expresso shots and walks through the golf course, and of course our "Redemption Song" moment...I love you! By the way...Michael....tonight is the night!



Stacey Lambert

"How does one describe the experience that is an attendance at the School of the Arts," that's what I was thinking of when asked to write an essay about my years here. And honestly, there is no definitive way to describe it for each is as individual as the person who experienced it. I guess the way I would describe it is, we're all freaks, geeks, and nerds here, and darn proud of it. For one cannot attend SOA and emerge feeling like a normal person but hey, that's what makes us so much fun, right? And God knows we have fun here. All I have to do is think back to Dr. Price's chemistry class when she said, "We could measure J.J. but it would take too long," or to Mr. P's singing of "Di Oui Ou Maitre" (I love you daddy!), or constantly trying to steal Dr. Ball's fanny pack, which is a lot harder than one would think. And even though we may be the clowns of the Charleston County school system, it is because of this universal "weirdness" that we all get along so well, teachers and administration included. True, we occasionally have some run ins, such as in seventh grade when Ashlyn Blakey beat the crap out of Milton Thomas and had to be dragged off by Mr. Buckley (a.k.a Buckey Boy) and yes, we have made quite a few teachers run screaming from the campus (Ms. Livengood, Mr. Buckley, Mr. McKinney, and Dr. J) but all in all we're a very loving group. I guess that's what makes the experience at this school so unique, not only the "education" we gain through our arts majors (such as how to set off the fire alarm and sprinkler system at an Indianapolis hotel) but also the fact that no matter who, or what, you are you will be accepted. And even though we may give each other a lot of crap (band and strings majors, you know what I'm talking about) the truth is that we're proud of each other, we're proud of being at this school, and we're proud of being part of the families that have formed. So, to the class of '05 I say congrats, we made it (finally), good luck in the future, and I can't wait for our reunion cause we all know how...um...interesting that will be. And to those that we're leaving behind, be proud of who you are, be proud of this school, and carry on the tradition of being the only true "artists" in Charleston, for you will never get an education like this for the rest of your life. Later!!!



Michael Robinson

Well, what can I say. My time here at School of the Arts has finally come to an end, and I would first and foremost thank God and my family for helping me through the time where I thought I was going to explode. That was basically all my years here, but I managed to survive. This is the place where I learned that you gain some friends and you lose some, but through it all, you finally get to know who your true friends are.

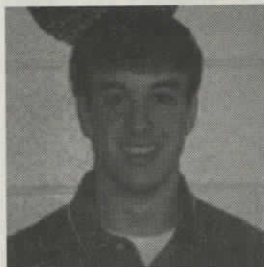
I knew it was an honor for someone to be attending the School of the Arts, so when I found out that I got in, I was so excited. Sixth grade was one of the best years here because most of my friends from elementary school were there and I got to meet many new faces. In seventh we lost a teacher and also gained one. Mrs. Ambrose, I love ya. Thank you for challenging me in my English skills even though I thought I was going to pull my hair out. Eighth grade was also really fun. I know that this has probably been mentioned many times, but Gia Williams..... I commend you. You have lots of courage. When you were jumping rope and your weave got caught in the rope, and you didn't know it, and we all started laughing, you untangled the weave, brushed it off, and put it right back in your hair. Now that's what I call courage.

Ninth grade was when I meet Mr. Orv. and Mrs. Las. I love you guys. Thank you for encouraging. I'll never forget you. Tenth grade was when things started going downhill. Mrs. Olsen AKA "Ole," I made it to graduation on time, and it's probably one of the only things that I'll ever make it to on time. Mrs. Kay, thank you for letting me use your computer to get Mrs. Olsen's assignments in on time. Mrs. Smyth, thank you for walking into the lunchroom....Just so we could cheer you on. Mrs. Bronk, what can I say. I am lost for words. The amount of work you gave us was overwhelming. To all the dance

Congratulations, Class of 2004

teachers, thank you for challenging me with my dance ability. It's going to pay off in L. A.

To all my true friends, you know who you are. I love you guys. Thank you for being there for me through the good times and the bad. Senior skip day was the best. I had a lot of fun with you guys and I'm going to miss you all. To all my shady associates and haters. Keep doing what you do to make yourselves feel better, and one day someone will eventually like you.



Jonathan Hershenson

Being in band is like being in a big crazy family. Because of Mr. Kerr and the experiences I've had in wind ensemble and jazz band, I have become the musician and person I am today. I wouldn't trade the band trips or any of the crazy times in the band room for anything. I'm really grateful for all the experiences I've had.

Lauren James

My memories began the moment my mother dropped me off at the front of the school. This was the first day of seventh grade, which was the first day of starting a new school. It was one of those times when you were nervous and scared at the same time. As I continued my journey inside of the school, I saw more and more familiar faces that I didn't know, but as I sat down alone at a table in the corner, a very familiar friend came up and said, "Hi Lauren!" I looked up and it was my best friend Amy. She and I had been friends since the third grade. That made my first day at SOA even better and the more that the year progressed, the more friends and enemies I gained.

As the years went by and people started to change, the "cliques" that they were associated with sort of left me out. But one day during our freshman year, we got a new student, Sara Cheek. She didn't fit in with their "cliques" either so she and I started talking and bonding and became best friends. We spent hours talking on the phone, spending the night at each other's houses, and hanging out. Eventually she left the school due to many conflicts and after leaving SOA we still were good friends.

Enough about the past, let's talk about the present. My friends now at SOA are the most wonderful people. They are diverse throughout the majors and grades. This year it seems like more people had more respect for me and I really appreciate that. To my vocal friends, God had truly blessed us all with a talent that we should not take for granted. I thank God everyday for allowing me to meet up and sing a tune for old time's sake. Most of all, I will miss Mr. Eakes and the work he has done for the High School Vocal Department. Thanks to Mr. Eakes for taking us girls to New York City for a weekend and to those girls, it was a blast and I hope that we will be able to meet up and go again. To everyone who I ever said anything negative to or have done anything wrong to, I am taking the time to apologize and wish you the best in the future.

May God bless the School of the Arts and all its rising students. May they have an enriching education experience just as I had. I regret not studying as hard as I could have to reach my potential. I hope the rising seniors don't make the same mistake I did, and I hope that you know that studying hard will take you a long way. This is the time where I want to thank all the teachers and faculty members who have made my years at SOA possible. The one person that I owe it all to is my mother. She shed so many tears and lost so many strands of hair because of me, and I just want to say that I am sorry and I love you for all that you have done and gone through.

Much love to the School of the Arts.

Philip Lipton

No school is like SOA. There aren't any fights, and rarely any verbal abuse. There aren't any "nerds" or "jocks." For these reasons we're free of all these constraints, and allowed to grow and morph into super-humans. Everyone appreciates each other, and we blend to form a colorful community of aliens. I say "aliens" because we aren't normal. Some of us seem "normal," but those are just the quiet ones. Normality is boring, and that's

why we are different. SOA is a strange place in this sense and that's why we love it.

This school is a time warp. We are all preoccupied with our arts and academics that no one notices how fast the time goes by. Now I'm a senior and every aspect of life is different. I like to sit back and think of when I was younger and didn't know much about anything. Every little thing was amusing. Now I have to go on a surf trip to get the same

thrill I use to ring my neighbor's doorbell and running away. Times have their changes, and sometimes they happen too fast. I remember when Mr. Cohen brought an astro-dome to school and I wasn't allowed to sit in it because I couldn't stay out of trouble. Or Mr. Buckley's attempt at Yoga Instruction and his classic agitated response to the class; "Okay folks were not going to do this!" Now things have mellowed down a notch and most of us will go to college next year to test ourselves in a whole different world. Sweet!

I'll always reflect on the times at SOA with the crazy friends, girlfriends (only a couple), teachers (the good, bad, and ugly). There's nothing like an SOA education. Thanks to this school we've all been pushed into our own directions. Now it's just a matter of time before we go out and leave our mark on the world.

Angela Hood

My years at School of the Arts are unforgettable. The time went by very fast. At this point in time, I don't feel like a senior in high school. I feel like this is just another year at SOA. It is very hard to grasp the concept of leaving SOA. I look back on my year at SOA and appreciate it. I learned many different things in the school, most of them not in the classroom.

My freshman year was filled with fun. I got a chance to make new friends because all my friends from eighth grade went to other schools. It was a great opportunity to make friends with such great people. My greatest memory in ninth grade was getting my driver's license. I was the only freshman driving to school, for a while. I thought I was the coolest thing ever, little did I know.

My junior year at SOA consisted of studying. I was determined to make straight As. I didn't fully succeed, but I did make As in Chemistry, Pre-Cal, and English III. I was very proud of myself. I never considered myself as a "smart" student. Once I accomplished part of my goal, I realized I can do anything I put my mind to. I also formed some good study habits, which will benefit me in college.

My senior year is going by fast, but I have mixed feelings about graduation. Of course I want to graduate, but the thought of going out into the real world intimidates me. Graduation is going to be bittersweet. It will be freedom but responsibility. I have learned many things at SOA which will help me succeed through life. SOA has prepared me for the real world as much as one can. I don't know what is going to happen in the next year, only time will tell. I am very grateful that I had a chance to attend School of the Arts. I am going to miss all the great students and faculty. I know I would not be who I am today without School of the Arts. Now it is time to go.

Sam Danna



The last seven years of my life at SOA have been full of ups and downs. I remember how nervous I was the first day of sixth grade. Luckily when I walked on the bus there were two other nervous girls sitting in the middle. We all sat together that day and the next five years in that same spot. They were Ava and Liz and I will never forget all the fun we had together. Some of the best times took place on the bus with us and Taylor, Melissa, and Jenny. I will never forget

Ava's "Hallways" and "chairs" or Ms. Campbell's oranges. One of the funniest times was when Taylor got mad at Melissa and put a sucker in her hair and the next day she came to school with shoulder length hair.

We had some great times in vocal in middle school with Roro, Sister Act, and Sweeney Todd. When we weren't sing (which was a good bit of time) we were hanging out with each other and laughing and talking. We had so much fun on vocal trips even if we were only going to Myrtle Beach with its "Nice Wet Afternoons." We had a lot of fun in our academic classes. From dropping books in Ms. Newell's class to screaming "RAT" in Ms. Lannie's, there was never a dull moment in middle school and I have lots of great memories.

Then between eighth and ninth grade we lost about thirty people but we also gained some really cool people. High school was very different from middle school. We were all going in different directions and being pushed off the sidewalk so the seniors could walk. We had some good time with Mr. Varner and the "B-Team."

High School seems to have gone by in a blur, especially senior year. We have had a crazy year. We got off to a slow start and could not seem to get anything to come together but we finally pulled through. We had a great senior spirit week with our parade and crazy clothes. We were the first senior class to successfully pull off a senior skip and we had so much fun at the beach or James Island County Park. Now we are finally graduating and no teachers will ever have to deal with us but they will always have their memories. The rising seniors have a lot to live up to. Make us proud.



Congratulations, Class of 2004

Rachel Parrish



I really enjoyed School of the Arts, because it always made me feel right at home. No matter where I'd go, I would always be classified as "weird," but at School of the Arts I always fit right in. Everyone is weird and everyone is different. There is no popular group, or a group everyone hates, 99.9% of the people not only get along but also are close friends.

I finally realized in ninth or tenth grade that there aren't schools or students like ours. I began to hang out with other kids from schools such as Wando, West Ashley, etc. They were so different. They didn't accept kids who weren't exactly like them and every other kid from their school. It seemed like at other schools everyone had to look and act just alike. There would be fights practically everyday, and everyone thought that was awesome. This is what I found a little weird. People from School of the Arts don't care if you're crazy, or loud, or even little different looking. Everyone gets along.

I've met some of my closest friends at School of the Arts, and I know they'll be my friends forever. I don't think I'll ever meet cooler people, and I'm almost positive I'll never be in a more comfortable social setting. I'm glad I decided to spend almost all of my school career at School of the Arts, and I know I wouldn't be the person I am today otherwise. I would recommend any kid going here; I think it is the best route for everyone. It really makes you come out as your own person, and you don't feel like you have to be someone you aren't. Hopefully, the school will be open long enough for my kids and their kids to go here.

Leah Crooks



The years that I have spent at SOA have been the greatest years of my life. I have learned so many different things and have met a lot of great friends. The best experience I have had at SOA was being in the theater department, especially senior year. The first day I walked into the senior thesis class I was so nervous. I knew that there was so much hard work to come. This was my first class with just theater seniors and with Mr. Wood.

Mr. Wood is probably the best person I have ever had the pleasure to meet. He made me feel so good about everything. He was always making sure I was okay. Everyday with Mr. Wood was a good day. He is the only teacher I have ever met that treated his students like

friends. He laughed and joked with us. He was very open with us. It was almost like he was our teacher, father, and friend all rolled into one. He inspired me so much. Whenever I hated my thesis he was always there to tell me how great it was. He got to know all of us on a one-on-one basis. He treated us with respect and care. I looked forward to his class everyday and did my best in it because I enjoyed it so much. He taught us about theater and about life. He took notice that we were all different people and therefore never expected the same from everyone. I remember sometimes having a bad day and he would just hug me and cheer me up. I become so close to all the senior theater majors. We had so much fun together. We really were like one big family. There were all like brothers and sisters to me.

Mr. Wood really made my senior year the best year ever. I am going to miss all of the jokes with him and the other theater people. It's going to be hard to leave, but I'm leaving with new friendships formed and more lessons learned.

Jeanne Albinger



Curtain up. The lights buzz to life, illuminating the stage. I stand alone, facing a huge audience of unknown countenances. Some smile, some frown. Dotted here and there are people I know, other young people who have donned the red gown and gold tasseled cap and made their way to their major teacher to accept the pass to their forthcoming opportunities. My heart clenches, but suppress my fear, ready to deliver the speech that is the rest of my life. I know without being told that it will be difficult, but I feel better than pre-

pared to take on the world. The real world.

For the last seven years I've been told that SOA is a far cry from normal, a far cry from the terrors that abound outside our chain-link fence, a far cry from what is accepted by the rest of society, but I refuse to acknowledge that I have experienced any less than someone at a "real school." As I stand on the stage, staring out into the vast future ahead of me, I am at once terrified and filled with crazy excitement.

The ethereal quality any student has the capacity to notice as he walks through our halls is due to more than just the papermill's presence through North Charleston, more than the train whistles you don't notice after the first week. The sense of security is achieved by more than the cop who only comes in the mornings, more than the jail around our vending machine. The truth is, you do get more from an SOA education than you do anywhere else. We brush off

the privileges for which many people yearn and we take the experiences we are given in stride, but we always come to the stunning realization that we've had the best life can offer.

As the music begins, I feel the pulse of life that surges from my soul and it takes my breath away. I step forward and embrace the new things ahead of me. The world is my stage, and I was placed upon that stage by gentle mentors and loving friends as a wee sixth grader in the fall of 1998. So life, I dare you to take me on. I'm ready.



Lindsay Funderburk

I have learned so much from my experiences at SOA. My teachers have given me a solid education. In my seven years at School of the Arts I have grown as an artist, a scholar, and a person. But what I have learned from the students and my friends is equally as important. Other people can teach you a lot about yourself, and I wouldn't be the same had I not met these people.

Lane Cornell Elsey—I love you. We have had so many incredible times together that I don't even know where to begin. I guess the story of our love begins in a flurry of orange and white pompons and bows much too big for our seven-year-old heads. Who knew that we would be reunited at Ashley River in third grade? I know that I was way too cool and popular for you then, but I'm glad we ended up at School of the Arts together. You spent most of your middle school years with Chris and all the dancers know I'd rather get an "F" than work with him! But by the summer of eighth grade we had grown pretty close. We were at Governor's School then. You were the prima ballerina faking a slim fast diet and I was the klutz who ate all of your care packages. There are so many dance memories from youth ballet and walking to McDonalds after Saturday classes to me forgetting my bloomers in your favorite piece... Tarantella. No one can forget "Festivale" or Amanda's countless failed attempts to cover her tattoos and piercings. And we must thank dance for making us Rasta Impostas. Some of our most unforgettable memories include parking garages. And of course our favorite date was dinner at Meritage. We would always end up with full stomachs and empty wallets. I will miss the great times, but we are sure to have more. You are such an amazing person. You are beautiful, talented, intelligent and the best friend I could have. I have learned from you how to love unconditionally. I know I have my flaws and I can be hard to love, but I have always felt like you were there regardless.

Thank you for everything. Josh, I'm going to miss you so much. I still remember when I asked you to be my boyfriend in third grade and you replied, "sure, that's fine." Oh, I was in love and you were indifferent. What chemistry! Our kiss in the tube slide at Ashley River was so memorable. Ryan kept guard. I can always count on him. You and I continued our very serious relationship until seventh grade when I broke up with you because I heard you were planning on breaking up with me. Fast forward to high school. I'm sure that I would have made a better grade in Pre-Calculus had I not sat by you. But I wouldn't trade a better grade for our chats, notes and doodles. I remember getting you a pet lobster for your birthday. I went through so much to keep it alive for you, and your Dad ate it... he ate your pet! I don't love that. There were lots of long drives, long talks and parking garages. Every day after school was spent at Susan Frickman's house eating double fudge brownie ice cream and watching "Next." I'm going to miss that along with good times like Prom '05 with Gabe/Dave and songs with unprintable lyrics. I love you! Your passion for music is so inspiring. You are so talented. You have taught me a lot about being a good friend and even more about respecting people. Thanks for being so awesome. We won't let the dream come true... okay? This summer is going to be great. There's much more fun to be had!

Last but not least, the greatest sister I could have—Cameron. I'm not going to follow that with flattering adjectives. You can just read the to go box from Kickin' Chicken. You have to come downtown and visit me every day because I don't know what I'm going to do without you. We have grown so close. I remember in middle school when we would come home and make up commercials to make each other laugh. In high school we would get ready to go out on a Friday night and I would always have to do your makeup. I complain about that now, but I'm going to miss that. I'm even going to miss you borrowing all of my clothes and not letting me borrow anything of yours. I'll miss our drives to school and all the times we hung out. I love you so much.

Well, I guess this is it (that wasn't directed to you Josh). There are so many other people who have influenced my growth as a person, and you most likely know who you are. I am really glad I have gotten a chance to know all of my friends. I love you guys.

Have a great summer!

Art Area Highlights 2004 - 2005

SOA Band: A year in review

The School of the Arts Band Major grew to its largest membership this school year, expanding to 78 musicians. As in the past, the Wind Ensemble and Jazz Ensemble had their share of successful performances. The SOA Jazz Ensemble had its most successful "Jump, Jive and Wail" show ever at the Charleston Visitors Center. The Jazz Ensemble performed over



three hours of music, and over 1,000 people attended this event, which has become the "Homecoming Dance" for SOA. The SOA Wind Ensemble gave five performances this year, including the "Concert for Kristina," that raised thousands of dollars to support one of its own, Kristina Kirk, as she struggled with serious illnesses

through the year.

Many individuals earned honors at the local, state and national level. Seven members of the SOA Jazz Ensemble were selected to the SC All-State Jazz Ensemble, the most selected from any school in the state. Tyron Mott, Trevor Murray, Jenna McSwain, Josh Smoak, Timothy Robinson, Mary Reed, and Rodney Liles performed with the All-State Jazz Band at Newberry College in March. The SOA Wind Ensemble was well represented at the state level, with ten musicians selected to the All-State Band. Kelly Machado, Michael



Mears, Eric Black, Alexandra Dawson-Beatty, Kaitlyn Flanagan, Philip Lipton, Amy Green, Hollie Reeves, Daniel Vincent, and Timothy Robinson performed with the All-State Band at Furman University. Alexandra Dawson-Beatty (better known as Zippy), and Daniel Vincent were selected to the National High School Honors Orchestra and performed with that ensemble in Las Vegas. Daniel was also selected to the National High School Honor Band and performed in Indianapolis. Many of our musicians are becoming regulars on the local concert and performance scene, from playing in combos in clubs downtown to performing in churches and classical concerts around the area.

I am extremely proud of the accomplishments of the band and the individual students. They are all great kids and I look forward to every day I get to teach them. To the Seniors: I will miss you, and wish you well as you

leave SOA. To the rising seniors and returning underclassmen: I'm really excited about next year and look forward to one of our most successful years ever!

Mr. Kerr

SOA Visual Arts: A year in review

Trey, Oneka, Sarah, Quenby, Austin, Anahita, J.J., James, Sam, and Thomas.

Wishing all of you much success. Congratulations, Class of 2005!

Much love to all of you!

Miss Jaycie

This year is the most productive year we have had in Visual Arts so far. Each senior is enrolled in AP Studio Art and this is the first class in which each student will have successfully completed their portfolio, including a senior thesis. The AP portfolio includes twenty nine pieces of work. Twelve of these pieces are a concentration based on a theme of their choice. Their concentration is their senior thesis.



At the Coastal Carolina Fair we received an award for every piece we entered. We received the Schriener's Award, Judges' Award, and First Place in each category we entered as well as one Second Place. The seniors also entered the First Federal Senior Art Show.



Oneka placed second overall and Sara Haynes received an honorable mention. Sara Haynes, Trey Williams, and Thomas Tanner were invited to Atlanta College of Art with all their expenses paid to compete for a full scholarship. Sam

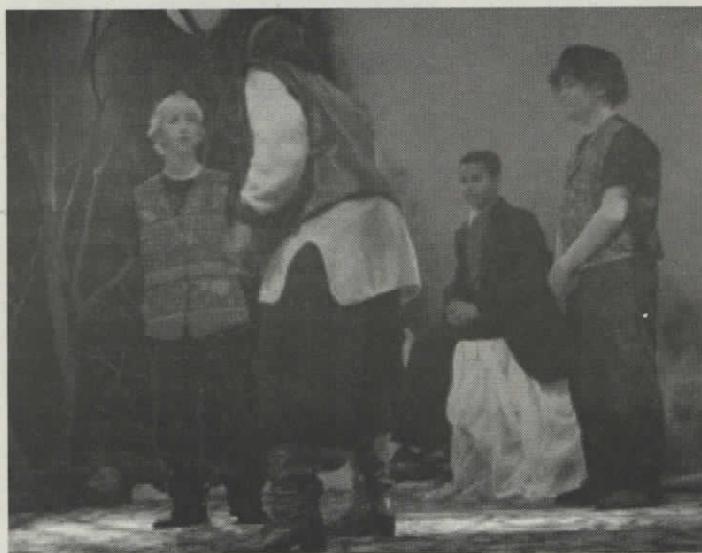
McMasters was offered a scholarship to the Maryland Institute College of Art. J.J. Jourdain is meeting with Brevard College and may receive a scholarship. Quenby Keisler has also been selected from thirty other students to receive a scholarship.

It has been my pleasure teaching them and I look forward to hearing about their programs in the years to come.

Miss Jaycie Rappold

Art Area Highlights: Theatre

Theatre: A year in review



Senior thesis in the SOA Theatre Departments challenges each student to explore and discover the depth of his or her artistic skills. Writing, acting, directing, and designing a one-person 20 minute performance is a daunting task even for seasoned theatre professionals, yet

each year, graduating seniors from the theatre department take on this project with enthusiasm. This year was no exception. The 13 young artists in the senior thesis theatre course confronted this challenge and produced 13 unique plays during the month of April. However, the year long commitment to the thesis project is not the only task demanded of a student who completes the theatre department's high school activities. These curriculum based performances include such projects as The SOA Haunted House and the annual stage combat competition. Additionally, the senior thesis theatre course includes a semester long college level theatre 101 course. This dual credit course covers theatre history from the Greeks to the postmodernists of the 21st century. In order to complete the required assignments, projects, rehearsals, research, script, papers, journal entries, costume designs, lighting plot and set construction, each student has to schedule hours of work after the final school bell rings. The 13 students who completed senior thesis this year did so with the maturity and dedication of professional theatre artists.



The act of creation is an intimate and personal voyage of self-discovery. I count it a privilege and an honor to have been able to share this journey with you. At the end of each year I have a special attachment to each graduating class of senior theatre majors because I have been an integral part of the creative process. However this year will hold a special place in my memories of senior classes. Our year has been one of beginnings and endings. I had my own journey I had to complete this year and I did not travel it alone. I have felt supported by your laughter, teasing, concern, and love. I will never forget standing to speak at the funeral and looking out to see your faces on the back row. I felt as though I received as much as I have given. Participating in your creative process helped me to rediscover the power of hope and compassion. Thank you for such a gift.

A fellow artist,
Samuel Wood

Outside the Arts: A year in review

by Kathleen Smith

The School of the Arts has had yet another busy year, not only in the arts areas, but also in academics and extra-curricular activities. Here is a very brief recap of some of this year's news.



In August, middle school guidance director, Mrs. Miller, held the annual "New Kids of the Block" party for over 40 new seventh and eighth graders. On Friday, August 20th, the senior class elected Yaeger Deas as president, Shawn Jordan as vice-president, Samantha Danna as treasurer, and Evelyn Palomo as secretary.

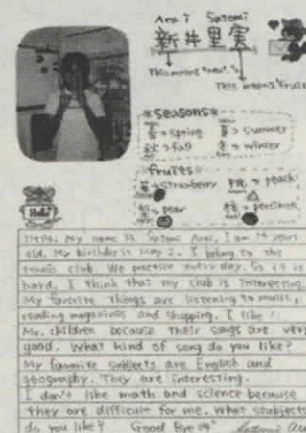
In October, SOA reached great heights by being ranked among the top ten schools in South Carolina. The school's average SAT score was 1074, which is 48 points above the national average and 88 points above the state average. Way to go SOA! Juniors Leigh Dekle, Frances Morris, and Omi Naderi were chosen as finalists for the National League of Cities (NLC) essay contest for Charleston County juniors. Omi Naderi's speech, "Finding our Voices: Discovering the Foundations of Democracy," won overall, and he was awarded with an all-expense paid trip to Indianapolis to present his speech at another NLC convention. Another junior that made SOA proud was Olivia Williams, who was awarded the D.W. Ruff Memorial Scholarship at the 2004 South Carolina Institute of Natural Resources held at Lander University.

During November, Mr. Kref't's seventh grade writing class began participating in a pen pal program with students from Asia and Europe. SOA was the only school in Charleston County to have 100% of its sophomores pass the Language Arts portion of the HSAP. On November 17, Mrs. Miller taught the middle school the importance of being unique by giving them the chance to participate in the second annual "Mix It Up Day," designed to help students break down social boundaries and reduce prejudices and stereotyping. In addition, SOA achieved an absolute rating of excellent on the School Report Card.

In January, our own beloved cafeteria worker Jeanette Singleton was given the award of National Food Service Employee of the month. During April, Dr. Cusatis completed the Boston Marathon, Mr. Davis ran his twenty-second Bridge Run, and Daniel Vincent and Amber Caparas were among the top track athletes in the state. Jason Basil continued to dominate the national tennis circuit.

In May Miss Tisdale's U.S. History class was joined by the SOA Jazz Band to perform a musical and historical reenactment that focused on North Charleston's Liberty Hill Harlem Swing Club. A hot spot in 1940's, the Swing Club was host to such legends as Count Basie, Dizzy Gillespie, Louis Armstrong and Lena Horne. The program was the result of months of research and interviews with Liberty Hill residents such as musical great Lonnie Hamilton III, who made an appearance at the event.

As space in this paper is limited, this is just a sampling of the many achievements of SOA's students and staff over the past school year. We hope you enjoy reading about our other accomplishments throughout this final issue of *Applause*.



Arts Highlights: Piano

The year through the eyes of a pianist

The Piano Department has had several achievements this year. All of the piano majors have participated in two recitals, one in November and one in May.

In February Cherelle Pinckney, Sara Houser, Jessie McGinty, and Briel Govan performed on the Honors Recital at the Music Educators State Convention. These students were chosen based on their outstanding performance at the Solo & Ensemble Festival last spring.

On March 5, twelve students participated in "Achievement Day" at Charleston Southern University. All students had to perform two pieces from memory, sight-read, play scales, arpeggios, and cadences, and take a theory test. Eight students received blue ribbons and others received red ribbons. In order to receive a blue ribbon the student must get an outstanding rating in at least three of the four categories. Annie Patterson, Maragaret Lewitus, and Michael Kay were chosen to play on the Honors Recital.



On March 12, Jessie McGinty and Elise Giles participated in the District Piano Auditions at Charleston Southern University. Both students made an Outstanding rating and qualified for State Auditions.

On April 23, thirty-five students attended the Solo & Ensemble Festival at Lander University. They earned 18 excellent ratings, 19 superior ratings, and 5 superior plus ratings.

Three senior piano majors, Jenna McSwain, Ronald White, and Sara Houser, presented their senior thesis recitals on April 25 and 26 in the Black Box. This was the first year that the piano department did the senior thesis program. All three were well performed. Senior, Jenna McSwain, was also selected for the All-State Jazz Band. The jazz piano students have expanded their repertoire which allowed them to participate in several paid performances. The Piano Department has had a great year!

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Farewell, senior piano majors

Sara, Jenna, Ronald, and Ashley, what can we say but that we are very proud of the strides you have made. Not only have you proven yourselves to be fine pianists and overall musicians, you also have shown us that you "got it." You "got" that it's not enough to play well. You "got" that it's not enough to win the trophy. You "got" that there is more to life than the thing you may be presently pursuing.

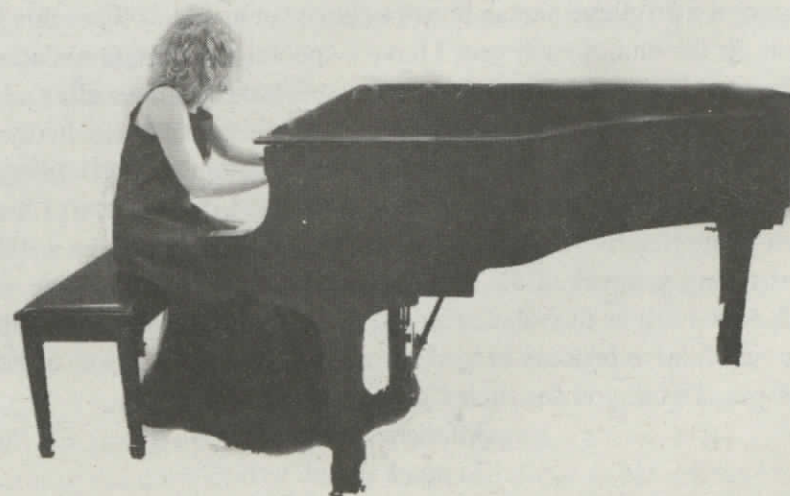
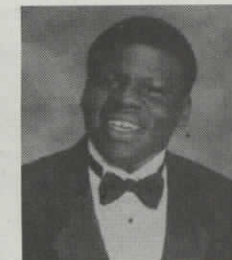
The greatest wisdom that we can impart to you at this amazing time in your lives is that life is not a destination, but a journey. How you make that journey will say everything about who you are.

You will encounter musicians who exceed your own abilities. Admire them, congratulate them and work to emulate them, but don't be jealous of them...for too long. You will also encounter musicians who are less able than you. Admire them, congratulate them, and help them to attain their goals. Meanwhile, realize this; the beauty of learning music is that there

is always more to learn and a hundred ways to look at what you have already learned. If you accept this way of thinking into your life, you will always be challenged and therefore always grow. Your own capacity for growth is the thing that will keep you viable and current as times change.

You are all wonderful people and have the qualities that are becoming of the ideals that we hold so dear. It's a good thing to attain knowledge and technical proficiency. It's a great thing to have the desire to share those good things with the world. Sara, Jenna, Ronald, and Ashley, go and do like wise. Go and do like wish.

Mr. Clarke
 Ms. Benson



Art Area Highlights: Strings

Strings through the year

This has been a busy yet productive year for the SOA High School orchestra. We welcomed the freshman into our group at the back-to-school pool party in August. Our annual oyster roast in November brought out lots of oyster-eaters and introduced us to some new performers at the talent show: fiddlers, singers, and even Rick James! The St. Patrick's Day Contra Dance had everyone feeling Irish and dancing with everyone else. A fabulous time was had by all.

In October, the orchestra found itself at North Charleston City Hall. No, we weren't arrested by the music police, we were playing a benefit concert for the



Victim's Advocacy Program.

In November, twenty high school orchestra students got on the SOA activity bus and traveled to Beaufort for Lowcountry Region Orchestra. Top seats in the senior orchestra went to Taylor Raffield, concert-

master, Nicole Adams, principal viola, Diego Villena, principal cello, and Mary Reed, principal bass. Of these twenty students, ten went on to All-State Orchestra at Furman University in February. Never mind that we had to ride the short bus...Ms. Fitz made the trip extremely interesting! No curb in Greenville was ignored!

We also had three SOA students make the National High School Honors Orchestra: Mary Reed, bass; Alexandra Dawson-Beatty, oboe/english horn; and Daniel Vincent, french horn. These students had a fun-filled week in Reno, Nevada where Ms. Fitz discovered her hidden blackjack player.

On Tuesday afternoons during the year, the hallowed halls of SOA were filled with the delightful sounds of the SOA Symphony Orchestra. They accompanied the high school vocalists on Dvorak and Beethoven at the winter concert and impressed many with their performance at the Gaillard Auditorium for the second annual masterworks concert. The strings players are grateful to the band students who have joined them in making great music this year and look forward to the symphony being an integrated part of the school day curriculum next year.

In January, we made our annual pilgrimage to the mountains where we had a side-by-side rehearsal with the Appalachian State University Orchestra. Although the weather was unseasonably warm, the ski slope was able to make enough snow for us to ski. We spent quality time in downtown Boone for great food and shopping. It was all worth it just for a trip to Fitz's favorite earring store!

February brought Solo & Ensemble Festival, where twenty-six of our string students received superior ratings and five received excellent ratings.

Fitz has always known how superior the orchestra students are, and it is nice for someone else to recognize it too!

In March, we enjoyed playing for the high school dancers at their performance at the Sotille theatre. Thank you to the dancers for inviting us to play!

The SOA Chamber Ensemble performed at various places during the year; at the Sanctuary at Kiawah island for the State Superintendent's Conference where we all shook Inez Tennenbaum's hand, and at the Charleston Place Hotel for the Women in International Trade Conference. They are sought out to play at many functions in the Charleston area.

We are finishing out the year with our annual concerto concert, the senior thesis chamber music performance, and graduation. We will honor our seniors by playing for them on their big night and sending them off into the world knowing that it has been a pleasure growing with them and making music together.

Dear Seniors,

It has been my honor and privilege to know you for the past few years. I have watched you all grow as musicians and mature into wonderful young adults. I am grateful for your faith and confidence during my first years at SOA. You made me feel welcome!



During our years together, we have laughed and cried, been angry and exhilarated, happy and sad. We have experienced surprises, successes and failures. In other words, we have experienced life. For your future, I wish you many and diverse experiences to make your life colorful.

I wish for you good friendship and true love. I wish for you patience with others and with yourselves, and the courage to pursue the dreams of your choice. I wish for you the wisdom to know that the best things in life are not always the most complicated; there in beauty in simplicity.

Life is a dance, ever-changing and always moving. I wish for you the best dances with the best people. I wish for you the strength to stand and experience life with energy and enthusiasm.

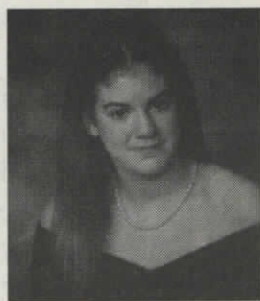
May your life vibrate like the strings on your instrument; sounding out strong and beautiful, and in harmony with others. Go and make your sound well and the world will hear you!

Loving you,
Fitz

Thank you Mrs. Myers, Mr. Davis and Mrs. Caldwell. -From SOA's Class of 2005

Senior Essay

Amanda DeRhodo



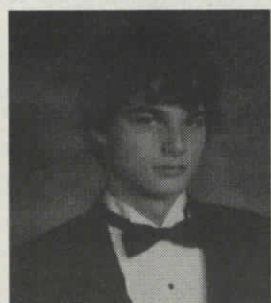
When I think about my first day at SOA, I realize how much I've grown in the past seven years. Since 6th grade I have become more open-minded, trusting, easy-going, and talkative. Some people look down on our school because we don't have many class choices or because they feel that you don't get a "real high school experience" here, but I like it. I like the comfortable environment of the campus, the small classes, the

laid back and creative style of teaching, the interesting (and very animated) teachers, the way Ms. Fitzgerald sings, and the way that Mr. Davis knows everyone even if they never get into trouble.

What I love most about SOA is the variety of people. The friends I have made at SOA are so important to me. They have made my high school years bearable when things seemed too tough to handle. They never fail to amaze me. They are all interesting and unique in their own way and they always know how to make me smile. My friends throughout the past seven years are what made school fun. They are there for me when I need them and I'll always remember all the good times we've had together.

I've learned a great deal from everyone I've met at SOA, whether it was to lighten up, have more fun, work harder, talk about my feelings, voice my opinions, or to have confidence in myself. I am happy to have had such caring teachers and friends. Thank you for sharing all of your knowledge and great advice. With all of my newly-learned insight into the world, I feel prepared to go off to college. I am confident in the fact that I will have the ability to make new friends, do well in my classes, and succeed in the career of my choice.

Max Berry



Ten years from now, my life will be completely different. I will have already graduated from high school, and college (hopefully), and will be a part of the "real world." After I graduate from high school, I will be attending the University of South Carolina in the fall. I plan to major in Business. Although I don't know the exact position or job title that I would like to have, I do know that what I want from my job is simple, money. I want to

make money. However, as simple as it sounds, it is much more difficult to accomplish. I will have to put forth a lot of time and effort to achieve my goal.

If I had my choice as to what I will be doing in ten years, I would probably have to choose to be a successful business owner. However, I do not know exactly what kind of business I would like to own. I would really like to manage an upscale hotel downtown. Opening up a chain of restaurants also interests me. I could also see myself running a few local bars in the downtown area. Basically, I love being in the position of power and making a little bit of money on the side couldn't hurt.

I intend to make this all happen, but first, graduate from high school and go to college. While in college, I plan to take as many business classes as I can in order to learn every aspect of running a successful

business. I then plan to use what I have learned from my college education to run an actual business. I understand that the path that I plan to take is much more difficult than can be put into words in an essay, but I am willing to take that path. I believe that in the end, it will all be worth it.

Anahita Tipnis



I know every senior has said that this is the hardest essay they have ever had to write, but I have seriously been sitting at my computer staring at this blank screen for so long, that it has started to move. There's just so much I want to write about and limited space to do it in. I guess I could reminisce about past classes and teachers, but I'm already yawning at the prospect of sitting at this computer and

typing all of that. I think I'll start out by saying that SOA is truly like no other school. I doubt anyone could learn as much as we do in this school. I'm not just talking about what we learn in our arts majors and academics, but what we learn from one another. The kids in this school are the most unique kids I have ever met. I don't know how many times I have told myself that if I attended some large school like Wando, I would never fit in the same way I do at SOA (I would get picked on for my height, but we'll just leave that alone). Everyone is unique in his or her own way, so no one feels left out. No one gets teased (at least not that I know of) because we're all weird. It's funny, because if a kid from West Ashley or Wando happened to get into SOA, we would probably tease him for being "normal".

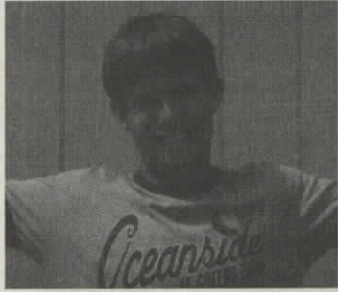
Another great thing about SOA is that it's such a small school. Everyone practically knows everyone else. We're all like a big family, and that's what I'm going to miss the most. I have been with most of the seniors since sixth grade, and a few have been with me since elementary school. I want to acknowledge my visual arts class and thank them for putting up with me for seven years. Leaving them is like leaving my family and I'm going to miss them.

The teachers have made a big impact on me in the past seven years. I have learned so much from all of them but there are a few that I want to acknowledge. Mr. Orvin (you probably knew I was going to mention you, didn't you). He helped me appreciate social studies and gave me a chance to teach the youngins' about my culture. Thanks Mr. O! I really had a wonderful time teaching your kids. I want to thank all my math teachers from 6-12, because I swear I hated math with a passion, but because of your hard efforts, I finished my high school career taking AP calculus. Mrs. Nichols, from grades 6-8, for putting up with my whiny butt when I didn't want to draw the duck because it was dead and stuffed. I wouldn't be majoring in digital animation if it wasn't for your kindness and patience. Last but not least, I want to thank Mr. Brehm for giving me so much knowledge that I can use when I'm on my own. You helped me realize that economics isn't just about the stock market. Oh, yeah, I almost forgot a teacher. She's gone now, but I want to thank Mdme. Phillips for making French fun and easy. She'll probably be happy to know that I made it to French IV.

Great, now I'm getting all teary-eyed and I bet I'm boring everyone to death, so I'm going to wrap this up. My years at SOA have been wonderful and I'm glad I stuck with it for seven years. I've been through good times, bad times, and stressful times, but overall, it's been a great experience. I wish all the underclassmen good luck and I hope all of the middle school kids can one day realize the importance of being at SOA and having an arts education.

Congratulations, Class of 2004

Josh Fernandes



The value of an SOA education is priceless. It is clearly a unique public school experience. The SOA environment nurtures, encourages, and challenges students to discover their own individual talents and creativity. The faculty and administration have high academic expectations and standards and also encourage inclusiveness and diversity of art forms.

The small community of students, staff and faculty allows more interaction and familiarity among individuals giving students more one on one attention.

People know each other by name as well as accomplishments, failures, and relationships. This makes positive and negative behaviors less anonymous than in larger schools and builds a appreciation for all arts and individual talents.

Faculty members are well educated and many have masters or doctorates (like J-Cu). They are personable and keep students and parents informed. Some are also models for their students as they utilize their talents in the community through volunteer or employment activities. Instructors are diligent in their efforts to expose students to performances and environments inside and outside SOA. The curriculum trend is usually meaningful critical thinking assignments rather than mundane repetitious work (except in Ms. Tisdale's class). The successful performance of SOA students on standardized tests year after year is evidence that SOA methods are working. That this all occurs in a less than ideal physical facility is also a tribute to their enthusiasm and ability.

SOA prepares students for their future with its strong arts and academic programs. By showing respect for diversity and exposing students; instructors help them discover their individual academic, artistic, and personal characteristics. This allows students to move out into the world and their future with the qualities they need to believe in themselves and their abilities to succeed.

Jessica Munday



Since I was a little girl, I've always dreamed about having a job that lets me help people. I found that there are lots of jobs that would allow me to help people. My mom is a nurse, and works for Lutheran Hospice. After seeing her help people, I have decided that I want to be a nurse as well.

My plan is to go to the University of South Carolina in Columbia. I will enter a four year program and get my bachelor's degree as a Registered Nurse. I plan to stay in Columbia for a while because I have never lived anywhere other than Charleston and I think it would be a good experience.

I then plan to get my masters from USC as well in critical care. That gets me to 2011.

I then plan to come home to Charleston, start my career, and start a family. By 2015, I will be 27 and hopefully have a husband and maybe a kid on the way.

Anna Freeman



The time I've spent at SOA (2 1/2 years) has been invaluable. I have been shaped by this school, and I owe SOA thanks for the remarkable peace I have finally found. I am comfortable in my skin because I was shown so many different ways to wear it and invited to choose the way I like the best. I am a theatre major, and I always feel a little swelling of pride when I tell someone that.

For me, being a theatre major opened my eyes to the fact that I am a character because "all the worlds a stage."

This made sense to me and explained a lot. I like to think

that I understand people pretty well--that I can read them to an extent. Acting gave me a chance to understand a character, as if they were a person I'd just met, and to present that individual to an audience. That's probably the most remarkable thing a person can do: become another person completely, know how they move, what they are thinking, how they feel. It gives you an entirely new respect for the human race and their simplicity wrapped in complexity.

This is where I will thank Mr. Younts. I owe him thanks because he made me sing in front of the class with my small, squeaky voice until I finally got over myself and sang like I meant it. Now, I love to sing and I'm not afraid of it. So thanks. Also, and I'm

sure you don't hear this often, thank you for teaching Freud, Erikson, Maslow, etc... You helped to further my interest in psychology and you taught me how to analyze and understand characters.

And this is where I will thank Mr. Wood. I will thank him for his "there is never a reason to be late to rehearsal" speech, his murse, his patience, his impatience, and the uninterrupted love and support he gave the senior theatre majors. It's hard to love when everything seems to be falling apart, but you did it. And because you did it, you kept us together when we felt like we were falling apart. Writing my senior thesis is one of the best things I've ever done. It's one of the only things I've ever finished and been proud of. I owe you so much gratitude for the motivation you provided when I felt just about ready to tap out.

That's about it. I'm Anna, but please call me Annabelle. I am a theatre major. I am about to leave one of the few places where I felt useful, and it makes me feel a little bit lost. I'm hopeful though. I look forward to meeting new people and going new places, and I feel like I'm supposed to because I finished something else. I am proud. I have a few regrets, but I always will so those don't count. SOA has treated me well. Thank you SOA. It has been very nice getting to know you.

Elyse Jenkins



I've only spent two years at SOA. I came here my junior year as a student who had transferred from 2 high schools. These were all my choice though. Every school I attended didn't suit my needs. When I finally arrived at SOA, I knew that this was the school I wanted to graduate from.

The reason I came here was to sing. I've been in some sort of choral class/group since I was in the 4th grade, and singing since I was 3. My first day was also the first day for our conductor, Mr. Eakes. Although he was new, he took charge of the class like he had been

there for years. This gave me inspiration to be myself and make new friends.

After two weeks, I learned how to sight read music which I hope I will carry with me for the rest of my life. It has given me skills that could aid me in a future career if I choose to go into music. The thing that I really loved was the music we learned. Our class sight read and memorized the entire Mozart Requiem. Since Mozart is my favorite composer, I was extremely excited to learn one of his major works my first year at this school.

I owe thanks to many teachers and students here for molding me into what I am today. My list is too long to name specifics, but everyone here has given me insight into what life will be like when I leave high school. Actually, preparation for change was the reason I switched schools three times. I knew that putting myself into a completely different environment would give me coping skills for situations I might encounter in 5 years. For example, if my job were to move me to another state, I'd be thrown into a different lifestyle completely. Each school has proved to be full of different types of people. I have learned to tolerate differences in opinion.

One thing I will never forget from SOA is the amazing tolerance people have for each other. My classes have contained discussions and debates that never got off topic or out of hand. Even though people had huge differences in opinion, at the end of the class the students did not hold anything against anyone. That is something that was rare to find in one of my old schools.

I think the main thing I've enjoyed here at SOA are the friends I've made. Each person has their own quirks about them that can teach you new lessons in life. I've never lost support from any friends here. When it comes to studying, problems, or good advice, I've found that the thing I love most are my friendships.

Tyson Cantwell



The education I received at SOA will always be a major chapter in my life. I would not trade the seven years I spent here for anything in the world. SOA has taught me more than I would like to admit, but everyone knows that it's true. There is not one member of the senior class or teacher that has taught me that I will not miss. Thank you for what I cannot repay.

Thank you Mr. B. Smyth and Mr. Locklair. -
From SOA's Class of 2005

Congratulations, Class of 2005



Kala,
 I'm very proud of the young woman you have become and all you have accomplished. You are a bright and shining star, with a great future ahead of you. Remember to stay positive, believe in yourself and always strive to be the "Best You Can Be." College life will be exciting for you, but also lots of hardwork. You are my Baby Girl and my heart. I wish only the best for you. Congratulations to my graduate of 2005!

I love you with all my heart,
 Momma



ASH

We are so proud of you and all your many accomplishments.

WE LOVE YOU

"infinity, back, and then some..."

Mom, Dad, and Chris

Aaahhh...now is naptime... **FINALLY**

Congratulations to Leah Crooks!
 Your self-confidence and perserverance have served you well! We are very proud of all you have accomplished. Love you!
 --Mom, Dad, Daniel, and Hopper



Lane Elsey



To our daughter, our graduate, Lane
 It's so hard to believe or even to say that you were in kindergarten just the other day!
 Mrs. Wiggins you had for first grade in school at Ashley River where the arts are cool.
 Ballet is your love your favorite art and when you are dancing it fills up my heart.
 Our tiny dancer a young lady you are and we all know that you will go far.
 Thanks to Dr. Cusatis who you so adore who has helped you--- has helped you to soar!
 So now you can go out in this world no longer to be our little girl.
 I know we can't help to be kind of sad just know that we love you
 Love, Mom and Dad.

Lindsay Anne Hood



Minnie Mouse slippers spiraled through the door,
 Tutus and pink tights lay strewn across the floor.
 Shiny patent leathers "Brush, Brush, and stomp the Bug",
 Backstage bruises mended with a single, loving hug.
 Graceful, rhythmic moves grew and changed with age
 While a polished coffee table morphed into a stage.
 In quiet resolution, your dance became your voice,
 Always true and steady in a "Choreography of Choice".
 Watching from the wings, I've known it from the start--
 Your tiny, dancing footsteps are the beating of my heart.



**Congratulations
 Lul**