

Applause

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THE SCHOOL OF THE ARTS CLASS OF 2006

Editors' Page



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Applause is a student produced publication of the School of the Arts.
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Editor's Note

These past few weeks have been full of lasts. I attended my last art show, I wrote my last high school paper, I annoyed Dr. Ball one last time, and I am now writing my last editor's note. Good grief, where did the time go?

This final issue of the *Applause* is dedicated to the best class ever, the seniors of 2006! It is meant to commemorate our memories of the past and aspirations for the future. High school is coming to a close, and what better way to end the year than to read up on the senior's innermost reflections of the past year? The *Applause* staff

and I have also speculated on the prom and all the happenings in the art majors this year.

I would also like to say that it has been a privilege to work with the staff to put out the *Applause* this school year. Even though it has probably been one of the most stressful aspects of my senior year, I will most definitely miss it.

Congratulations and good luck Class of 2006! May our lives be filled with happiness and our pockets full of money.

Much Love,
Cait Brennan

Congratulations Class of 2006

Shadana Moses

Shadana, Remember that the key to your future is knowledge. Knowledge unlocks all doors, and with God as your guide, doors will be opened.

Love, Your family

Allison Smith

Allison,
It has been quite an adventure watching you grow into a wonderful (one of a kind) young lady. We are so very proud of you!

We love you!

Dad, Mom, and Matthew

Erynn R. Hampton

We are proud of you.

Congratulations!

Love, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Hampton, Mom, Dada, Mrs. Mary Smith, and grandmother. Shadana Moses
Congratulations Class of 2006

Final 3D's

by Kathleen Smith and Rachel Maguire

After two phenomenal years of asking our 3 D's, and now an R, questions about our beloved SOA, it's time to say goodbye. Since we are the founders of 3D's, it is going to be an especially hard farewell for us. Next year, we may find ourselves in our dorms on a Friday night reading old *Applause* issues, as tears fall, smearing the ink print. Ok... we will be serious now.. the 3 D's are special to us and probably special to most of you. What will we do without a word of advice from our beloved Cafeteria manager or our handy man who knows how to fix everything? And who could forget Big Ace, the rock of this school? From us: Best of luck to the upcoming journalism students and whoever takes over 3 D's, just remember - you will never be as good as us. (joking, kinda...) And now, a final word from the 3D's themselves...

Mr. Davis:

To 'My' Class:

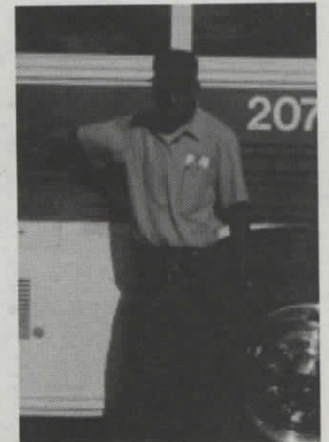
In short, I'd like to say remember when you first came to SOA, and how big it was, think of the memories and take them with you as you leave. I wish you all the best life has to offer. Be sure to keep in touch with us so we'll know what's going on with you. I came here with you, we're the rookies.

My advice to you is to study hard, and don't over-socialize. Also, be on time to class, especially you two girls. One more thing, learn how to park your cars.



Mr. Dawson:

My advice to the graduating class of 2006 is to stay focused, keep doing what you've been doing, and reach high. I'm gonna miss you two a whole lot, even though you don't see me, I'll still be praying for you, that you're doing the best at what you do.



Mr. Randy:

Well, this school year is coming to an end!!! I've only been here this short time (since October) and it has really flown by for me. I want to wish each and every one of you students the best of everything for this summer and the coming future. For those of you graduating this year, if you are going on to college, I wish the best for you.



(DO WELL AND MAKE ALL OF US PROUD!!) For those of you that are not graduating this year, I will miss all of you since Ms. Darlene will be back next year. All of you have been very special to me this past year. A lot of you I have come to know by your first name, but I know ALL of your faces, so keep those smiles, especially in the lunch line!! Take care and

Senior Surveys

Be yourself and don't take your talents for granted. Don't worry about what others think, as long as you know the truth. **-Lauren Shaw**

How to get along with all the different types of personalities and to never hold grudges because boys don't last forever. **-Jerell Lewis**

How to write a good solid essay and how to be late to every class but sneak in unnoticed. **-Shadana Moses**

How to make friends and to just be true to yourself. **-Jonothon Brunson**
I have learned that it's okay to be yourself. That this isn't a school where you have to be fake to fit in. This is a school where people aren't judged by what they look like, but for who they are. **-Nathan Matticks**

To never trust a teacher with personal info. Plus stay out of drama. Lol. Theatre family bond does not break. **-Kelslie Mathieu**

I have learned how to take life as it is, not how others think it should be. **- Philip Pace**

The high school experience is not only a matter of developing knowledge, but also a gateway to experience, which develops our future self. **-Blake Alford**

I have learned to accept a lot of different types of people, coming from Stratford you are usually with the same group of people everyday, and at SOA it's so much more diverse and open. I love it! **-Morgan Hawkins**

Plan to do things' ahead of time and not wait until the last minute. **- J.T.Tolbert**

Life is a trip, so just take things one day at a time and expect the unexpected. **-Taylor McLeod**

To dance. **-Peter DuPuis**

That if you're hungry, the office always has complimentary items for you to enjoy. **-Zimone Mincey**

You can really depend on people. Some. **-Justin Wootin**

Don't listen to people whose first and last names start with the same letter! Yeah you! **-Justin Schram**

Being talented doesn't mean you're smart, to think outside the box, love the "office crew" and "guidance girls," how to ignore people that get on your nerves, and that sometimes friends are your family and you tend to take them for granted. Love them while they're here! **-Accily Alexander**

How to be a more independent artist. **-Erynn Hampton**

I have learned not to play the part, but be the part. There is nothing more frustrating than wishing about something when you could have already made it happen. Be competitive with yourself, that way you will always be on top of your game. **-Tiera Rouse**

I've learned so many important things here at SOA. I've learned that being unique is not an odd feature. Be yourself, love yourself, and have confidence in yourself and everything else will fall into place. You have to live, laugh, and learn. **-April McKnight**

It's cool to be you. **-Chelsea Richardson**

To know what you want out of life and how to achieve it. **-Daris Sullivan**

To be responsible and all about my work. **-**



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

Dominick Palmer

How to perform professionally. To always be yourself no matter what and don't change for anyone but yourself. **-Sanora Griffin**

To be yourself and lead the way. **-Charles Aiken**

Don't trust people too easily; getting hurt is inevitable. **-Dalia Dalili**

Being surrounded by artists can make the most mundane experiences interesting. **-Cameron Funderburk**

To do things when you're told, not when you feel like it. **-Rachel Maguire**

To keep an open mind about everyone and everything, and to appreciate and love all areas of art. **-Mandy Stone**

Homework, while a waste of time to some (like myself) is key to achieving a decent GPA- for whatever reason. Keep up with it. **-Stephen Carlock**

Don't slack off- do your work! It does matter! If you want a college education, work hard for it. It doesn't get easier. **-David DuTremble**

How to paint well and what not to do at school. **-Lainey Harrison**

That talent and vision create the future. **-Kathleen Smith**

The 5th or maybe 6th amendments...? **-Lea Yannetti**

I've learned to set my car and cell phone clock to SOA time, NOT the real world time. **-Brandi Dirkes**

Even though you're "clinically stupid" a.k.a dyslexic, you do matter to someone. At least that's what they tell you. **-Manessah Frazier**

Being yourself is what you're best at. **-Lindsay Gallagher**

People are people, don't judge until you try to show love. **-Reba Bowens**

That it's perfectly ok to go to an "arts school." Seniors really do rule the school. **-Nicole Adams**

Being different is good. **-Clary Nigels**

Being truly individualistic may help teachers notice you more than others. **-Terrence Freeman**

How to express myself as a person and artist. **-Johnny Knight**

Anything can happen. **-Jennifer Thomas**

To be one and come together as a family. We have put in all our time here and I have known some people since kindergarten and I think that was something that all teachers taught; to come together as one. **-Joia Tucker**

I've learned that you should never judge anyone and that differences are what make people unique, not weird. Oh, and never take anything that

Senior Surveys

Take things as they come. Chill out, these were the best and they're gone before you know it. **-Rindy Ross**

The most important thing I've learned at SOA is to love everyone and appreciate each other and our differences. **-Christen Moskos**

I've learned how to bend the rules. **-Addie Brown**

Don't stress all the time or you won't enjoy the time you have left with your family and friends. If you just hang on, things will always get better.

- Hope Sims

There is no such thing as late. Be yourself no matter what. **-Meredith Eads**

That word gets around real fast in a school like ours. Always make sure whatever you say is something you will be able to live with "when" it comes back to you and most of all you can't believe half of what you hear because people love drama and are always ready to make their own soap operas. A dog will bring a bone, but he'll take one too.

-Leslie Thompson

2+2 does not equal 4 (1984, George Orwell). You are not defined by your past or where you came from, you're defined by your actions. **-Naudia Harrison**

I've learned that you have to be independent and at the end of the day it's all about what you do. I'm hated by many, wanted by plenty, disliked by some, confronted by none!!" **-Helena Smith**

The most important thing I've learned here at the almighty SOA is that Mr. Anderson is wrong...It's actually called a "flick flack patty wack. **-Jenna Jones**

Friends are important, and this school as wonderful as it is, remains good and true. **-Da'Lonzo Gibson**

A 16 pg. newspaper takes more time to create than you might think, but a 48 pg. newspaper will undoubtedly kill you. **-Cait Brennan**

How to create theatre and write good essays **-Leigh Dekle**

All of the growth I've made in theater and every other class, and feeling comfortable with myself and knowing who my real friends are. **-Alex Phillips**

How to accept people for who they are and not to judge people until you have a basis for your opinion. **-Rachel Heidenberg**

I've learned to appreciate the arts and artistic diversity. **-Anna DunLany**

I learned to feel pretty comfortable with myself rather than live in a constant fear of being judged. **-Frances Morris**

The definitely *most* important thing I've learned is the value of writing - as a means of communication, therapy, and/or self-expression. **-Jessica Atkinson**

"Show, don't tell" from Mrs. Miles. **-Katie Meitzler**

How to grow up. Responsibility, Dedication, Creativity, but most importantly, how to express myself. **-Brent Sagan**

(1) Ms. Caldwell is the Queen. (2) Mr. Sneaky One lurks around every corner. (3) You can make people like you using baked goods. (4) If things don't work out there is always another chance ("Oh well") **-Olivia Williams**

The nature of the discipline one must embody to lead a life of art, whether that be pursuing it

or enjoying it. **-Corey Webb**

Enjoy life - things will usually work out.

...Hard work and commitment really do pay off. **-Kirsten Palmer**

Everyone - EVERYONE - is odd. If someone appears normal, they're faking it. **-Taylor Raffield**

I've learned to always keep my cool under pressure. Your level of self-confidence can make you or break you. Also, I've learned to keep my head on my shoulders. Arrogance can kill you quicker than anything. **-Daniel Vincent**

I learned the self-discipline to help me proceed in both my art major and academics. This is a skill that will apply to all aspects of my life. **-Adam Gentile**

How to effectively avoid answering questions in style. **-T.J. Mott**

Learning doesn't have to be boring. **-Trevor Murray**

What it means to be a good leader; the importance of discipline; how to write well; and that I can achieve great things. To be an artist in every sense of the word. **-Omi Naderi**

Senioritis eventually spreads to all seniors. **-T.J. Robinson**

I learned to be more open-minded than I ever thought possible. I learned that, without fail, people will surprise you. **-Amy Green**

The ability to be flexible in everything I do. **-Elise Giles**

How to fiddle with settings in word processors to make papers longer. **-Devin Graves**

There are more important things than academics. **-Missy Claisse**

I have learned about who I am and to live up every moment in my life. **-Grace Davis**

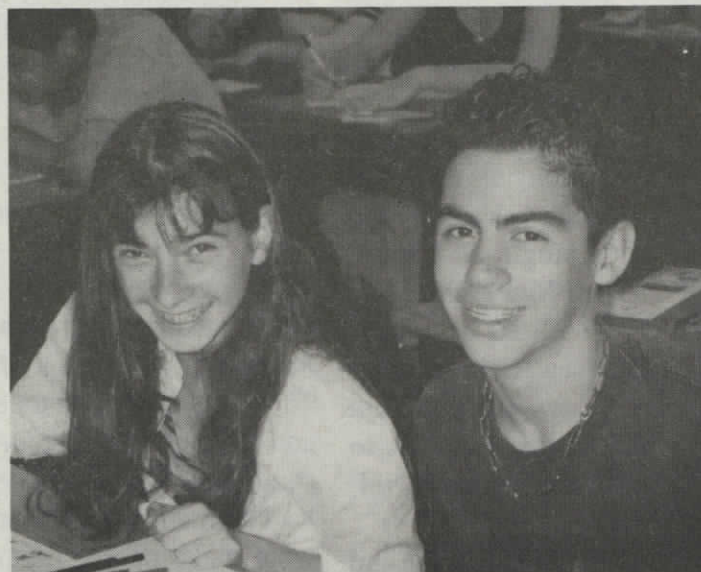
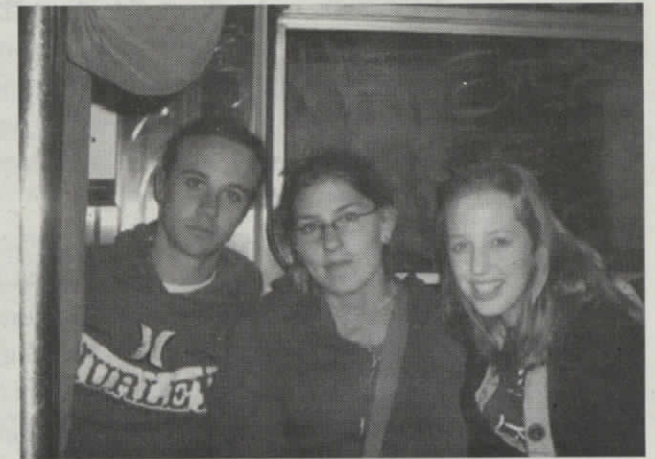
Ummm...I learned that I really need to chill out. I was crazy uptight when I first came due to too many years in private school. Also that underclassmen will worship the ground you walk on if you play your cards right. And it pays to associate with the weirdos early on, because by 12th grade, they

are the majority. **-Laci Dean**

I have learned that your best is all that anyone can expect of you. **-Madalyn McCaulley**

Do what you want to do, but don't get too stupid. **-Allan Babcock**

I've learned that it is okay to be yourself; it's okay to be different. I have also learned to get along with different groups of people. I know this will help me where ever I may go. **-Whitney Patterson**



What quote do you want SOA to remember you by?

"Hoo-rah! & Holler-loo-yah!" - **Lauren Shaw**

"Take a look at this picture. I may be gone, but never forgotten! (Until August 23)" - **Blake Alford**

"Life is not about how many breaths you take, but about the moments that take your breath away." **Morgan Hawkins**

"I came, I saw, I conquered." Get one last look because there will never be another like me. J.T. (The King of SOA) **J.T. Tolbert**

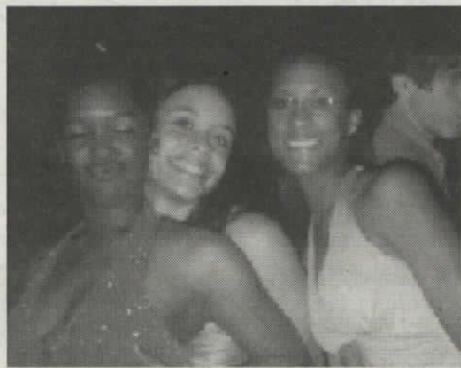
"I'm gonna testify, come up in this spot looking x-tra fly, befo' the day I die, ima touch tha sky." -My Boy Kanye -**George Bates**

"Live everyday like it's your last!" -**Shadana Moses**

"Untouchables" -**Jonathan Brunson**

"Untouchables" -**Nathan Matticks**

"Even if we can or can't be friends I'll be with you til the end of time so shine on." -**Kelsie Mathieu**



"I never got good at golf when I tried to play. I never got a hole in one either...But I did hit a guy once...and that's way more satisfying." -**Philip Pace**

"She gives thanks to what they gave her, man they practically made her." -Jack Johnson. -**Taylor McLeod**

"Don't walk behind me I may not lead, don't walk in front of me I may not follow, walk beside me and be my friend."

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." - Philippians 4:13

Joia Tucker

"Love & love hard. For love is the greatest gift that was given to us by God." -**Matthew Bostick**

"A friendship will never die or fade away, unless you allow it to." -**Jennifer Thomas**

"Zooga Za Ziggale bo digga la." -**Johnny Knight**

"Only a foolish man takes and the mans words over his own experience."

-**Da'Lonzo Gibson**

"Don't use my race as an excuse to judge the greatness I can acheive." "Defy the stereotype, think outside the box." -**Terrence Freeman**

"Many people will walk in and out of your life, but only true friends will leave footprints." -Unknown -**Clary Nigels**

"It ain't over til it's over." - Yogi Berra -**Nicole Adams**

"Don't follow the crowd, make the crowd follow you." -**Reba Bowens**

"All mankind loves a lover." - Ralph Waldo Emerson -**Lindsay Gallagher**

"Wookie noise" "Huh?" "I didn't do it!..." "Ah-Tape!" "Crack kills so pull your pants up." -**Maneesah Frazier**

"A faithful friend is the medicine of life." -Ecclesiastes 6:16 -**Brandi Dirkes**

"The more things a man is ashamed of, the more respectable he is." -George Bernard Shaw -**Michelle Willies**

"Being born is like being kidnapped and sold into slavery." -Andy Warhol

Mary Reed

"Look-a-herè Huck do you want to go to heaven?" -Miss Watson -**Kathleen Smith**

"OJ, anyone?" "Quick, to De Wallen!" -**Stephen Carlock**

"Skip while you can...but always get a parent note." -**Mandy Stone**

"Whatchya eatin'?" - Rachel Maguire -**David DuTremble**

"Seize the day children." -**Lainey Harrison**

"Two roads diverged in a wood, and I took the one-less traveled by, and that has made all the difference." (Robert Frost) -**Whitney Pattersom**

"Listen as if your ears are hearing their last, Look as if your eyes are seeing their last, Laugh as if you've felt the last of your happiness, Sing as if you'll never sing again...This is how you live with no regrets." -**Naudia Harrison**

"I'm thick, fine, and sassy, and don't you forget it!" "If I ever offend, hurt, made you cry, or was rude to you, just know I didn't mean any harm, it was a lesson you had to learn."

-**Helena Smith**

"HEY OH...HEY OH!!!" -Courtesy of Ron Burgundy -**Jenna Jones**

"To be great is to be misunderstood." -**Acecily Alexander**

"Dance like everyone is watching." -**Zimone Mincey**

"You guys just don't get it!...It's the nature of the beast." -**Ben Aton**

"I'm not your average girl from the video, my worth is not determined by the price of my clothes, no matter what they say I will always be... Leslie."

Leslie Thompson

"I was definately on time this morning, Mr. Davis." (twice truthfully)

-**Grace Davis**

"These are the days that make me shine." -**Addie Brown**

"One love, one life, let's get together and feel alright." -**Christen Moskos**

"Never grow up." -J.M. Barrie -**Rindy Ross**

"To quote greatness is not great." -**Allan Babcock**

"The insane are confused and the confused are insane." -**Madalyn McCaulley**

"Don't sweat it." -**Justin Wooton**

"Love your friends, but only to their faces." -**Justin Schram**

"I know that because God loves me, I can do wonderful things. I can try great things, learn anything, achieve anything." - Maya Angelou -**April McKnight**

"I am one of God's angels, and because of that you will see me floating around in a pool of my success, and doing what the man above created me to do." -**Tiera Rouse**

"Never let the fear of striking out keep you from playing the game." -Babe Ruth -**Rachel Maguire**

"Thinking is the most unhealthy thing in the world, & people die of it, just as they die of any other disease." (unknown) -**Cait Brennan**

"Ciao Bella!" -**Alex Phillips**

"If you know exactly how you are going to do something, what is the point in doing it?" -Pablo Picasso -**Rachel Heidenberg**

"My senior quote is 'Love,' so maybe 'Hate.' You can't have one without the other." -**Frances Morris**

"It's automatic." -Utada Hikaru -**Jessica Atkinson**

"Goodbye, God bless, and beware the grimlins." -**Katie Meitzler**

"My name is BS." -**Brent Sagan**

"We are all as numerous as leaves on trees." -Rilo Kiley -**Olivia Williams**

"Alright, I'll go to hell." -**Corey Webb**

"Say what you mean, and mean what you say." -**Kirsten Palmer**

"The time has come," the walrus said, / 'to talk of many things / of shoes, of ships, of sealing wax / of cabbages and kings / and why the sea is boiling hot / and whether pigs have wings." -Lewis Carroll -**Taylor Raffield**

"Lead, follow, or get out of the way." -**Daniel Vincent**

"Hey isn't that the guy that filled Brent's car up with bottle bottles and Coke cans?" -**Adam Gentile**

"Do what it takes... unless it takes too much to do." -**T.J. Mott**

"WTF?" -**Trevor Murray**

"Peace in the Mid-East." -**Omi Naderi**

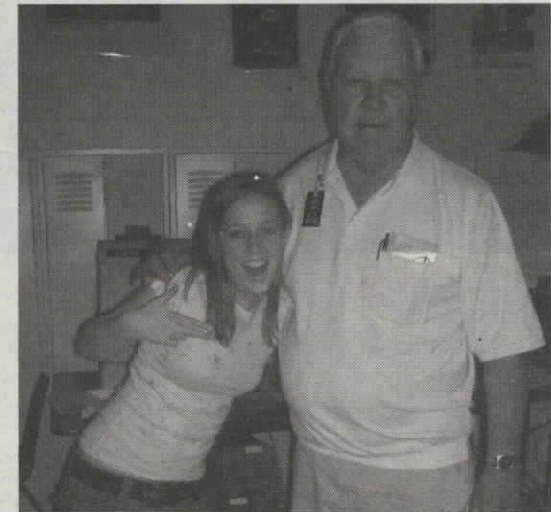
"Whatever you do, it's gotta have soul." -**T.J. Robinson**

"Don't worry about what you don't know; life's a dance, you learn as you go." -**Amy Green**

"C'est la vie." -**Elise Giles**

"I do so love the boiling" -Penny Arcade -**Devin Graves**

"Don't part with your illusions. When they are gone you may still exist, but you have ceased to live." -Mark Twain -**Missy Claisse**



Senior Surveys

**-Jenna Jones**

Keep SOA out of trouble and on an excellent path to the future." **-Da'Lonzo Gibson**
Take every criticism, constructive or otherwise, with a "grain of salt". Be yourself, but don't potentially ruin your future for that symbolic individuality(yet). Keep your personal life personal. **-Stephen Carlock**

Do not take honors physics unless you have a brain like Frances!! **-Mandy Stone**
Work hard in high school now and it'll definitely be beneficial in the future. Yeah, have fun and party but there is nothing more important than your education here at SOA. **-April McKnight**

Keep your eyes on the prize!!! Stay focused, be determined, and don't let time leave you in the dust. **-Tiera Rouse**

Always remember what you want for your future. **-Erynn Hampton**
Senioritis starts in 11th grade especially if you have Dr. Price! Save the drama for your mama! **-Zimone Mincey**

Minding your own business is hard, but SOA life is much easier when you do. Work for what you got, you'll appreciate it in the end. Have an older good influence to help lead you. If you can't think of anyone, find me!

-Acecily Alexander

Know what you're doing after high school. Your teachers will never stop asking! **-Justin Schram**

Don't screw around. Take advantage of the wonderful free education you have at SOA. **-Justin Wooton**

The only thing to do with good advice is pass it on. It is never any use to oneself. **-Oscar Wilde**

Peter DuPuis

Try to have all the fun you can in high school and make the best of it because once you're done that's it, no turning back. **-J.T. Tolbert**

Let your dreams flourish like wildflowers. Let your heart beat like the purring of a kitten playing in a field of wildflowers. Spread your love like little pieces of candy to all of God's children. We are the world. **-George Bates**

Stay ahead of the game; don't let 'senioritis' get to you. **-Jerell Lewis**

Umm... have fun!! **-Shadana Moses**

Senior can be one of the best years in high school unless you slacked off 9,10,11 grades. Then it can become one of the most stressful. **-Jonathon Brunson**

Try not to wait till the last minute to pull your grades up. The most important thing is to be yourself. Don't let what other people think get the best of you. They only do it because they try to make up for their imperfections. If that doesn't work then best of luck to ya.

-Nathan Matticks

The machines are never really fixed.. it's all just a big scam. **-Philip Pace**

Don't start driving until you absolutely have to. **-Rachel Maguire**

I know it's cliché and our parents always say this but really, don't wish it away- these are some of the best years of your life. **-Cameron Funderburk**

As cliché as this sounds, be YOURSELF- nothing is more important than that. Don't worry about what anybody thinks or says about you, because in the end, it all turns out to be really trivial. You'll laugh at yourself for dwelling on it so much. These are supposedly the best years of your life, so just make great memories that you can reminisce about forever. "If you make yourself as sheep, the wolves will eat you." **-Benjamin Franklin -Dalia Dalili**

It's a small school... things get around fast so keep your mouth shut!

-Christine Piontek

Always strive for the best. **-Dominick Palmer**

High school is over before you know it, so don't waste time being unhappy. Greet each moment with a smile.

-Naudia Harrison

Keep your head up, know what you stand for so you don't fall for anything and always wear your game face."

-Helena Smith

Stay in high school as long as you can then you have to start paying for your own stuff. Be kind to your teachers. They will get you somewhere. Holla Mr. Brehm!

What is your advice for underclassmen?

Don't slack off your senior year. Because I did. **-Daris Sullivan**

Apply to college early. **-Chelsea Richardson**

In the future plan to succeed because if you don't you will surely bleed. **Charles Aiken**
Keep your grades up and try hard to pass everything with high grades so you don't struggle your last year to pull your GPA up. Have fun and B.E.Z.

-Sanora Griffin

Don't slack off-do your work! It does matter! If you want a college education,work for it. It doesn't get easier. **-David DuTremble**

Realize that this is just high school and that in a couple of years your life will be totally different and that fight or that rumor won't mean anything.Sucking up can get you very far and so does having popular older siblings to power the way for you. **-Emily Steele**

Eat pie! It will make you smarter. **-Jennifer Thomas**

Be smart as me. Ha ha! **-Johnny Knight**

Stay out of drama and drug free is the way to be! **-Lauren Shaw**

Maximize your talents by acquiring as much knowledge as possible. If you're lacking English skills take Ms. Marshall and Ms.Bronk- a guarantee to improve your skills immensely. **-Terrence Freeman**

Look out for Bronkasaurus!!! **-ClaryNigels**

Make friends with your teachers and don't transfer, it will be your biggest regret. **-Grace Davis**

Study; sure-attend classes:maybe,but please for me. Break a rule now and again. Yes, school is for education, but ask yourself will you remember geometry; probably not.. But you will never forget the time a friend gets angry for no reason or the feeling of having a plan, and everything working out to perfection. **-Blake Alford**

Don't get discouraged by idiots, they will still be idiots. Oh yea... let the seniors cut you in the lunch line, that way you avoid conflicts, prevent doorway overcrowding, and practically guarantee yourself immunity during the senior prank. **-Laci Dean**

Don't take three AP courses your senior year because you will go crazy.

-Madalyn McCaulley

You don't need advice. **-Allan Babcock**

Do your homework, or you'll regret it when you apply for college! Stay out of drama and chill out! **-Rindy Ross**

Try not to get wrapped up in the stresses of school and enjoy the little moments with your friends. **-Christen Moskos**

Don't take your high school years for granted. They will be gone before you know it. **-Meredith Jones**

Make good grades when you're an underclassman,you'll regret it when you are applying for college. **-Hope Sims**

Take advantage of your time here- it goes by fast. Keep your mouth shut

unless you want everyone to know your business. Don't be afraid to talk to people, they are more approachable than you think.

-Meredith Eads

In general all I can say is take your freshman, sophomore, and junior year to find out what you like and don't like, what you want to do and what you don't- trust me! If you find out these things early it makes the path ahead a whole lot more clear and smoother.

Do what you can now- EVERYTHING! Visual artist- 9th- Work Hard- Finish everything- 10th-keep everything-11th-have 3 main ideas in your head and look back on what you have. **-Leslie Thompson**

Keep your grades up, meet all deadlines, but most of all HAVE FUN!!!! **-Whitney Patterson**



Senior Surveys

Continued from pg. 6

Senioritis is as real as the nose on your face. -**Cait Brennan**
 Rehearsal is not sitting down! -**Leigh Dekle**
 Love this time - it's precious. -**Alex Phillips**
 No one cares what you look like during exam week. Leave your mascara at home. It's not going to get you an 'A' in Physics. Also, take very good notes in Petey Smyth's class. It'll help you during finals week. -**Rachel Heidenberg**
 Don't complain about 'unfair' senior priveleges; you'll enjoy them when you've earned them yourself! -**Anna DunLany**
 Keep trying. -**Frances Morris**
 You need to realize that this school isn't a correct representation of any 'normal' school. When you enter the 'real world,' so to say, be wary of how different it is from what you are used to. -**Jessica Atkinson**
 Your work is a reflection of yourself, so put your all into everything you do, but remember to live as well. -**Katie Meitzler**
 Work hard, stay focused, party much. -**Brent Sagan**
 Take as many classes as you can... free education doesn't last. -**Olivia Williams**
 If your mom made you go here to score higher on the SAT, this may not be for you. -**Corey Webb**
 Have a clear idea of not just what you want to be, but who you want to be; then, make decisions accordingly, keeping things in perspective. Know when to take things seriously and when to just kick back, laugh and have fun. -**Kirsten Palmer**
 The Pepsi machine is generous, and the ice cream machine will fight to get you your ice cream. -**Taylor Raffield**
 Take your algebra courses seriously. They'll make life much easier when you get to the higher levels. -**Daniel Vincent**
 Your freshman through junior years all count equally in a college's mind, so always work hard. -**Adam Gentile**
 Sometimes, your effort may seem inversely proportioned to the end result. That's life! -**T.J. Mott**
 Don't eat the yellow snow. -**Trevor Murray**
 Be prepared to learn from your mistakes. No amount of advice will save you from learning through failure. -**Omi Naderi**
 Don't do stupid things, because they make you look stupid. -**T.J. Robinson**
 Stay off the sidewalks! -**Amy Green**
 Stay off the sidewalks. Oh... and get good grades, too. -**Elise Giles**
 Standardized test scores are directly proportional to how much you read. -**Devin Graves**
 Life is interesting - be interested! Also - AP English people -annotate! -**Missy Claisse**

What are your plans after graduation?

I plan to go to North Carolina A&T and get a Bachelors degree in Electrical Engineering and a Masters in Radio Engineering. I'm just trying to get enough money so I can open my own music studio and record company. -**Sanora Griffin**
 Double major at Trident Tech. Small Business Entrepreneur / Forensic Science. -**Charles Aiken**
 College of Charleston. -**Chelsea Richardson**
 To go to a four year college, then to med school. After that start my residency in the hospitals. -**Daris Sullivan**
 Currently, I have not made permanent plans for after graduation. -**Sarah Myers**
 College. -**Dominick Palmer**
 To go to a school where the girl to guy ratio is more than 59:1. ...and try not to gain my freshman 50. -**Christine Piontek**
 To get out of the south and back into the city, explore my possibilities and make my life worthwhile. -**Dalia Dalili**
 Attend the University of Texas in Austin. Oh, and fall madly in love with a cowboy and never come home according to Brehm. -**Cameron Funderburk**
 I'm going to USC School of Journalism and mass communications in the fall. I guess we'll see what happens after that. -**Rachel Maguire**
 Work a good summer job. Invest in some stock. Move to Atlanta and attend a 4-year university. -**Justin Wooton**
 California, it's as simple as somethin' that nobody knows. -**Justin Schram**
 The thought is kind of scary, but I'm looking forward to the adventure and meeting new people. I will be attending Florida Southern College to major in Communications (Broad-

cast Journalism). Sooner or later, I'll be inviting my famous SOA alumni on my TV show. If I'm too busy, Oprah will cover for me! -**Acecily Alexander**
 Go to New York, New York City! and Dance at Alvin Ailey and party a little bit! -**Zimone Mincey**
 My plans after graduation include enrollment in the Savannah College of Art and Design at their Atlanta campus. I want to have a double major of Painting and Illustration. With SCAD - Atlanta's connections, I wish to spend a quarter of my senior year in a free New York City art studio. In my four years of college, I also want to spend a quarter in Lacoste, France. After college graduation, I will live an awesome life. -**Erynn Hampton**
 "I plan to attend Columbia College and major in Communication and minor in theatre. Eventually you will see me on the big TV screen." -**Tiera Rouse**
 "I intend on enjoying my summer with friends and family in preparation for college. I will be attending Winthrop University in the fall where I will major in Mass Communications: broadcasting and minor in philosophy and religion." -**April McKnight**
 "Going to CofC and then after that, going to see the world." -**Mandy Stone**
 "Attend college and pursue on of three majors: Neuroscience/neurology, Music (go figure), or 3D graphics and animation." -**Stephen Carlock**
 Go to college. Assoc. in Business. Min. of Music and Music Education. -**Da'Lonzo Gibson**
 I actually have no idea... That's what's exciting about it... I don't know where I'm going or when. Hopefully I will end up somewhere happy and not in a cardboard box on the side of the road. -**Jenna Jones**
 I am going to Johnson C. Smith University to study Psychology and minor in Mass Communications. -**Helena Smith**
 I am going to enjoy the summer and Aug. 17 I'll be in Charlotte attending Queens University majoring in Music Therapy. -**Naudia Harrison**
 To attend the College of Charleston, starting this fall and to live a fulfilled and successful life. -**Lauren Shaw**
 Head to Georgia Southern University. -**Blake Alford**
 I plan to attend either Spelman, FMU, or Seminole College. -**Morgan Hawkins**
 Follow the alliance wherever they may roam! -**Ben Aton**
 Get rich or die tryin' -**Allison Smith**
 I start my classes at Trident Tech in the fall to be a Respiratory Therapist and afterwords to work at a local hospital. On the side I'm still keeping up with my artwork -Photography, Graphic Design, and Visual Arts so you'll be able to look me up anytime. -**Leslie Nicholle Thompson**
 Attend Boston University and go from there. -**Meredith Eads**
 College, become a teacher, have a family! -**Hope Sims**
 I plan on majoring in Art History at Wofford College. -**Addie Brown**
 I plan to go to college, graduate, and get a good job doing something fun, get rich, and be merry. -**Christen Moskos**
 Travel, college, job, family, fun! -**Rindy Ross**
 College. I'm going to Clemson, majoring in Engineering. -**Allan Babcock**
 I plan to be a major in Chemistry at Winthrop and after I graduate I plan to go to MUSC and become an anesthesiologist. -**Madalyn McCaulley**
 I plan on living a bit. My mom and I want to take some of our friends to Canada and New York this summer for a taste of freedom and a few Broadway musicals. I'm looking forward to dorking out during Spamalot! :D Whoo-ho! -**Laci Dean**
 Go to college, figure out what I want to do with my life, and the rest will follow. -**Grace Davis**



The University of South Carolina, and after that, I'm hoping USC will give me that answer. -**Emily Steele**
 I plan to go to USC for a year or two and then go to Togo, Africa to work in an orphanage. I will return to USC to graduate, then once again go to Africa, this time as a human rights activist. -**Taylor McLeod**
 I plan to attend USC- Upstate in Spartanburg and major in Nursing. After receiving my BS in Nursing, I plan to become a pediatric registered nurse. After working in my field for a couple of months, I plan to go to grad school to become a nurse practitioner. -**Whitney Patterson**

Senior Surveys

Continued from pg. 7

College, New York, Europe...find some art gallery to own, and then become a slow old woman that sells beads. -**Cait Brennan**

Immediately after graduation I will probably go into hysterics and/or faint. A few months after graduation I will be a student in College of Charleston Honors College. -**Leigh Dekle USC**, then who knows! -**Alex Phillips**

I'm going to the University College at Winthrop University, which is just a fancy way of saying the honors program, I think. I plan to double major in Political Science and Dance Education. -**Rachel Heidenberg**

Attending Agnes Scott College, going to Poland in 2007 with my choir, and eventually publishing another book. -**Anna DunLany**

Keep trying. -**Frances Morris**

Study hard at a university! And live a life full of love, fulfillment, and money! -**Jessica Atkinson**

Attend Anderson College for English Education. -**Katie Meitzler**

To go to the University of Tennessee and graduate as an Aerospace Engineer. -**Brent Sagan**

I will be attending St. Mary's college of Maryland. (They don't have sports either so I should be safe.) -**Olivia Williams**

Re-attain and advance my knowledge of the craft of music, finish production on second album, initiate local special interest group to reduce and cease particle pollution through technology for a greener world. -**Corey Webb**

I will be traveling North with my grandparents, then working so that I can afford to attend Mt. Holyoke in the spring! -**Kirsten Palmer**

Go to college at Clemson and major in Physics, while continuing to play my violin. -**Taylor Raffield**

I'm going to college for a semester, and then I'll serve a two-year, full-time mission for my church. After that I'll finish up college... and then who knows what I'll be doing... -**Daniel Vincent**

I am going to study engineering at Clemson! -**Adam Gentile**

Obtain a college degree in computer engineering. -**T.J. Mott**

Get a tan at the beach, shave my head, learn to play the bass-kazoo, maybe go to college... -**Trevor Murray**

Spend a half-year (or a whole year) at a spiritual meditation retreat site in New York, to straighten out my mind. Then, go forth to succeed at Emory, to give to the world, to create peace in the Mid-East. -**Omi Naderi**

My plans are to attend the Manhattan School of Music, and to enjoy New York City. -**T.J. Robinson**

Presbyterian College... then wherever life leads me. -**Elise Giles**

Go to P.C., major in biology/education; go to grad school for genetics counseling. -**Amy Green**

College issues. -**Devin Graves**

Music school! I'm going to the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, NY, and majoring in viola performance. -**Missy Claisse**

I truly have no idea, and frankly, I would like to keep it that way as long as possible. -**Peter DuPuis**

I plan to celebrate, chill, chill some more, go to parties, make some money, and hang with family and friends before I go to college. -**JT Tolbert**

Invent something. Become a bajillionaire. Fly the FF3 (SMD) to New York, Hawaii, Colorado, California, Sweden, Italy, and China (for all the crappy stuff.) -**George Bates**

I'm going to college, majoring in sports management, and becoming one of the top coaches in America. -**Jerell Lewis**

I plan to attend Claflin University and get a degree in elementary education. -**Shadana Moses**

College. -**Jonothan Brunson**

After graduation I plan to attend the College of Charleston in the fall. There I will major in music composition and vocal performance. One day I will receive my masters and continue my music career. -**Nathan Matticks**

To move to Atlanta, become an Au pair, and go to college there. -**Kelsie Mathieu**

Go to C of C and then...Who knows! -**Philip Pace**

I plan to go to USC for a year or two and then go to Togo, Africa, to work in an orphanage. I will return to USC and graduate, then once again go to Africa, this time as a human rights activist. -**Taylor McLeod**

Well, I was unsure of where I wanted to go to school, but I just decided that I'm going to Trident Tech for one year and transfer to Coastal Carolina. -**Joia Tucker**
College, Move to Jamaica, Live Free! Rasta! -**Matthew Bostick**
Well, I'm going to college for graphic design, web design, and animation.

-**Jennifer Thomas**

To work for an advertising agency. -**Johnny Knight**

To audition for a reality TV show, open either a club or a restaurant, and go to a foreign country. -**Terrence Freeman**

I'm going to attend Charleston Southern University, where I hope to major in elementary education. I want to teach either 2nd or 3rd grade. I'm going to Guatemala for 2 weeks and having lots of fun before school starts. -**Clary Nigels**

I'll be attending USC at Columbia in the fall probably majoring in early childhood education. I want to teach 1st grade! Cancun, Mexico with Nikki D...what happens in Cancun stays in Cancun! Working at American Eagle.

-**Nicole Adams**

Have fun this summer, enjoy life, go to college, become a business owner a.k.a. multi-millionaire. -**Reba Bowens**

Go to Auburn University and get my first real job. -**Lindsay Gallagher**

College, grad school, working for a computer company, blah blah blah, and build people-eating robots, beach and hang out with friends before school starts. -**Manessah Frazier**

I plan to go to Charleston Southern University. In a couple of years I will be a dental hygienist. -**Brandi Dirkes**

Manhattan School of Music. -**Mary Reed**

Marriage...haha, just kidding. A trip to Europe and then college. -**Kathleen Smith**

Art, living in the trees. -**Lainey Harrison**

To retire. -**David DuTremble**

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The Visual Arts New York trip, in its entirety, and playing the jugs at Battle of the Bands. -**Cait Brennan**

I had Dr. Parker for English in the ninth grade and on the first day of school she forgot to send us to lunch. When the bell rang at the end of the period we went to the cafeteria and no one was there, I was petrified and so incredibly confused. -**Leigh Dekle**

My Senior Thesis night and right after I performed the feeling of elation and all my friends and family there. -**Alex Phillips**

There's been so many. The senior theses this year have been amazing. Each person's talent truly displays each hardship and accomplishment over the last seven years. -**Rachel Heidenberg**

A few boys in our first graduating class bombarded the 6th graders with water balloons as we were walking to our majors. I got hit smack in the head with a fat green balloon. It took the rest of the day for my hair to dry. -**Anna DunLany**

Sadly to say, getting caught in the janitor's closet. -**Frances Morris**

Oh, I don't know. When Dr. Ball shot a paintgun in his own trailer. Or when Dr. Price's beakers exploded. Yea for science class! -**Jessica Atkinson**

At one of the high school literary readings, none of the girls wore shoes on stage. It wasn't uncommon for a few to read their selection barefoot, but this time hardly anyone wore their shoes. So, at the end, Mrs. Miles felt the need to specify that 'I did not steal all of the girls' shoes,' to which Anna replied from the audience loud enough for everyone to hear 'Yes you did! -**Katie Meitzler**

New York Trip. -**Brent Sagan**

Once, my red gatorade leaked out of my lunchbox all over the cafeteria. I was afraid to tell, so I just hoped no one would notice. Ms. Boyd found out it was me and made me apologize to the janitor. I cried. And there was the thing with Omi and the banana in Visual Arts. -**Olivia Williams**

The final performance of Muddy Water. My heart never beat so fast. -**Corey Webb**

Dr. Parker's English class freshman year, when she kept yelling at us for talking - even though the room was completely silent! Not to mention her peculiar aversion to anything that smelled too strongly. -**Kirsten Palmer**

Running at full speed from the Strings room to Fitz's car to get music stands with my brother and Chris Gengrich, all the while singing songs from Lord of the Rings. ...The car was locked. -**Taylor Raffield**

This would definitely be: the flood of black flame-retardant water pouring into my hotel room at 12:45 a.m., on my freshman band trip. (*cough* Trevor! *cough cough*). -**Daniel Vincent**

Of course it has to be our undefeated football team and all their games. -**Adam Gentile**

September 11, 2001, was a very confusing but memorable day at S.O.A. -**T.J. Mott**

When B.J. sat on the ketchup smiley. -**Trevor Murray**

The Battle of the Bands in 2005! ...when Patriche, Jonathan Squires, Justin W. and I played video game theme songs. -**Omi Naderi**

Trevor Murray's accident with the sprinklers in his hotel room on a band trip - which led to the evacuation of the hotel. -**T.J. Robinson**

Every moment at S.O.A. is memorable. We don't want any of these here country matters. -**Amy Green**

There is no 'most memorable' moment, really. Every day brought new things that were better than before. ...But I do remember the first few days of senior year being pretty awesome. -**Elise Giles**

Wide like love. (The AP English Class will get it.) -**Devin Graves**

Counting the curbs on the way to All State. -**Missy Claisse**

My most memorable moment at SOA was when I vomited in Economics class during one of Mr. Brehm's lectures. Sorry Shadana, Joia, and Mr. Brehm. My bad -**Whitney Patterson**

What is your most memorable moment?

the long side burns. -**April McKnight**

When some seniors got the canoe from the Visual Arts room and paddled in "Lake SOA." All the jokes in Visual Arts. The bus. Junior year. Making Omi do stupid stuff in class. -**Meredith Eads**

This year in general being able to look back and see where, as a class, we have come from with change, growth, knowledge and experience and having the expectations and promises for the future. -**Leslie Thompson**

Two words: Omi Naderi - **Addie Brown**

Winter Formal of '05, us being seniors (of course), when I fell in ballet last year trying to open the door -**Morgan Hawkins**

New York. Visual Arts. 06. Baby. Yeah. -**Ben Aton**

One thing my friends and I will never forget and still talk about today is Pi day in 8th grade. Even though our dance and song didn't win, we still remember it and perform occasionally at parties. -**Allison Smith**

Skipping computer with Rindy and Chelsea, holla Big Awk! Prom. Everyday of Teacher Cadet! -**Hope Sims**

Going to Italy with my best friend and classmates for Spring Break my sophomore year -**Meredith Jones**

When vocal went to Disney World in 8th grade. It was the most fun trip I've ever been on, and it was a great bonding experience for us girls. -**Christen Moskos**

Skipping computer with Hope and Chelsea! Prom! Everyday of Teacher Cadet! -**Rindy Ross**

The visual arts trip to Italy -**Alan Babcock**

My most memorable moment was when someone in my French class said "Oh snap!" and Mrs. Kovtacheva said "Oh snap, what does this mean?" -**Madalyn McCaulley**

It's between Creative Writing and Theater's trip to the mountains (and how I made a fool of myself), the time Jennifer Thomas attacked Jonathon Brunson, Groundhog/Shadowing day (8th grade), videography class (11th grade), Mrs. Bronk's English class and... I guess there are a lot. Oh, I'm so sentimental! -**Laci Dean**

Well, since it's over now, let me just lay some things out. Yes, it was me. I caused the bathroom rain forest during rehearsal, and no I did not serve the detention. Yes, I talked my way out of 89% of my problems, and of course I would not have changed a single thing. -**Blake Alford**

Two yardmen got arrested for having a toy gun, Visual Arts NYC Trip! -**Grace Davis**

The time spent with my friends, any English class and senior thesis. -**Kelsie Mathieu**

Thesis week -**Taylor McLeod**

After the '04 end of the year ceremonies a group of people went to the late lot listening to the radio, dancing. When the 05-06 boys drove by wetting us with water balloons, etc, and we got in our cars and chased them around the neighborhood. It was fun and unexpected. But some of us got the boys back by putting lotion and cheez doodles on their car. -**Sanora Griffin**

When I saved Dr. Price's chemistry lab from catching fire. -**Matt Bostick**

When Nicole Darden and I switched places for a day in middle school. NYC, 2006 -**Lindsay Gallagher**

Sitting in my English class without my Aderol and hiding under Mrs. Bronk's desk, eating her cookies, and attacking her legs. BACK TWO ROWS!! & When Jennifer T. freshman year smashed Josh Floyd's hand into the desk and chased him down the hall. -**Maneesah Frazier**

My most memorable moment at SOA was in seventh grade. Mr. Ritchen sat the whole band class down and we began to listen to the radio, right after the terrorist attack of 9/11. -**Brandi Dirkes**



2005-2006 SOA Highlights

Published In December, The Greenwood Encyclopedia of American Poetry contained three articles written by Dr. John Cusatis. Throughout the school year, Dr. Cusatis had sixteen other articles accepted for publication in various books to be published in 2006-2007. He also penned a song for the forthcoming movie Beautiful Kid, featuring Frank McCourt.

Senior Surveys

Omi beating up Tyler in Dr. Ball's class. - **Michelle Willies**

The time we bashed Mrs. Bronk's TV in. - **Mary Reed**

Bus rides with Allison in middle school and health class with Hope. - **Kathleen Smith**

Getting suspended; best days of my life. I realized that being in school is good but being in the real world is better. We need more nature. We just are all sucked into the vortex that is the Charleston County School System but we have to have it in order to make money, which makes the world go round. I'm moving to the jungle with Mowgli. - **Lainey Harrison**

In eighth grade, Nathan, Jonothon, and I would make fun of Terrence and his fake Nikes. In seventh grade, Brianna Greer would make fun of Tyler D. everyday at lunch, and me, Jonothon Brunson, and Stephen Carlock. Everyday we would be laughing. That stuff was hilarious. - **Reba Bowens**

BIG RIVER! vocal warm-ups with Mr. Eakes, long rehearsals after school, seeing everyone looking their best on Saturday mornings, being on stage, getting ready with Clary in the dressing room, doing sign language with a straight face, and all of the pep talks. - **Nicole Adams**

My first day here! I remember thinking the high schoolers were really intimidating, and one thought I was in elementary school and was lost. And once school was over, I had no clue what bus I was supposed to ride and I stated crying because I didn't know what to do. - **Clary Nigels**

Receiving my very own cello in ninth grade; decking Milford right in his jaw, while playing pitty-patt; receiving a part in the school play, "Big River" - **Terrence Freeman**

My freshman year, the band was invited to a competition (BOA) and the night before our... - **Lauren Shaw**

In Mr. Brehm's class, when Tiera goes to sleep we put things in her ear to make her jump out her seat. - **Johnny Knight**

The day I scared Dr. Ball and the whole class, mostly Matt Bostick, who jumped three feet out of his chair and onto the floor. All because I hissed like a cat. - **Jennifer Thomas**

The day that I had a lab in chemistry and Helena and I were working together and the bunsen burner fell over and almost caught the blinds on fire and I ran out the class screaming because I thought I was going to die! And all the teachers on the hall came out with their classes. - **Joia Tucker**

I sang to Emory Frazier at a pep rally for his birthday. - **Naudia Harrison**

I have so many... when we were in ninth grade and were at our first high school dance. Wooooo that's all I got to say! - **Helena Smith**

The first time I wore a suit to school and was crowned "Reverend." - **Da'Lonzo Gibson**

The whole of my freshman year, in Honors Biology. - **Stephen Carlock**

The Back Two Rows and the Bronkasaurus. The yearbook room. - **Mandy Stone**

In ninth grade in Mrs. Miles' class when I finally realized how much I loved writing poetry and what a great woman Rene Bufo Miles is. - **Tiera Rouse**

The strange conversations that occur during lunch. - **Erynn Hampton**

Winter Formal; Principal dancer in "Big River" and hanging out with my buddies Acecily,

Shadana, and Cameron in the main characters' dressing rooms. Dominick playing the piano in Ms. Tizzy's class and everyone dancing. - **Zimone Mincey**

I have a few! Barrier Island was a great experience. We put all our seventh grade drama behind us to have fun. Matt totaling Zimone's car (with us in it), and teachers pulling over to help. My sophomore and junior years in general were amazing, because I got close with the class of 2005. Big River was AWESOME! You know I was one of the

lead slaves with Cameron, Shadana, and Zimone. - **Acecily Alexander**

Graduation; Making an award winning movie 'DA MATRIX' - **Jerell Lewis**

Performing in "Big River." - **Shadana Moses**

Nathan and I giving Mr. Orvin the podium we made for our spring project in 9th grade." - **Jonothon Brunson**

- **Jonothon Brunson**

I would have to say making the podium with my best friend Jono for the one and only 'Sir Orvin' - **Nathan Matticks**

Video production with Jake, Anna and all of the rest. - **Philip Pace**

Tenth grade chemistry class, gagging with David DuTremble from Nigel and Tanyesha's activity. Need I say more? - **Rachel Maguire**

My most recent memorable moment at SOA was definitely "Big River." The 'rehearsals' and performances were hilarious thanks to my fellow slaves Acecily, Shadana and Zimone, and we're the best impressionists ever! - **Cameron Funderburk**

My most memorable moment: when I won the King of Halloween thanks to my MC Hammer costume, and definitely the senior art trip to NYC. - **Dalia Dalili**

When Helena pulled the fire alarm in Mr. Brehm's class and said "I didn't know!!" - **Dominick Palmer**

Running to Ms. Tisdale's class in 11th grade because I was always running late and almost falling head first into the dirt after I tripped over a stump. - **Sarah Myers**

The moment that I was done after my senior thesis for theatre. - **Daris Sullivan**

Prom at the aquarium and skipping computer with Hope and Rindy, Holla at Big Awk!! - **Chelsea Richardson**

The time when DJ, Leon and D jumped for no reason. But my squad prevailed and proclaim our authority in this school. - **Charles Aiken**

It's all a blur, faded gray, in between the lines, washed out, peeling, hairy blur. It's the Alzheimer's. - **Justin Schram**

Once during recess in eighth grade, the teacher lost track of time. We got to stay outside for about twenty extra minutes. Justin Yang, Corey Webb, Perry Spyropolous, Ashley Chaplin, me, and my now beloved Jessica all laid on our backs in the grass in a circle with my huge blue button-up shirt over our faces. It was relaxing. - **Justin Wooton**

Pooty Boy Lee getting boxed. - **Peter DuPois**

New York City. Art krew. Holla atcha boy. - **George Bates**

In The 10th grade when I went to prom on a boat and pulling a prank on the seniors by messing up their cars and throwing eggs and water balloons. Yeah, I did it. - **JT Tolbert**

Congratulations to the SOA Middle School graduates: The Class of 2010



Jerell Lewis

Jerell,

You've brought us such proud and happy times through the years. We will treasure the memories. Your future is sure to have all the success and happiness you will work to achieve. Remember you can do all things through Christ which strengthen you.

Love Mom, Dad, Kendra & Rodney II



Garian Wilkinson

You've made it! We've watched you grow into a remarkable man and are proud of you. Congratulations and Happy Birthday.

Much Love,

Momma & Daddy



Jonothon Brunson

Congratulations to the love of my life. To the one person who fulfilled all my dreams. Jonothon, you are my heart and soul and I love you more than words could ever express.

You have made me so proud! You are a true reflection of Granny and PaPa.

You share their kind heart, compassion for others, and love for your family. You are a fine young man and I am looking forward to all your accomplishments you will achieve in your new walk.

I love you
Jonothon, your family loves you (all 45 of the Brunson clan) but most of all, God loves you! Keep your faith and follow your heart and you will experience life more than you dreamed.

I Love You Son,
Mama



Christen Moskos



Amy Green

Congratulations, Amy!
No matter where you are
Or what you do,
You will be wonderful
And successful.
We love you!
Love,
Dad, Mom,
Kevin and Erik



We were there when you took your first steps into childhood. Now we will watch as you take your first steps into your future. Sometimes we still see the little girl, but we're excited about the young woman you have become.

We love you! Remember -
"Make good choices!"

Mom & Dad



Emily Steele



Em,
Congratulations to the youngest of the Steele Clan!
We are so proud of the accomplishments you have Achieved, including surviving the challenges of our Crazy family. You've made a mark with your Saxophone skills, contagious laugh, sarcastic tongue,
Caring

heart and a maturity beyond your age. All of these will bring you a bright and wonderful future.

We know that you will be successful in all that you do.

WE LOVE YOU!

Mom, Dad, Elizabeth, Matthew, & Michael XO



Omi Naderi



Dearest Omi,
You are a joyously amazing person! You've been a delight and a challenge - keep your high standards - remember your own bliss!

Love,
Mom

Congratulations Class of 2006

Zippy Dawson Beatty

We are so proud of Alexandra Dawson Beatty, AKA "Zippy," the musician of our family since age 3 in Canada. Her sister Grace, Mom & Dad, Baba & Pops wish her love and unlimited success in all of her life's adventures!!



Mary Stone

Amazing, magical, clever, compassionate, bright, beautiful, spunk, and smiles. Everyone is so proud of you! I love you. Mom



Lauren Shaw

Congratulations, Lauren We are very proud of you! College of Charleston Here she comes... Much Love and Best Wishes From your Family Girl you Shine!

Latoya Smith

"One of a kind" You are the one of a kind: seed that was planted 18 years ago. During the cycles, you did not allow the excessive water, hot rays, and strong winds that this life has taken you through to destroy or make you wither. You only swayed back and forth allowing your



roots to spread and strengthen. As the seasons change, always stay focused and continue to grow from that "one of a kind" seed. Congratulations! We are proud of you! Love, Mommy and Daddy



Ben Aton

May your future be a wonderful ride, one beautiful wave after another! Love, Mom, Dad, Emily, Maggie

Congratulations Class of 2006

Jennifer Ann Thomas

We are so proud of your accomplishments, your creative abilities, and your kindness to everyone you meet. Congratulations from Daddy, Mother, and Matthew.



Rindy Ross

Rindy
Tiny hands reaching in love
Open arms to call you
Closed arms to always embrace you
You are always close to our hearts.
Love, Dad



“Go confidently in the direction of your dreams. Live the live you had imagined.” - Henry David Thoreau

Meredith Jones

Congratulations Meredith,
We are so proud of you. Have a great time at Wofford!
Love,
Mom, Dad, & Preston



Love, Mom

Rindy, I love you dearly and want the stars for you.
Love, Russel



From hiding under grandma's table to dancing across the

stage to get a diploma.
With love, your Grandmother

Allan Babcock

Happy Graduation Allan Babcock!
Congratulations on a job well done, may your future hold happiness and fulfillment in all you do.



To my one & only niece, Roo Roo
Love, Aunt Nelly



From the frosting on your first birthday cake to all your bake sales, life has been interesting and the best is yet to come.

Love, MoMo

You'll do great things and you're the best sister,
Love, Paul

Senior Surveys

What will you miss most about SOA?

The laxity of the rules. -**David DuTremble**

The fun I had in 9th and 10th grade, the friends I've made, the lunch ladies, Ms. Olson, The janitors and all the money I've made during school. -**Sanora Griffin**

The drama, and the nasty food. -**Charles Aiken**

The awesome people. -**Chelsea Richardson**

The people. -**Daris Sullivan**

Seeing all of the friends that I have made in the past 5 years since I have been here. -**Sarah Myers**

The big comfy chairs in the front of Mr. Davis's office. -**Christine Piontek**

Every minute of Visual Arts. -**Dalia Dalili**

The smiley fries, corn dog day, the comfort, the people, stuff like that. -**Cameron Funderburk**

My friends, Nicole Adams, Nicole Darden, Clary, Lindsay, Brandi (my big cuz), Christen, Taylor, and the lack of responsibility. -**Rachel Maguire**

The tight security precautions. -**Philip Pace**

I will miss the people, most of all, and a good portion of the teachers who have been able to put up with me. The main person I will miss is Mr. Davis, you're the coolest assistant principal. -**Nathan Matticks**

Friends / Teachers. -**Jonathan Brunson**

I will miss hanging out in the office with Gaga, Lala, and Shamyra and eating all of the goodies. -**Shadana Moses**

I will miss teachers, friends and the family environment. -**Jerell Lewis**

'FF3' SMD. -**George Bates**

Just getting to know everyone since the school is so small. Also, the cool teachers, like Mr. Orvin, Dr. Cusatis, Dr. Holden-Musser, Sam Wood, Mrs. Rogers, Mrs. Smyth, Mr. P, Mrs. Olson, and I can't forget about Ms. Emory (just to name a few). -**JT Tolbert**

African Dancing. -**Peter DuPuis**

Its ghetto, yet charming campus. -**Justin Wooton**

Friends, teachers, high school days without a job and laughing through life with the craziest kids ever. No seriously, they are crazy, straightjacket crazy. -**Justin Schram**

It's going to be hard replacing Mrs. Miles. I'm going to miss the 'OH SIX MAFIA'. We aren't the brightest class, but definitely the coolest. My Whitney Wilson ('08) She is sweet, talented, and beautiful, and that is what SOA should be about! Of course I am going to miss Shadana more than anything. -**Acecily Alexander**

Exercising in Dr. Holden-Musser's class. Hanging with Christine and Clary during teacher monitor. Dance! Being in a coal mine with Morgan. Going to guidance. -**Zimone Mincey**

The fact that I have to spend money to get an arts education now. -**Erynn Hampton**

I will miss the laughs, surreal love, and all the food we got off campus. -**Tiera Rouse**

The people. I love all my friends so much and can't imagine what I'm going to do without them all. -**Mandy Stone**

The teachers who earned my respect. -**Stephen Carlock**

Everything and when the new campus is built I will miss the old one too. -**Da'Lonzo Gibson**

The people, everyone understanding you and knowing before you even have to speak. The comfort in talking to the teachers as if they were on the same level as you. -**Helena Smith**

I'll miss walking into the fine arts building and being welcomed by a medley of sounds. We are amazing in that building. -**Naudia Harrison**

Some of the things that I will remember are the teachers. They all taught us so much. Most of all PERFORMING!! -**Joia Tucker**

The teachers' personalities. -**Jennifer Thomas**

Mr. Davis stalking me. -**Johnny Knight**

The friends that became my family through the past 7 years, my 'band family' and the people I have been to school with since elementary school. -**Lauren Shaw**

All da free meals, field trip, slack attendance policy, and my family. -**Terrence Freeman**

The closeness that everyone has. Strings for 7 years with Nicole, Missy and Nikki D. -trips bus rides, concerts, rehearsals, NYC!!! I'll miss the class of '06! I love ya'll! -**Clary Nigels**

Getting to see Clary, Missy, and Nikki D. everyday and all of the good times we've shared! We love NYC!! Best trip of my life! The big family we've formed and being able to know everyone in my class. '06!! -**Nicole Adams**

The people. 7th and 8th grade. -**Reba Bowens**

Ms. Jaycie. -**Lainey Harrison**
Everyone... except Da'Lonzo. -**Kathleen Smith**

Playing football in gym with
Lea. -**Mary Reed**

Reading the bathroom walls. -**Michelle Willies**

I will miss a 'who', not a 'what'.

I'll miss being able to eat lunch
with my mom everyday and all
the 'great' extra moments we
had. I will also miss Mrs. Smyth!

She is an extraordinary, sweet,
person who treated me like a
daughter and always looked out
for me. -**Brandi Dirkes**

All the people and teachers I've tormented. -**Maneesah Frazier**

I will miss the familiar faces I've seen for so long. -**Lindsay Gallagher**

Performing. -**Matt Bostick**

I will miss my Theatre class more than anything, most of all, Mr. Wood! -**Taylor McLeod**

My friends, the family, the bonds. -**Kelslie Mathieu**

My Visual Arts class. -**Grace Davis**

Of course, Ellen Kay and Sam Wood (you got me into college). And most importantly. The ones closest to me, who I regrettably left behind. One of the hardest things of my life was to walk away. You broke down my wall. I will never forget you. -**Blake Alford**

I have to admit, I'm gonna have a hard time saying goodbye to some of these crazies. Seriously, the people I've met here are the most random and coolest (cough) I've had the opportunity to be in the presence of. The laid-back atmosphere has officially suckered me into thinking that this is the way school is supposed to be. -**Laci Dean**

I will miss the diversity, my friends, and the friendly teachers. -**Madalyn McCaulley**

All of my friends, the small size of SOA and all of the arts you see here everyday. -**Allan Babcock**

Everything. -**Rindy Ross**

I am definitely going to miss the relationships I have had here. I'm going to miss all my friends and teachers with whom I've shared so many great times. -**Christen Moskos**

The people. -**Meredith Jones**

Everything, but especially every single SENIOR! I love you guys! -**Hope Sims**

I will miss art class. -**Allison Smith**

FF3 (SMD) Fo' Lyfe. -**Ben Aton**

I will miss the diversity of the people here at SOA. -**Morgan Hawkins**

My friends, the creativity, the openness. -**Addie Brown**

The good and almost free education! And the lovely people too! -**Leslie Thompson**

Visual Arts Class and seeing everybody everyday. My friends and our carefree life. -**Meredith Eads**

The tight-knit family atmosphere. I knew almost everyone at the school and it feels so comfortable to be familiar with every face. I'll miss my friends, especially Patrick de la Pena. I'll miss the 'good' education our teachers gave us as well as the teachers themselves, especially Mrs. Vera Smyth, she's the best. -**April McKnight**

Early morning dance classes...wandering the halls...my table in Dr. B's physics class..Remedial English (A2)...hiding from 'Ace'...school lunches and the awesome lunch ladies...great teachers...backstage at performances...the word 'chingy'...worshipping my nubian princesses...chimes in psychology...and most of all, the most wonderful friends at SOA. -**Jenna Jones**

Nothin' really. Naw j/k. I'm going to miss Mr. Dawson and the cafeteria ladies. I'ma miss the band of course (cracking jokes, and beatboxing in the back, and the whole AJ dummin with the fellas, and harassing all the girls (lol! j/k) I'm also going to miss driving the teachers crazy (especially Ms. Marshall) and Mr. Davis's office. But most of all I'ma miss laughing at everybody else's 'high school' drama and chillin with the crew. -**Garian Wilkinson**

Mostly all of the people, the trips, the concerts, playing with Jazz Band (JJW), wandering the halls, skipping out for lunch, sleeping in the car with Michael when we were late, and so they don't kill me, Zach and Aakaba and all of my closest friends. -**Emily Steele**



2005-2006 SOA Highlight

Mrs. Rose Maree Myers was named Honor Administrator by the South Carolina Music Educators Association. The Association also awarded senior Taylor Raffield with a \$1000 scholarship.

Senior Surveys / Arts Highlights

Ms. Jaycie, the Visual Art class and all their amusing qualities, and, believe it or not, the

Applause. -**Cait Brennan**

My fantastic theatre class and eating lunch on the sidewalk. -**Leigh Dekle**

My theatre family. -**Alex Phillips**

I'll miss the atmosphere. I love the carefree feeling SOA has. Everyone is so friendly. -

Rachel Heidenberg

The class of 2006 and the wonderful teachers. -**Anna DunLany**

All the pwetty people. -**Frances Morris**

The 'ghetto' - but that's gone now anyway... -**Jessica Atkinson**

The Nook, and relaxing there with my CW [creative writing] family while we discussed how hungry we were. -**Katie Meitzler**

Friends, the campus that has become so familiar to me. -**Brent Sagan**

The sense of community. It's nice to be in an atmosphere where you can be completely yourself (even if you're a prematurely old lady who likes to make cookies and have luncheons) and still have friends. -**Olivia Williams**

Sharing space with those who value creation. -**Corey Webb**

The friends I've had for so many years, and the time I've had every day to just do theatre.

My teachers have been awesome, too. -**Kirsten Palmer**

The fact that a perfectly straight male can come to school dressed in full prom attire - female prom attire - and it won't be questioned. -**Taylor Raffield**

I'll miss the easy-going atmosphere. Everyone here is (generally) relaxed and friendly. -

Daniel Vincent

The people and teachers I have grown to love. -**Adam Gentile**

The sense of community that even strangers feel toward one another. -**T.J. Mott**

I will miss all the great people (teachers included). -**Trevor Murray**

Dr. Cusatis and his classes, working on *Applause* covers, being with the people in my art major, Mr. Davis asking why I'm late every morning. Most of all, the people of SOA. -

Omi Naderi

The friendly atmosphere. -**T.J. Robinson**

I'll miss the administration, the teachers, and the students; but what I'll miss most is the love that my friends and I share, and the times we've enjoyed (and hated) in this wonderful neighborhood. -**Amy Green**

The atmosphere and being able to see all the great people every day. -**Elise Giles**

The laid-back atmosphere. -**Devin Graves**

The eclecticism of every day. -**Missy Claisse**

I will miss SOA's diversity. I was able to hang out & talk to many groups of people!! -

Whitney Patterson

The SOA Band Majors: The Year in Review

The School of the Arts Band Major grew to its largest membership this school year, expanding to 84 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 1,200 people attended this event, which has become the "Homecoming Dance" for SOA. The SOA Wind Ensemble was divided into three performing ensembles, with the new Wind Ensemble becoming the "flagship" ensemble, with the Symphonic and Concert Bands designed for developing musicians. Both the Symphonic Band and the Wind Ensemble received the highest ratings, straight "Superiors" at the State Concert Band Festival. These ensembles also presented four other performances, including the highly successful "Holiday Prism" concert at Sottile.

Many individuals earned honors at the local, state and national level. Six 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, Timothy Robinson, Robert Widlowski, Michael Kay, and John Kotab were selected to perform with the All-State Jazz Band at Newberry College in March. The SOA Wind Ensemble was also represented at the state level, with 10 musicians selected to the All-State Band. Kelly Machado, Michael Meers, Lamar Hunter, Ricky Quinones, Vickrum Tipnis, Amy Green, Daniel Vincent, Julia Whirley, Jessica Moeller, and Zach Thames performed with the All-State Band at Furman University. The band provided the core of the pit orchestra for "Big River." 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.

Our Seniors have represented themselves well in scholarship auditions. Most of them will continue their music, from just playing in ensembles to majoring in music. Lauren Shaw, Amy Green, TJ Robinson, Zippy Dawson Beatty, Daniel Vincent, and Trevor Murray

all had outstanding Senior Thesis performances. TJ Robinson, Zippy Dawson Beatty, and Trevor Murray have all been accepted to outstanding music schools (Manhattan, Peabody, and the Univ. of Miami, respectively). Daniel Vincent, TJ Mott, Amy Green, and April McKnight will make a musical impact on their respective college ensembles. All of the seniors are destined for success!

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. The 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 Orchestra has outstanding year

High School Orchestra had quite a year of accomplishments in 2005-2006. Here is a small sample. On September 16-17 members of the orchestra joined the SC Cello Choir at USC. Participants were Terrence Freeman, Laila Roudsari, Andi Musselwhite, Tara Grantham, Taylor DeNett. October 1 was the Region Orchestra/All-State Auditions. All string students participated. November 11-12 was Region Orchestra Weekend in Florence, SC. Participating in Junior Region Orchestra were Katie Grantham, violin 1; Daniel Anthony violin 2; Alexis Brightharp violin 2; Tara Grantham violin 2; Rachel Harris viola; Alyssa Hartwell viola; Andi Musselwhite cello. Senior Region Orchestra included Daniel Davis violin 1; Sytske Hillenius violin 1; Taylor Raffield, violin 1; Max Donoso, violin 2; Louis Marcell, violin 2; Alisa Myers, violin 2; Clary Nigels, violin 2; Megan Patrick, violin 2; Ginny Summerford, violin 2; Jennifer Thomas, violin 2; Nicole Adams, viola; Keith Black, viola; Missy Claisse, viola; Nicole Darden viola; Morgan Lewis, viola; Danielle Schweitzer, viola; Terrence Freeman, cello; Laila Roudsari, cello; Mary Reed, bass; Robert Widlowski, bass.



December 8 was the Winter Concert with High School Vocals and February 24-26 was All-State Orchestra Weekend at Converse College, Spartanburg, SC. On March 3 the orchestra participated in the Solo & Ensemble Festival in Charleston. The following members received Superior Ratings:

Nicole Adams, Viola; Daniel Anthony, Violin; Keith Black, Viola; Alexis Brightharp, Violin; Maranda Caldwell, Nicole Darden, Viola; Daniel Davis, Violin; Taylor DeNett, Violin; Taylor Dudley, Violin; Brink Feaster, Viola; Terrence freeman, Cello; Patrick Galvin, Violin; Katie Grantham, Violin; Tara Grantham, Violin; Elizabeth Griffith, Violin; Rachel Harris, Viola; Alyssa Hartwell, Viola; Sytske Hillenius, Violin; Kimberly Jenkins, Violin; Darbie Keck, Violin; Morgan Lewis, Viola; Diego Lizarazo, Violin; Andi Musselwhite, Cello; Alisa Myers, Violin; Clary Nigels, Violin; Megan Patrick, Violin; Bradley Poplin, Taylor Raffield, Moraud Roudsari, Violin; Andrew Royal, Violin; Ashley Sagan, Violin; Maximiliano Donoso Santibaéz, Violin; Daniel Schweitzer, Viola; Ginny Summerford, Violin. The following received Excellent Ratings: Sanora Griffin, Brittany Hartwell, Tradd Pstrak, Alexis Robles, Jennifer Thomas.

On April 6 the orchestra was part of the Concert Festival and received a Superior Rating (All Superior ratings from 3 judges). April 19 was the Masterworks Concert at Gaillard Auditorium and finally, on May 9 the Senior Thesis Concerto Concertat the Circular Congregational Church. The program was as follows:

1. Bass Concerto: Koussevitsky, Allegro. Performed by Mary Reed, bass
2. Concerto in b minor: Handel, Allegro Moderato. Performed by Nicole Darden, viola
3. Concerto in C Major: Haydn, Moderato. Performed by Terrence Freeman, cello
4. Concerto in D Major: Hoffmeister, Allegro. Performed by Melissa Claisse, viola
5. La Folia: Corelli. Performed by Clary Nigels, violin
6. Concerto in D Major Op. 1: Stamitz, Allegro (non troppo). Performed by Nicole Adams, viola
7. Morceau de Concert Op. 94: Saint-Saëns, Allegro Moderato. Performed by Daniel Vincent, horn
8. Concerto in e minor Op. 64: Mendelssohn, Allegro molto appassionato. Performed by Taylor Raffield, violin

Senior Essays

Justin Wooton

In 2016, I plan to be enjoying my successful little life. I will have stock in multiple companies, maybe have some property, and have a great girlfriend, perhaps even wife, that I can share my wonderful life with, and how I plan to get there isn't that complicated.

First, this summer I will get a decent job and work a lot to save up money. With that money I will invest in the stock market. Then, in the fall, I will move down



to Atlanta where I will attend a private college, Oglethorpe University. After four years of working a part-time job and attending school full time, I will graduate with a degree in business, music, computer science, or maybe engineering. I'm not sure yet.

After college, I will get a job in the appropriate field of my degree and work hard to pay of my debts (eww) and get a good financial foundation. After that, buy some property, travel, or perhaps, even go back to school, but most of all, I'll be enjoying it. Who knows what the future holds in store. My plans could unexpectedly be ruined by some unforeseen event, and if that does happen, who knows what I'll do. I'll figure that out later though.

Peace out, I'm graduating!

Nathan Matticks



I made it. YEAH! I can't believe graduation is just around the corner. I will never forget my first day here at S.O.A. in seventh grade. I had to be the biggest loser. I had a huge cardboard box full of supplies for my teachers. Walking into home room I didn't know anybody except for Chris Martin. Me being his good friend he introduced me to the people that would become my closest friends 'til the day I graduated, one of those people being Jonathon Brunson. LOL. How did that happen? LOL

Being here at S.O.A. for the past six years has been awesome. It's amazing how close our graduating class is to each other. I find it funny that people from other schools who don't know us think this school is stupid. It's not. I have found that here you're not considered a number like at some other schools. We are given certain liberties that some schools can never have. Here the teachers trust us. Take for example my favorite teacher, "Sir Orvin." Not only has he taught me a lot about history but he made it so it was fun. He becomes friends with you and jokes around with you. Orvin, you are a great person and I will miss you.

It's scary to think, "hey, I'm not going to be in high school anymore." No worries. Next year I will be attending the College of Charleston. There I plan on majoring in Music Composition and Vocal Performance. Some day I will earn my Masters and Doctorate degrees.

In this part of my essay I am supposed to reflect on the years spent at S.O.A....I loved it....but what I really want to do in this part of the essay is to say something to the underclassman that I firmly believe. A word of advice, if you will. For all you underclassmen that are thinking about leaving and going to a different high school, I ask that you do this.....think before you commit! Look around you. You might not find a school quite like this. A school where the teachers will get to know you on a personal level and make a point to help to work with you one on one, and a school where your peers respect you for your talentsI know, I know, I know, at times it seems like this school is lame, and I'll admit it. I think it too, but once you sit and think about it, it just doesn't get any better than this! having said that, IT'S A SWEET GOOD-BYE I mean BITTERSWEET! I'm out. Much love '06.

P.S. Shout to my boys: Jono, Jerell, JT \$, Matty B, RJ, Daris, Charles, Johnny, Domo, Blake and The Preacher Man (Dalanzo) – next year without you guys – it's not going to be the same. And you know I gotta rep the '06.

Meredith Eads

It seems like not long ago I was starting high school. Then I didn't believe what people said about how fast high school will go by or how it will be the best time of your life. I still don't know about it being the best part of my life (although I have had fun), but I do know that it has come and gone before I knew it. And I don't know if I want it to end.

As a freshmen I couldn't wait to be finished with it all - dreaming of college and when I could make my own rules. Graduating seemed like the perfect solution to all my desires. I guess I never thought it would actually come; like all of life, it wasn't real until it was actually reality. Now that it is about to end, it all feels so surreal. It's surreal to even think of the last month of school, last year book signing, last visual arts class, even the last ride to school. This is my final step before pseudo-reality, and School of the Arts has been a great place to experience it all. I have grown up, hardly recognizing the unexposed geeky little girl I once was. I have expanded and learned more than most education's offer. I have also met wonderful people who I believe will be hard to duplicate.

There is still so much that I don't know, but School of the Arts has been a perfect foundation for me. As I begin the next part of my life, I will have fond memories and stories to follow me. School of the Arts is more than a school, it is a state of mind and a place of discovery. It has helped me find who I am and who I might want to be. It is an atmosphere of creativity and endeavors. I am so satisfied with my education and wouldn't have it any other way.

Morgan Hawkins

To start off, these past two years have been two of the most fun-filled and special years of my life. When I first came to SOA, it was different and hard to become used to, but as time passed, I realized this is the type of environment that I want to be in. Everyone here is so loving and open and best of all they are all themselves. To the class of A1 ballet 6, "does anybody got a bobby pen," I am not in the mood, Dottie yum, Hil das hot, and you don't know me. Cameron and Shadana "on point" my Russaly girls. To Christine, don't talk about Polly pocket and killing anyone because you sho' will get in trouble. Rindy, my white ghetto girl... I love you Rin. To Helena stay thick, fine, and sassy! I love the way you stay true to yourself and everyone else. I hope that you set high goals for yourself because I know you will succeed in life. To Shadana, know that you will



always be my baby. That's all I have to say about that because I'm speechless, cat got my tongue, at a loss for words. I love you, girl, and I'll miss you. To Joia, although we at SOA u will always be my KNIGHT, and I'm here for you any time you need me. Ace, hey girl, you keep up all of your hard and dedicated work in school (not). I'll make sure to leave those messages on your phone more often...I love you and stay sweet and beautiful. To Matty B (my bubba) AKA soupy, I hope that we keep in touch because I'll miss your little self, and remember that GTO's are the best. Monie mone.... You have been such a good friend and we have bonded more than I ever thought we would. I'm going to miss you so much when you leave to go to New York but I know that you're only doing what you're best at. I know that God has set a special path for you to follow and I know that you will become that star one day. I wish you the best of luck at the Alvin Ailey this summer, and you better dance like I taught you (not)...anyway I love you, girl, and I hope that we keep in touch. To the rest of my Seniors, I love you guys and the best of luck in the future.

2005-2006 SOA HIGHLIGHT:

Mr. Basil Kerr's AP Music Theory class was named "The Best in the World" by the College Board.



Senior Essays

Nicole Adams

I remember being an underclassman and reading those issues of *Applause* with everything the seniors wrote but never actually realized that I would be doing the same thing my senior year. It's hard to convince myself that this is it; once I graduate there's no turning back. Reflecting on the seven years I've spent at SOA is honestly one of the hardest things I've probably been asked to do all year but I'll do my best! I can't really say anything bad about my years at SOA since my experiences have all been good ones. I know I am extremely fortunate to have had the opportunity to spend seven years at one school with the same people who have become like a family to me. I never once questioned whether I was in the right place. I knew all along that SOA was the place for me, but without Clary, Missy, and Nicole my SOA experience would not have been complete.

I love that everyday I've had the chance to play my viola with people who enjoy doing the same. It's crazy to think that I've been with the eight other seniors in my strings class for seven whole years! I'm glad we got to spend a year with Bene and Dana, our German exchange students. I will never forget the time we were in rehearsal and Bene just straight up told Ms. Fitz, "NO!" in his cute German accent. I remember going to Grand NAI in Chattanooga, Tennessee when I was a sophomore and having to play "Second Anniversary Waltz." I don't think I've ever been so scared in my life! I was trembling and couldn't get my knees to stop shaking, but I guess that's what we artists like to call stage fright. Before we even made it to Chattanooga, we made a pit stop at Wal-Mart so the bus could get fixed or something and Missy decides she wants to sit in a rocking chair sitting on a platform. Well to her surprise, the rocking chair is pretty close to the edge and just falls over with her in it. Clary and I couldn't help but burst out laughing but of course we were laughing with Missy, not at her. The App. State trips were always the best! We would all go skiing and then end up the next morning being so sore we could hardly move! One year, our bus driver basically side swiped a building AND we just about didn't make it up a hill because the roads were so icy; now that was one crazy trip! Another year, we were all at breakfast and Nicole D. was walking down this huge staircase and fell flat on her butt sliding all the way down to the floor. That wasn't one of her best moments, but everyone got a good laugh out of it. Despite all of the wonderful memories I have of my major, I must say I won't miss waiting for Fitz to get to school on time because the cat stepped on her alarm and then hearing her say, "Let's go!!" over and over and over. There are so many more memories I could reminisce about, but you probably get the idea. I wouldn't change anything about my experiences at SOA for the world.

I feel like people constantly take for granted what we are offered at SOA. SOA is way more than just an arts school; it's a community, a family, a second home. My seven years at SOA are some that I will carry with me for the rest of my life. I wish people had the same appreciation for SOA that we do because it's something you don't find everyday. Like I said before, I wouldn't change anything about my experience at SOA for the world. Without SOA, I know for a fact I wouldn't be the person who is writing this essay right now, so thank you SOA for everything! I won't forget you and that's a promise.

Cait Brennan



The funny thing about senior year is that no matter how many senior assignments I complete, and no matter how many times people say, "Congratulations, you're graduating!" it never truly feels like it. In fact, I've been waiting all year for some monumental epiphany to strike and morph me into a mature, composed, quiet graduating senior ready for college life. Believe it or not, this never happened. I am still almost completely oblivious to the whole graduating situation. At times, it feels like I'll be inhabiting SOA forever. Isn't it amazing how my three years here feel equivalent to eternity? I mean this in the best possible way, because there really isn't anything ghastly to say about a place that presents so much beautiful art, true talent, and diversity.

However, this wouldn't even be remotely possible without a few inspirational members of the faculty. Let's begin with someone who has always made art indescribably fun, inexplicably interesting, and incredibly moving: Ms. Jaycie. Without her, I wouldn't have grown nearly as much as I have, in neither my art or my self. I always thought it was astounding that despite our slack attitude and constant wrongdoing she never doubted our potential. And for that, I simply adore her.

I would also like to thank Dr. Cusatis, for being one of those teachers that always bugged me about finishing the *Applause*, reading *Madam Bovary*, or studying for the AP exam. Without his constant push for something better, my work ethic would be zero, especially with all this senioritis that has been going around. I truly admire and appreciate his lack of acceptance for anything less than perfect.

My experiences at SOA have been full of fabulous inspirations, corny jokes, unforgettable people, fantastic friends, phenomenal travel, oh yeah, and hard work. If I had a time machine, I don't think I would change a thing.

Rachel Maguire

I was one of those kids whose acceptance letter got lost in the mail. All of my friends had already gotten theirs and it was all they talked about for weeks. My parents finally decided to call School of the Arts just to check the status of my audition. Come to find out, I had been accepted. What a relief. My first day was crazy; a tiny sixth grader who hardly knew anyone, but would much rather be here than Drayton Hall Middle. Honestly, all off my friends from Ashley River were at Drayton, but no windows? No dancing? Huge classes? Whoa!

So we sailed through middle school with great teachers like Mrs. Slowinski, a great dance teacher as well as a good friend. Also, Mrs. Dirkes or Aunt Deb...depending on the situation. All of a sudden high school hit us, we were back at the bottom of the line.

Freshman year we had an English teacher named Dr. Parker. She was one of those teachers you either loved or you hated, no gray area. I absolutely loved her, she was so calm and refined, but as soon as Steven Clarke unloosed one of his outrageous outbursts she was on him so fast. Sadly, between ninth and tenth grade she had a stroke, the most upsetting thing and first real high school memory.

Now it's tenth grade, everyone is introduced to the studly Dr. Cusatis, the girls are smitten. "How you doin'?" Tenth grade ended up passing pretty much uneventfully. Fantasia was our biggest undertaking, but how fun was it to go to the Performing Arts Center and do what we love, not to mention why we're at this school to begin with.

Junior year begins and can't seem to go by fast enough. This year a little more happens. Junior class ring ceremony is a success and the first steps towards graduation. It was a great night...Cameron, Meredith, and I got our rings from Dr. Cusatis (surprise, surprise). While I can't deny his quirky sense of humor and Italian good looks, I chose him to present my ring because of our "scholarly relationship." The impact he made on me was phenomenal not only as an English teacher, but as a journalism advisor. He's made me cry, he's pushed me to my limits, and gotten so ticked at me for doing things the way I want to do them, but it was all for the best, and I'm thankful to have such a friend and teacher for three years. I guess we just click.

Junior year came to a close and somehow over the summer amidst the taking of the senior pictures, friends shifted. Good friends now began to drift apart and people you least expected to become friends defied your expectations. This is senior year: early-outs, late-ins, lunch outside, senior meetings, and most importantly; college. It's hard to think that after so many years at such a small school we are all about to venture out on our own. No more acceptations of late work, no more extra credit, and no more make-up tests. However, I know that we are all ready in our own ways.

As I look back on my years at SOA I realize that yes, this is life, it will never be perfect, but I couldn't imagine going through this with anyone else or anywhere else. Some of us don't get along, but I'm thankful for those people who are hardest to impress. We have all taught each other valuable lessons that we will never forget. The thing I love most about SOA is the impact each and every person as left on me over the past 6 years. Congratulations Class of '06, Best of luck next year in college.

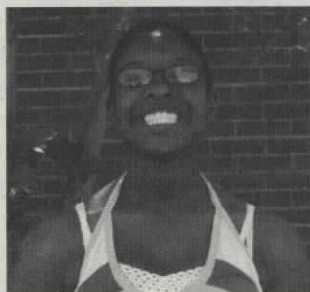


Senior Essays

Shadana Moses

My years at SOA have been full of fun and exciting memories and I don't think that I would change anything, not even the dumb mistakes that had me sent to the principal's office. But anyway, there are so many people that have made this experience at SOA a fun and exciting adventure. First I would like to give a shout out to ACECILY, HEY GURL you know that you my dog and you and I have been through so much together, but through it all we have managed to stay close like sisters. And you know that my behind is very leepy while I'm typing this. Paulina, GIRL!!! This year has been so much fun I feel like you and I have bonded so much this year, you have been there for me through my rough times and through the best of times. You have been so supportive of me even when you did not agree with some of the decisions that I made. Anyway through it all you have managed to have my back, and I love you so much for that.

MORGAN, baby! Being with you this year has made my life so much brighter. Seeing you every morning when I get to school just has made my year the best year ever. OH! And Gurl our dancing skills are so ON POINTE!!! I have had so much fun laughing with you in almost every class, you seriously made everyday so much fun for me. Luv ya!!! Ziomone, got a circle head!! HA HA HA HA !! HmHmHm baby hair yeah you know what I'm talking about. Anyway even though you and I had that little tussle you know that you are still my girl and we won't stop!! CAM CAM, girl I have had so much fun with you in dance laughing at Mr. Anderson in his Miyabis work



close. And thanks for being my Russialy sister. Long live Russialy!!! Here is a special trick for you, EGG ROLL!!!! To my one and only Jenna, Going from sixth grade all the way to our last year, you and I have created a bond that will never be broken. Even though I make fun of you, I do it because I love so much. Thanks for being there for me when I needed you and thanks for being such a special friend. Christine, all I have to say is NO MORE FIVE DOLLARS GIRL, you are the only person who I have ever shared such a big experience with and, girl, promise me that it wont happen again at least not with out me. SEE you MAY 31st for two reasons one being graduation and the other being you know what. Hilari, girl, all I can say is sleeping in English class was fun and thanks for picking Christine and me up from that scary place. Justin, I hope that you are in school the day that we get to read this, just kidding you know that I love you. I'm going to miss laughing with you and all of our inside jokes from summer school together. Blakeypoo! it has been so much fun chasing you around in physics tech. I feel like this year I really got to know how chingy you are but oh well!!! I still love you. PAP!! I know that you are leepy. JT and Jerell playa playas thanks for giving me advice when I needed it, even though sometimes I was very stubborn and didn't listen, and thanks for looking out for me like a big brother. I love you guys so much. Kristyn, I know that this year we haven't been close like we have been in the past years, but you know that you have a special place in my heart that will never be erased. I love you girly. And to my Vicky, I love you too lil sis. I saved the best person for last MY POOKIE, this year has been the roughest year for me and you, but we made it. Even though it might not seem like it, you have taught me so much about my self and I thank you so much for that. You and I have gained a relationship that will last a lifetime and much more. You have allowed me to learn how to stand on my own and think for myself, I haven't quite learned how to "man up" but I'm woking on it. Thanks for being who you are and only making the necessary changes, HA!HA!HA! I love you Baby. And Id also like to say thanks to my family. I love you guys so much. I'd be nothing without you guys support.

Madalyn McCaulley



Throughout my vast seven years at Charleston County School of the Arts and the wonderful four out of those seven years in the high school department. I believe that if a student is lucky enough to find the one teacher and the one class that makes a difference in the way they view school is well worth all the trouble. The one class that probably changed my view of school forever was physics. I thought that coming from a CP chemistry class into honors physics was going to be terrible, and on top of that I heard that the class was really hard and close to impossible to pass. Now after the students who were in the class told me this I began to rethink the idea to go into the honors physics program. I ended up deciding on taking the honors class and it was the best thing that ever happened to me because I learned so much, not just about physics but myself as well. I found out that I could understand the concepts and do well on the quizzes, but for some reason I was not doing well on the tests. I figured that is had test anxiety (yuck!!). Mr. Murray helped me through those hard times in physics. In a way he taught me to trust myself and believe in myself. He was also able to make physics fun with his worksheets that had stories about everything. He made homework fun to do because they were fun to read and fun little situations. Well that is how my view on school and physics changed into an idea that I will always carry with me all because of a teacher that I will never forget, Mr. Murray.

Rindy Ross

In the very near future I'll be taking a walk, a short walk; but symbolically it's the longest walk I've ever taken. Has anyone caught onto my corny (not to offend my father the muse) metaphor yet? Not quite? Okay, well in the meantime I'll tell you about the other walks that will most likely cross my mind during this finale. I walked out of my small private elementary school, away from the memories of headgear, glasses, and years of teasing because of my name and age. I'm not complaining. Those years made me who I am today; however I did dream of a place where peers loved you not only despite your faults and flaws, but for them. Yes, this is highly corny and dramatic, but hey that's me. SOA is my dream school.



I walked over the rocky terrain of campus the first day of sixth grade, I suppose I was optimistic, my face was pointing directly towards the clouds, perhaps this is why I didn't see the small step up into Ms. Dirkes trailer and with all of my dancer's grace I faltered, oh yes, first day of sixth grade I tripped in front of all of my new classmates; all of the required boxes of Kleenex, baby wipes, and Crayola crayons flew through the air with much more poise than I could ever muster, even for a daily walk. I was too flustered to hear anyone laugh, and looking back on it now I doubt anyone did; but I immediately saw tons of little sixth grade hands on the fallen objects, assisting me despite my clumsiness, from then on I knew SOA was different than any other school.

I walked through the mud at Barrier Island in seventh grade with friends that I miss and friends that are still around, this was the baby step towards independence that all high school kids crave; but now, if they're anything like me, only a couple of months away from that same freedom, are scared half to death. With the new found confidence I acquired with friendships and a nurturing environment, I mustered the courage to not only walk, but perform a giant stride, off of a diving platform for my SCUBA certification session. I walked up the Black Box stage steps to receive my first diploma on the last day of eighth grade and I said goodbye to the most awkward years I've had yet, years that I wouldn't trade for anything.

I walked to the guidance counselor's office on my first day of ninth grade, I didn't have a schedule, yes first day of high school, no idea where I was going, sounds like a recurring nightmare right? Honestly I cannot remember feelings of frustration or embarrassment, I was at home, who cared? This is the attitude I adopted during my years at SOA, stuff happens and there's no point in dwelling on it, I've always felt so happy and grateful to be surrounded by the most beautiful people anyone could ask for.

During my junior year I went on a lot of walks, I walked into the brick room where I would sweat through the most allegedly important standardized test I would take. I walked out of the student parking lot away from the car I drove all by myself for the very first time. I walked to the Aquarium with friends that I will always remember, to the junior prom I'll never forget. I walked onto the stage at my first senior thesis showing, and improvised the whole thing out of nervousness and procrastination, sorry Mrs. Cline. I've walked towards countless classes, dances, club meetings, performances, sleepovers, parties, and dates. I've learned to walk into relationships that I know are healthy and out of the detrimental ones as quickly as possible. I've formed lasting relationships, both platonic and romantic, with people just like me but who are, at the same time, totally different than me; people who love SOA and therefore belong there, people who know exactly who they are and are fortunate enough to be proud of who that is.

Alright, my wistful tone is even annoying me, so I suppose I'll get to the point. I'll be taking a walk on graduation night to symbolize all of the walks I have taken thus far and all of the walks I have yet to take. I cannot possibly predict my future nor can I recount every significant walk I have taken, however I do know one thing without any doubt, the walks we take create exactly who we have been and who we will become, and the walks that I have taken during my time at SOA were the best that I could have asked for. I hope that everyone's walk on graduation night is as grateful, optimistic, and yes nostalgic, as mine will be.

Senior Essays

Zimone Mincey

My first year at SOA was 11th grade and I was very anxious but a little excited. The very first person I met was Terrance Freeman, and by his excitement and enthusiasm I knew that I would have so much fun. Meeting new people was a little scary because everyone had known each other since sixth grade and I'm this new girl. But I was welcomed immediately and made new friends. Most of the friends I've made are in dance. Yes, I know that dancers supposedly have a lot of drama (it might be true) but were also

loads of fun. Hilari, Christine, and I always sing Ciara while Morgan spits the beats on our annual walk to 2nd period. The dressing room in Mr. Anderson's class is always the gossip corner and if you want to know something, just stop by and one of us will always have an answer. Since all the senior dancers are coal miners (thanks to Andy) all I have to say is we're diggin we're diggin ... get low Use the flash light. Haha Good times!

Physics Tech is probably my favorite class because Dr. H is the realest teacher that I have ever had. Her class is soooooo fun! Acecily, Shadana, and I love to go to lunch. Just to let them know if they don't give me my slushy back

by the count of three there will be a problem. We also visit our girls LaLa, GaGa , and Shamyra on our outings to the office to make copies for Dr. H. (are these treats complimentary?). Going to Guidance for "senior stuff" was always fun especially Miss Marks who would quote a line from the musical "Big River" "Out, Out, Out, Damn Spot" when she wanted us to leave. Mhmmhh.....Baby hair!

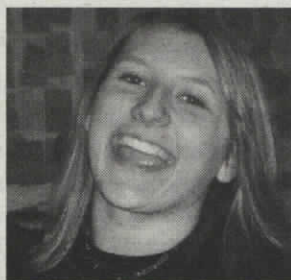
I'm going to miss high school because of the drama ! Psych! Well I'm always the girl with the drama, but all I wanted to say is if I have beef or problems with you hopefully we can end it and move on! I want to leave here with good memories and not bad ones. But I'm not gonna let that stuff get me down so here's some inside jokes and memories: Up DO ~ Twisty's to a bun, Hey Oh Hey Oh!, I 'd rather cheat than repeat, 80's aerobics, I SO LEEPY !, Jamming" with the next door crew at Ring Ceremony, Trying to prank seniors and ending up in the Hospital, Singing back stage at Big River, Cam does the best eyebrows, Jenna's sexual education, "that is not the answer", "Daddy ummmm," stealing Shadana's Stuff.

But on a serious note, I truly have had a great time at SOA I will never forget any of the great teachers Tizzy, Colquitt, and Dr. Holden-Musser, Ms. Smyth, and of course Mr. Anderson because without him I wouldn't have gotten in to Ailey. I will always look back on my high school years and remember the fun and excitement. Life isn't life without the hard times. For all of you have been there during a ruff. THANK YOU! Especially Morgan Hawkins, you're the bestest friend that a girl like me could ever ask for in high school; you're the BEST! Jerell thanks for being nice to me. I know you love me. Acecily you have always been there especially reppin Summerville; you're awesome. Shadana we've had a time; but I still love you and when we are together we have the best time I love stealin your stuff. And to the best mom in the world I Love You ! To everyone else I will miss you and never forget you.

Next Fall I'll be in New York going to The Alvin Ailey Conservatory were I will be continuing my studies in dance trying to MAKE IT BIG ! Look out 4 me! So Long Farewell and ya don't stop!

Zippy Dawson-Beatty

Physics with Mr. Edward Murray was by far the hardest class that I had ever taken at SOA. It required non-stop mental thinking, and true concentration and focus. Before ever stepping foot into Mr. Murray's class, I heard rumors of how tough, mean, and cut throat he was. On the day of my first arrival, we were all seated, and everyone quiet. As Mr. Murray read the names on the list of students he came across a very familiar name to his, "Trevor Murray." He turned to the class, "Murray, that's a sexy name." We all broke out laughing. To imagine a teacher saying that, let alone Mr. Murray... I knew we were in for a great year,



Throughout the year we had very few tests, and it always seemed that I thought I could understand the information, but on judgment day, the tests told another story. Luckily, Mr. Murray was and is the most dedicated teacher that I have ever met. He would stay after school everyday tutoring students, and I would come almost every day for 1-3 hours. Even Friday afternoons when everyone had gone home, Mr. Murray would stay behind to help me for a few hours. One time I took a test which started at 1:45 PM and I kept at it even after school until 6:30 PM because of this one extra credit problem on electric currents and circuits. My good friend Maddy, who was in the same physics class and stayed after school with me, and Mr. Murray actually joined me to figure out the problem because he hadn't made an answer sheet yet. I didn't want to give up, because it was a problem unanswered and I wanted to find a solution. Eventually, we both figured it out after working 3 more hours on it. Maddy and myself out of 26 students got the most difficult question correct with an enthused teacher.

I managed to increase my grade from a low "D" to a high "A" over the course of the year. Mr. Murray's class was the strongest influence that I have ever had. It was time consuming, and very demanding. Physics had to be absorbed and regurgitated perfectly. There was no way to just slip by because everything counted with extreme exactness. I left Mr. Murray's class feeling much more studious than before and it made me believe that it is possible to do anything once you put your mind to it.

Taylor McCleod

I am not sure what I expected from School of the Arts, but what I got was an experience of a lifetime. I didn't come to SOA until the ninth grade and it was nothing like any school I had ever been to. Right away I realized that my theatre class would be amazing. I met Kirsten first and without her I would probably still be sitting by myself at lunch. Soon I was introduced to a lot great people; everyone was so nice and accepting right off the bat. When I look back now at who were my friends and enemies it is funny to see how the tables have turned. Leigh Dekle used to be one of my least favorite people and now she is by far one my favorite. I owe so much to Frances, Leigh, and Kirsten. These girls have been through it all with me. Without them I would have quit three years ago. And the theatre boys, how could I leave them out? Oh Matt, we

used to be so cruel to one another and now it is nothing but love. And my sweet Jonothon, how absolutely insane you are. When we are old and wrinkled we will reunite and be together forever. Blake, you devil you, one day when you are running the world I will call you to get me out of some African prison. Oh Daris, what more can I possibly say... you know what I'm thinking. The theatre class of 2006 will always stay with me. When I win my Oscar or my Nobel Peace Prize I will thank you all.

The three years of George Younts were probably the hardest three years I have ever endured. While I could very easily be bitter about those years, I am in fact grateful for them. I see now that everything Younts said to me and all his criticism only made me a stronger actor. Crashing and burning as a junior and a director taught me to be better. Senior year has been the most rewarding theatre experience of my life. Sam Wood has changed me, both as an actor and a person. He has been through so much and he still manages to be amazingly strong for his students. I think I speak for my classmates when I say we are forever indebted to Sam for all his words of wisdom, advice and constructive criticism. He is an inspiration to me and he will always be a part of my life. I will miss him dearly next year.

This school has shaped me and made me who I am today. I have no idea who I would be without all the ups and downs brought on by the SOA community. Every year there is more and more drama and each day at this school has made me stronger. Sure it has been tough, maybe even a little hurtful at times, but because of those painful moments I know who I am. I leave this school with so many wonderful memories, a few great friends, and an enormous amount of pride in who I have become.

**Congratulations SOA 2006 Salutatorian,
Missy Claise**

Senior Essays

Stephen Carlock

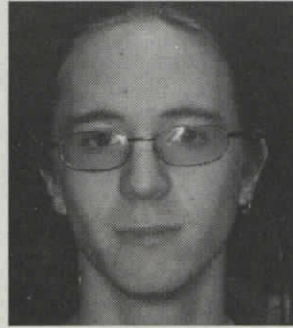
During my tenth grade year, in Dr. Cusatis' Honors English II classroom, I was told that if a Romantic was given the option of ultimate knowledge, or ultimate experience, he or she would immediately opt for the experience, valuing the journey over the knowledge to be had at the "end of the rainbow," so to speak. For me, as I imagine it has been for many, high-school at SOA has been quite a journey, and an experience I won't soon forget.

I was accepted as a Visual Artist, and inducted into the throngs of students attending SOA for my seventh grade year, and have remained here since. Being a senior, that gives me a full 5, nearly 6 years of formal training to prepare me for the next step in my life, and for all of this I am grateful, despite my rather lackluster academic career. Though I've never attended another high-school, I have made many visits, and am close acquaintances with many who have, and the consensus is that SOA is unique, in both its freedoms, as well as its format.

For my own part, I believe that the style of teaching here at SOA has allowed me to grow into something that I am very proud of: myself. The relationships I've developed with certain faculty and staff have taught me that my learning isn't always all about the grade, though is undoubtedly an important factor in a world where, economically, everything boils down to numbers. I understand now what intellectual pursuits should be, and I know that, wherever I'm going in the future, I will have a strong sense of self.

But SOA has been more for me than a place to expand my knowledge, and prepare myself for the future; it has been a place where I might enjoy the present, and build some [hopefully] lifelong relationships. Those at SOA that I count among my friends are the truest individuals I could ever have asked to meet, if indeed I had been bold enough to request anything of life so long ago. They have been with me through thick and thin, stuck their necks out for my benefit, and have coaxed me out of the shell that I once was in when we all first met. I would do anything for them, and I mean this dearly.

The road ahead isn't so ominously foreboding now; at times the prospect of the future is scary, but when I think back on who I was when I first approached this school, and compare that to who I am now, I know that I can overcome whatever ails me, no matter how long it takes, and what I must face. Whether I, like so many other "SOA Alumni," return to this place or not, it will never wither from my mind. It is a part of my past, and thus of my soul.



Maneesah Frazier

In retrospect on the seven long years spent at SOA cavorting, laughing making fun of people and not taking my adderall, I have had three teachers who have made a major impact on me. The first is Mrs. Kay, but I call her The Kay. She was my resource teacher when I entered SOA in sixth grade. The first day I entered her class room I remember her saying to me, "I know a lot of kids with learning disabilities don't consider themselves 'smart' but to tell the truth most of the kids in my program have higher IQ's than the kids not in my program ironic isn't it?" Basically, what I interpreted was that I was smarter than the "smart" kids and took it to heart and ran... very far. The Kay boosted my confidence in myself because God only knows I doubted my academic abilities because of my learning disability.

Now the next two teachers are part of the reason why aspirin is part of my daily medication. Not because they gave me headaches but because they were always kicking me in the butt about my writing. Mrs. Marshall, honestly she should be called Marshall law, that woman would never let me use, "I'm LD!" as an excuse for poor writing technique. She made it a point to have tons of red marker all on my paper so I could realize that type of writing was not acceptable in college. No matter how I tried to get around her she would not let me give up on myself. By the end of 11th grade I was a pretty decent writer. That whole year felt like an English grammar and writing skills boot camp. But you know it's okay because I can actually write now.

Lastly there is Bronk. The Afghan lady in the front of the classroom who made me do the unthinkable... think. I mean I just don't do that often I'm like a robot set on auto eating, sleeping, and gaming that's all I'm supposed to do. Mrs. Marshall last year said she hoped I had Mrs. Bronk because she would be the polish I needed for college level writing, but if she was anything like Mrs. Marshall I was going to cry. Now don't get me wrong I love Mrs. Marshall but she was brutal with my grammar. Oh the horror I had when my schedule said BRONK - HONORS ENGLISH and I wept feverishly. I didn't want polishing! I was content with how I wrote, because I was, and still am a lazy bum.

Luckily it wasn't as bad as I thought, my writing technique is now refined to the level necessary for my survival in college. I guess I should be grateful for having such awesome English teachers and an encouraging resource teacher to swiftly kick me along the seven years I've been at this school. I'll miss them all The Kay's sarcastic remarks, Mrs. Marshall hitting me with my writing, and Mrs. Bronk constantly asking, "Did you take your meds?" Thanks to those brave and resourceful teachers and oh, by the way my mom says, "Thanks," too.



Jenna Jones

Words can't describe how I feel about SOA and the seven years I've spent here. I have actually come to the conclusion that I don't want to leave...EVER. Just kidding. Though I am ready to get out on my own, I will always have that longing to be back in the halls of SOA. The youth and spirit that fills each room in the school is the reason I actually enjoyed coming to school. I remember the very first day. All of us were packed into the cafeteria and very anxious to get the school year started... And Acecily walked in with her bumpin weave and was looking so fly. She was one of my very first friends. Middle school were the years of being completely stupid but thinking that we

were the shizzle. For example when Josh Floyd gave me his watch to signify that we were officially a hot item. AHAHAHAHHA. Middle school was great though, even if I did look like a boy. Holla to all bowl cuts!!! And then came high school. I actually made the mistake of going to Wando, but 2 months later I was practically running back to SOA. Many things have happened in my four years of high school, some good some bad. I have fallen in love with my teachers because they have, in some way, taught me something I will never forget. Special shout outs to Mr. Orvin, who will always be a great friend. To Dr. Price who taught me one of the most interesting and fun subjects... I LOVE CHEMISTRY! Dr. Cusatis who loved to make fun of my Alabama accent but secretly thought I was the coolest student ever. And Mr. Brehm who has told me to follow my heart and do what I want to do in life. And to not waste my parents money. YAH!!! There are so many people I want to mention in this essay, but I would need a year. All of those people who I love, you know who you are. I will never forget you guys and I hope that we can all be together, even if for just a moment, and see each other again. Like Bam Bam Bam. You guys are on POINT. Community slushies. 365 black. Fighting with Justin at least three periods of the day. Crying in Bronk's class cause everyone likes to make fun of me. Slacking off in Andy's class, and watching him "mark" the combinations. Love you ANDY. Ghetto Updo... you are a hip hop diva. Wizards in psychology (Rubbing of the hands, licking of the lips, and occasionally over pronunciation.) Go white girl, Go white girl! Don't be so chingy! You sooooo GEY! Secret



texting in class. Black girls trying to take Jesus from me. Being silly in physics (love you Ben, Lainey, and Allison) Jamming with fellow partiers next door at ring ceremony. Trying to prank Seniors, but having to run like banshees. Watching Christine fall in Senior Thesis. And watching the stars of Big River... Shadana, Acecily, Zimone, and Cameron. Doing everyone's makeup during every single class.... Holla Kathleen. I hope everyone ends up in life where they want to be, and I wish only the best for you all. I hope to keep in touch with all of you. I love you all. HEY OH! HEY OH! And PS the best moment this year was in Brehm's class.. Helena you know what you did.

Senior Essays

David DuTremble

If I were just entering SOA as a sixth grader, with everything I now know about school and college, I would do a lot of things differently. With everything that I have screwed up and all the opportunities that I missed and thusly limited myself by, hindsight seems like a cruelty. There are many things about the past seven years that I now regret. I shall relate.

If given the opportunity to reenter SOA as a sixth grader, I would start by studying and actually paying attention in class, instead of trying to make everyone laugh. If I had established good study habits in my "formative years," I wouldn't have had nearly as many broken fists as I did. I actually would have known what was coming up on tests, would have made good grades on said tests, and, subsequently, managed to get a better GPA than I have/had. I also realize now that there is a direct correlation between studying and being bored in class. I often zone out and don't pay attention because I either A) don't understand what's happening, B) don't care what's happening, C) have already read/know said material (see also B), or D) am too tired to care (see also B), thus becoming easily bored. If I actually studied, I wouldn't have this problem. Or, in my studying, would've been able to highlight what exactly I didn't understand, so when asked "What don't you understand?" I could say "Mrs./Mr./Dr. _____, I don't understand _____" instead of responding with my typical "Mrs./Mr./Dr. _____, I don't understand any of this." It's all interconnected, like some ironic quantum theory.

In middle school, I would've started plotting out my priorities better than I did, maybe started thinking about colleges and careers earlier, and studied harder to ensure that I could go to the school of my choice without later having to worry about it and regret all the steps that I had taken earlier.

In high school, I wouldn't have tried to fight the system every step of the way to do it "my way." The Sixties and Seventies had it all wrong. Karma has a very insensitive way of kicking one in the figurative posterior when the system is mangled to fit your high-minded idealism/stubborn egocentricity/stupidity. Just give in. The system always wins. I wish I had realized this in the beginning, so that my college application process wasn't as stressful, heartwrenching, and agonizing as it was.

All in all, I have many regrets about my time at SOA, and they're all, in the end, my fault. In fact, I would like to start over from the beginning, please. I don't want to be me anymore. I'm not worried about passing go, collecting two hundred dollars, or any other such Monopoly niceties. I just want to be someone other than me. I'm tired. I'm ready to go. Isn't there some way out?

Justin Schram

Remember when we all came to School of the Arts? It was a big deal right? Well we soon found out how big of a deal it actually was. It was going to demand a lot of work and dedication to our majors, more than I knew. There were times I doubted myself and the school and I just wanted to go to another one. But overall, I'm glad I decided to stay. My time here will surely determine where I go with the rest of my life and I will never forget it. And the friendships, the friendships we make in school are usually lost when we go to college, but I wouldn't think that was so true about S.O.A. This is because of how small and extremely personal it is. Everyone knows every student in their class and then some. We're even friends with the teachers, like we were equals. This is something I'm sure doesn't happen at other schools. This is something I'm going to be happy telling people when they ask what school I attended. I feel that this is more of an experience than just going to school. Honestly, who gets to wake up in the morning and go to school with all their talented friends and major in something that they love. Not all of high school is supposed to be fun and easy, but I'm sure I wouldn't know because I'm certainly not your average high school student and I didn't attend an average high school, so you can assume it was awesome.



Now, to the important stuff, thanks to all my fellow students and every wonderful teacher that helped me grow, and to my friends that have been there since the beginning and never let me fail when times were tough. Acecily, my friend from the other end, you are the next Miss. Carey, keep laughing through life and don't think for a minute I'll forget you. Shadana, oh what the heck could I say, this isn't easy thinking of not seeing you again, we can't let that happen. Meredith, if I had a sister in this crazy world I'm sure she'd look just like you, no really. Anna, the more adult conversationalist, you were my sanity through times I felt lost, we get each other. Jenna, I think of you everyday even though it may not seem like it. Thank you for caring and loving me. I could never forget my only girl. D-\$, you know you ain't goin' anywhere, you need me, but not like I need you. And finally Mrs. Miles, you are inspiration, a mother to me when I never really had one. I hope all your wishes in life come true because your dreams already have, I love you. Crying, snot and everything. High school comes and goes and then life moves on. So if don't see y'all, good afternoon, good evening, and goodnight.

Mandy Stone

Almost every teacher and class I've had at SOA has had some impact on me. That's just how SOA is, influential and inspiring. Everything about the school molds us into who we will become as people, and it's truly hard to manage to get through any amount of years without being touched by it in one way or another, whether negatively or positively. All of my experiences, though, have been positive. And a few exceptional examples of influential people and classes in my SOA life are as follows: Jane Marshall, Linda Cline, Veronica Price, and Anna Bronk for the teachers, and my Speech class from 11th grade.



Linda Cline inspired me in that she taught me to pursue my passions, and helped me kindle a fire for community service and helping those around me. She helped me put into action and bring to reality the Annual Animal Food Drive, which has been hugely successful every year we've done it, and it has helped inspire me to want to do something great with my life to help others and make an impact on the global community as a whole. Veronica Price helped me build my leadership skills through the creation of the Chemistry Club, and she opened up the wondrous world of Chemistry to me. She helped me travel down a path that could one day lead me to something great, like cure cancer, using the miracles of that great science. And Anna Bronk has really pushed me my senior year, not letting me fall, and helping me blossom within her English class to show my full potential as the intelligent student I've always been, but that I've always been too lazy to really show.

I saved the best for last: Jane Marshall. Ms. Marshall has been one of the most influential people in my life. She showed me the value of not procrastinating (though I shamefully admit that I still do so), but she also taught me something of even greater value and worth: she taught me how to believe in myself. On my 11th grade schedule, I was surprised to find Speech, and I was terrified. I thought I was going to be stuck in there with a bunch of seniors I didn't know and who definitely didn't know me, and the last thing I wanted to do was make a fool of myself getting up in front of them. So the first day of Speech, I went in there... and cried. I just started bawling. I was terrified, and it overwhelmed me. I was in the process of telling Ms. Marshall I didn't think I could do Speech, because it stressed me out immensely to even think about getting up in front of those people, when I broke down, but Ms. Marshall was unaffected by my crying. She merely told me that she wasn't going to let me give up so easily, and that she believed I would handle speech and get through it, and she refused to drop me from the class. And fearing her wrath, I complied, which turned out to be the best decision I could have made. I gained such confidence, not only in myself, but in my own abilities, and this has made me much less of a shy person around others. She taught me how to believe in myself, and for that I owe her more than can ever possibly be imagined.

All of SOA has been a wonderful experience, and while I will miss it terribly, I'll look back fondly and remember all the good it did for me, and I'll loving pass all it has to offer on to the incoming students, hoping that they too can gain as much from this amazing school as I did. Thank you SOA, for everything.

Senior Essays

Leslie Thompson



Ok... Leslie's about to spill her guts... "What I would do differently over the next seven years if I was entering SOA as a sixth grader?"

First of all I'm going to start off by saying that for the most part my regrets are few and that what hasn't killed has definitely made me stronger. I love who I am. Okay. If I were starting school again (ha - I can say that now?!) I would definitely not worry about what other people think and do. That's not me. Stereotypes are awful and I would never let anyone put me in their mold - it's not worth that much, your identity, to fit in. Another thing is that I wouldn't let anyone tell me/you "That's a dumb question." - that's a bold-face LIE!!! If you don't know, you don't know. It's better to ask a question than to be caught off guard. Always ask "why" too. If it's true or worth the attention you get a reasonable explanation (Keep an open mind because their opinions count to them.)

Being popular doesn't mean that much because from what I've seen and heard (Sorry - no experience - so correct me if I'm wrong - DARE YOU!), it's nothing but drama. It's not worth the stress. Being friendly pays off and is a whole lot better. Other than exploring who I am and maintaining my individuality I'd definitely work as hard as I could and not slack off as much. But, I'm here now and "It's all good" - Just Chill.

Kathleen Smith



I really cannot believe high school is over. It seems like yesterday that I came here as a puny little punk in the 8th grade. All of you that have had the pleasure to know me over the years are aware of my irresponsibility and lack of common sense..... So seriously, how am I going to make it in the real world?? Well stop all your worrying because I have got a plan. I'm going to use Dr. Ball's ingenious idea of doing daily warm-ups to exercise my brain in the morning. I'm going to use

Ms. Tisdale's theory of group activities to get along with my classmates and co-workers. Also, Mrs. Bronk's group discussions on the "rug" will help me relate and understand my peers better. And every day, I will sing Mr. Eakes' favorite jingle so I will be alive, alert, awake and enthusiastic. Oh..... And who could forget Mr. Orvin's daily read through the newspaper so I will stay aware of things going on in the world? You see, SOA teachers; you have taught me so much that I will take with me when I leave high school. I know college will be filled with having to make tough decisions, but having all these simple things my teachers have taught me, I have a feeling life will be a lot easier. Lessons I have learned from friends will help me also, such as Allison's teaching me that throwing food at teachers' heads is a bad idea, and Hope for helping me realize that I don't have to try out for every solo. Props to my boy Matty B for showing me to be fearless in front of crowds and Taylor McCleod for always thinking for herself and sticking to her beliefs. I want to thank Cameron for always being there... not to sound so cliché but thanks for being the bestest friend I have ever had! Thank you for teaching me that not knowing isn't a bad thing, and doing things you don't want to do is sometimes necessary. My five years at SOA are over and I will probably never be back, but all the things that have been taught to me will last for eternity.

Clary Nigels

These past seven years at SOA have definitely been ones full of memories and of the best people, which I will remember for the rest of my life. This school has made me who I am today, and I know if I had gone to what others think of as a "normal high school," I wouldn't be the same person and I wouldn't view myself the way I do now. I also know that I wouldn't have the closeness that we have here at SOA. We're like one big family, and that's what I like most about this school.

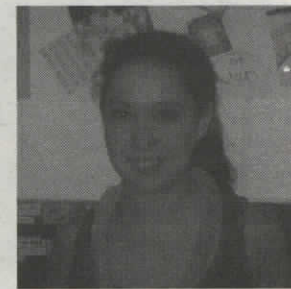
Most of us have either been together since middle school, or, for some of us, elementary school. We've seen each other grow and become the people we are now. You can ask any senior if they know a certain other senior, and they'll say yes. They can probably even tell you that person's whole life story. Try doing that at a "normal high school" where there are "cliques" and no one knows all the people in their class. You've got the jocks, the preps, the Goths, the emo kids, the wanna-be emo kids, and plenty of others. At SOA you've got... SOA. I think one of the most important things that I've learned while being here is that it's good to be different because this school is definitely a school like no other.

I've learned more about myself here than I would have ever learned anywhere else. I've also learned that no matter what others may say, it's okay to go to an art school. If I had the choice to go back to 6th grade, I would still go to this school because it has been the best middle and high school experience I could have ever had. I still can't believe that it's all over and that in May I'll be leaving my SOA family that I've known for 7 years.

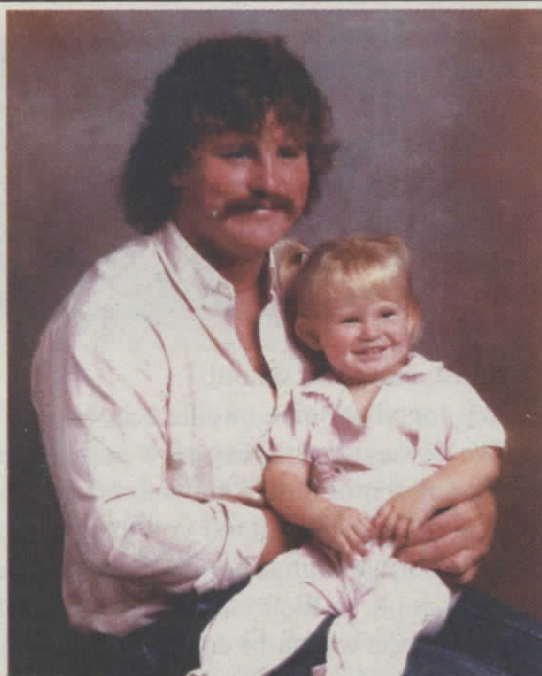
Even though I'm ready for college, I know I'm going to miss everyone - friends that are underclassmen, the teachers, the staff, and most of all my senior class. We've created a bond that will last forever and that has made my life at SOA the best it could have possibly been.

Johnny Knight

SOA has reflected on me as much as I have reflected on it. "Just kiddin." I've met the most amazing people here. First off, my brothers J.T., Jerell, Matty B, and Charles. Then my recent friends who have come to love like brothers DaLonzo, Domo, Darius, Zack, Jonathan, Blake, and Garian. As far as the girls y'all know who y'all are. Helena, Cecily, Morgan, Tiera, and April. And not last but I can't forget my girl Cherelle for being a positive influence in my life to make me a better person. Good and the bad, we've been through it all. I wanna thank you. Times here were hard, I lost some good friends but it ain't no bad blood. It's all good. Jarell, remember you had all those tube socks and highwater pants? Matt, remember when your gap could fit me in it? JT, remember when you was fat and started to grow your hair? Cherelle, remember when you failed your permit test like a thousand times? I love y'all man, that's real talk. Thank you Mamma and Daddy for making me! Thanks for the peace of mind. Well, it's that time for all of you I forgot to name, "My fault." If you can't respect that, your whole perspective is whack, maybe you'll love me when I fade to black.



Congratulations, Class of 2006



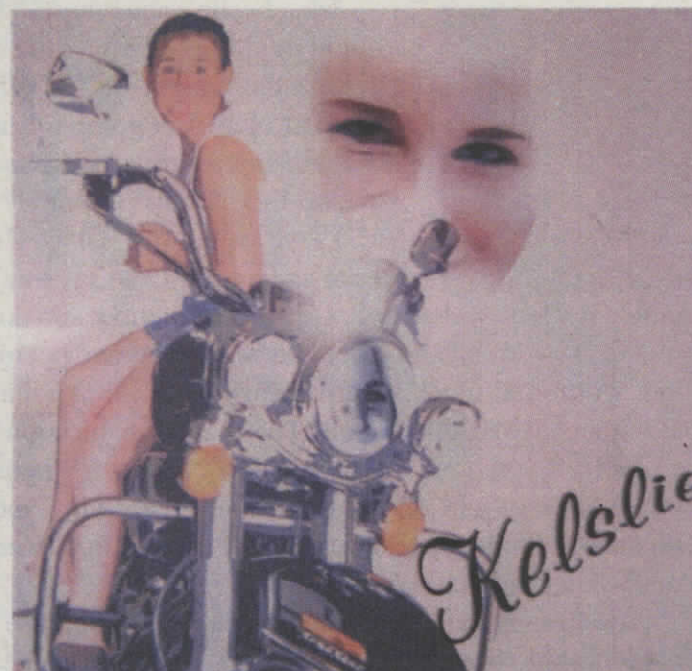
**Kelslie Amber
McKuhen**

**Daddy's Princess,
Congratulations
We are so proud of you!**

XOXO

Love

Daddy and Donna



Taylor McLeod

**Taylor is:
Beautiful, caring, talented, fun,
special, blonde, glamorous, dizzy,
entertaining, genuine, vivacious,
sensitive, enthusiastic, feminine,
entertaining, dramatic, enthusi-
astic, ambitious, determined, cou-
rageous, talented, adventurous,
intelligent, entertaining, fearless,
funny, dramatic, beautiful, smart,
real, enthusiastic, unique, fun, am-
bitious, blonde, tumultuous, tal-
ented, bright, beautiful, intuitive.**



Taylor Raffield

**May the secrets of the
world be open to your curios-
ity. May happiness be in your
dance and music, and may
the kindness you give be re-
turned.**

**Love,
Mom, Dad, and Andrae**



Rachel Heidenberg

**Rachel,
Your high expectations and de-
termination have brought you
to the end of one journey and to
the beginning of another. We are
very proud and happy you are our
daughter. Be proud of yourself.
Take flight; the Eagle is waiting.
Love, Mom and Dad**

Congratulations, Class of 2006

Reba Bowens

Reba: You have blossomed into such a beautiful and talented woman. We pray all your dreams are realized twice over. We pray everything you desire in life comes to fruition.

Love,
Aunt Nancy and Uncle Monty

Reba: Always remember... YOU are awesome!!!!
Aunt Dianne and Uncle Richard

Reba: Scripture often quoted by Lou Ellen Bowens (Grandmother) Proverbs 3:6,
"In All Your Ways Acknowledge God and He Shall Direct Your Paths!"
How do you spell success?

R	emarkable
E	xtraordinary
B	rilliant
A	wesome

Uncle Henry and Aunt Queen



Reba: You quietly achieved this goal and we know you will achieve many more.
Good luck and keep on keeping on
Aunt Lorie, Uncle Dewayne, cousin DJ, and cousin Nicholas

REBA: Happy Graduation/ Best of luck
Love Aunt Sonya and Uncle Tony

REBA: Happy Graduation!
From your cousin Sterling

REBA: Thanks for all you have done
Your cousin, Naomi

REBA: Congratulations,
Today is your day
You are off and away
You have brains in your head
You have feet in your shoes
You can steer yourself in directions you choose, but
sure when you step- step with care and great tact in remembering
that life is a great balancing act: Tina, Josie, and Summer

Congratulations!!! Reba, I wish you the best.
From Cousin L. J.

REBA: Congratulations
Continue to "Be All You Want To Be"
Aunt Wanda and Uncle Rob

Famous words of wisdom of the late Henry Bowens, Sr, (your Grandpa), "Stay straight and don't get all mixed."

REBA:
Yesterday is a memory, Tomorrow is the future, You have been waiting for today, you have witnessed others have this day. Now it is your turn. Today the journey begins: Be on guard to always pick up knowledge and wisdom, know that your family is always there, always believe in yourself, always have dreams and goals- dream big. It has been such a pleasure these past twelve years watching you grow and develop into the person that you are today. We thank you for the gift.
Love, Mom and Dad

REBA: You are the sweetest, the kindest daughter that I never had.

REBA:
Congratulations
Love always,
Dot, Buddy, and Morgan

The Road
Now that you have
Successfully driven
to the end of your high
school road;
A road where your
ancestors, parents, and
family have been before;
From a distance,
There is another road,
A busy road of challenges,
in which we wish you
much success, as you begin
your journey down this
road, Congratulations,



From Leah and Lydia (your cousins)

REBA:
Congratulations on your completion of high school. You are now entering into adulthood. I know that you will be successful in whatever you make up your mind to be. Just remember to do your best and have a little fun while you are reaching for the stars.
Your Aunt Betty

REBA: The sky is the limit
Reach out and touch it.
"Congratulations"
Mrs. Mitchell



REBA: The best sister I never had.
Cousin Travis

Senior Essays

Jerrell Lewis



Where do I start? This is the final chapter of a book that has been going on for 7 years. I remember my first day of sixth grade like it was yesterday, and now it is time to leave. I'll start my farewell speech by thanking three of the most influential teachers in my SOA life. First off, Mr. Orvin has been a father figure in my life since freshmen year. When I was in trouble, and in trouble I was, he was there to get me out, and if I ever needed advice, he was there. Orv you are my 2nd father THANK YOU!! Next to Mrs. Bronk thank you for pushing me to always strive for the best, and helping me anytime I needed it. Thank you a lot! Last but not least, Mr. Eakes. Thank you for just being my vocal teacher and also pushing me to my limits vocally. To my tenor section, Joe, Alex, Justin, Elliott, D, and Cordell. Keep the tenor section in tact. Joe, it's about time for your senior year. It's time to step up! You have A LOT of talent - I want you become the singer that everyone knows you can be. Alex, you are a great tenor. Keep up the good work lay off the gameboy and have some fun. Elliott, you are the glue that will have to hold the section together. Don't let the tenor's faults get to you - we are only as strong as our weakest link. D, you have come a long way don't stop now - keep up the good work. Don't let senioritis get to you. And last but not least, Cordell. What can I say you're like my lil brother. Please do one thing for me - don't let your talent get to your head and think you are better than anybody else. Remember these 2 things, section: In order to be section leader you must learn to follow and your action as a leader reflects on the section. I will miss y'all. Stay strong and keep the "T" alive. To my brothers JT and Johnny: we've been here since sixth grade and it's finally over. I remember when y'all were chubby and Johnny had the rat tail. Now its all over. We've grown from friends, to home boys to brothers. There are so many memories it would take all year to tell them. From the all day ballin' at Matty B's house to Waterfront park (Moment of silence), to DA MATRIX(which won an Oscar) memories. To my lil bubba Matthew, what can I say? We've been to hell with gasoline draws on and back, from the drama, to getting you out of trouble, to "shake that rumpus." love all y'all boys. We are the true story of "The 4 Brothers" To my JPI partners Dalonzo and Charles, I don't even have to say a word just that I will miss y'all and Dalonzo we all coming to your church. To my other home boys Daris, Domo, Blake, Jono. I'll never forget y'all. And to the girls: Helena stop eating and stay strong. Love ya. April and Whitney y'all my girls. Chemistry is all I have to say and "Bubba Zeke." Tiera I got you a BIG kiss on graduation I know you been waiting on that. Zimone, much love I have for you. You know our understanding I'll miss you. And last but not least, Shadana, thanks for being there when no one else was. You are a great friend. To all the senior girls good luck and I will miss you all. To Ladana, AKA Lil Howard: the war is over and the American flag is waving strong. Krystn I will miss talking to you - stay out of drama and you know what's up. And to my new-found friend Elizabeth, I will miss you too. To all the other girls I miss my bad holla at me later. To close this out, for seven years I have been through a lot. There are things that I would change and some I wouldn't. One thing that won't change is that the Class of '06 will always run the show and the brothers will always be on top.

Joia Tucker



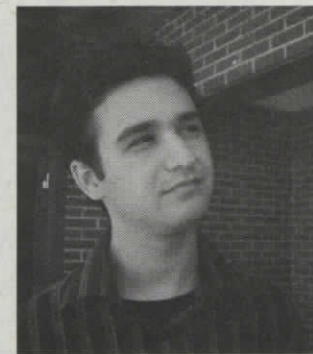
Being here at SOA has been a blessing; I'm glad that I had the opportunity to be at this great school. I have been taught many things to help with my eyes. Every teacher I have had gave me great advice, and I have appreciated that. My most memorable moments at this school ae when Helena and I were doing a lab. We had to use the Bunsen burner, and when we lit the burner, the burner fell over and almost caught the blinds on fire. I will never forget that that day.

Performing is why I am here a this school. I will miss everything about it, the dance, theatre, vocal majors always showing their talent. Performing is what this school is all about and I am glad to be able to dislay my talents at this school. I love all of you, and will miss you greatly.

To all my friends and acquaintances, my shout outs:

Whitney Patterson (my BFF), J.T., Johnny, Jarell, Matt B, Charles, Dalonzo, Dominick, Helena, Shadana, Morgan, Zimone, Acecily, Tiera, Sannora, Terrence, Emily (my Blackgirl), Lauren (my Redneck) and the love of my life Krystin Spitz.

Omi Naderi



The teacher that has had the most impact on me: Dr. Cusatis. Unquestionably. I first walked into his classroom in tenth grade for Honors English II, and I knew within the first ten minutes that he was a special teacher and that I would love his class. And I did. Not only that, but I became seriously addicted to his website, Drcusatis.com. That year transformed me: English became my favorite subject, I became a much better writer, and I learned how to analyze literature on much deeper levels than I previously knew possible. What was truly transforming, though, was that by opening my mind in the ways of literature, I gained insight into my own life.

In eleventh grade I became an *Applause* staff member and had Dr. Cusatis as my boss, more than a teacher. My life as a student practically came after my duties to the paper and J. Cu., spending most of my time either writing articles or interviewing people. It was in this process that Dr. Cusatis made me aware of my terrible habit of not meeting deadlines and forced me to have more discipline. I still have that flaw but he has put me on my way towards correcting it, which shall definitely save me from much suffering in college and being fired in a real job.

Now that I'm a senior, Dr. Cusatis is both my *Applause* boss and AP English Lit teacher at once. The interesting thing is, he assumes both roles regardless of which class I'm in. Even if I'm not in his class at all, just wandering down the hallway and I run into him, I might end up in his room working on the paper shortly afterwards. It's like I've sold my soul to Dr. Cusatis, but of all teachers he's the best to have sold it to. He's helped me realize the need to read in order to survive in college, how to write more effectively with less "dead wood," and how to effectively censor the school paper so that nobody could possibly have issues with it.—the list goes on. Also, I probably owe a large part of my acceptance into Emory to his wonderful recommendation letter. If I get a 4 or a 5 on the AP Literature exam then I'll credit that to him too. I guess I got a good bargain for my soul.

Over the course of three years, Dr. Cusatis has dubbed me, "Omidude," "Omstar," and most recently, "Homie the Fairy," along with other endearing terms like, "Knucklehead," for variety, I think. When I'm in Dr. Cusatis' class, I feel like I lose my identity and become something like a student-pet used to supplement the educational experience with entertainment. It's wonderful. I laugh just as much as anyone, or more, when he makes fun of me. That's another thing I've learned from him: to be able to laugh at myself, and that is very valuable.

Perhaps I have been spoiled by Dr. Cusatis—in college, I doubt that I'll ever have as close a relationship with any of my professors, nor will any of them care as much about me. And most likely, I won't care as much about them. If anyone comes close, then I'll consider myself lucky.

Mary Stone



Your senior year, you grow up, you decide what college you want to go to, what major, what you want to do with the rest of your life (basically.) You're expected to be able to answer these three questions on the spot: "What do you want to do with your life?", "What do you want to be?" and "Where do you see yourself in ten years?" I can't even begin to answer these questions; I have no clue what I want to do with my life, nor do I think I will know any time soon. To be honest, I don't think any eighteen year old knows what they are going to do. Maybe they have an idea, but no one really knows. People change so much as they get older - my mother went back to school three times before finding something she loves doing. She's in her forties and just now starting her new career.

My mother, like many others, always told me to do what makes me happy in life. Well, what makes me happy is sitting around talking with my friends, but that isn't going to pay the bills. When I was younger, I had aspirations of becoming a McDonald's worker. Then I turned four and had a new dream: to become an actress. On stage, on film, it did not matter: I just wanted to act. Of course, as time went on, reality kicked in.

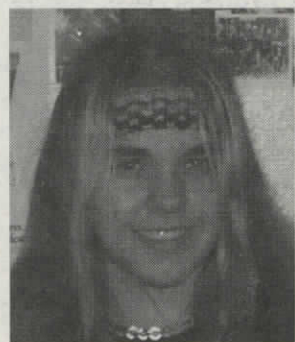
Here I am now, eighteen, a senior in high school, asked yet again to answer this simple but yet perplexing question. What do I want to be by the year 2016? Happy.

Senior Essays

Laci Dean

I have never looked far into the future of my career or education, or anything for that matter. I have always gone with whatever was happening in my life at the moment and reacted accordingly. Sadly, from what I've been told, this approach won't exactly mesh well with college life (and everyone knows you just have to go to college in order to, you know, not be a bum.) I basically have no idea whatsoever what I want to do with my life, but have concocted what I believe to be my dream career.

First off: a visual. Picture hip-length dark blue hair blustering about in a wild wind, a puffy white skirt that just screams "Victorian ruffian," and a colossal three-point hat with what seems to be an ostrich feather protruding into the sky. These oddities are combined with highly fashionable big-leg pants, designer boots and a vest that Dolce and Gabbana themselves would envy. Yes! This is the ensemble of my imminent self, sailing about the world in a contemporary/vintage wooden ship manned by my handful of loyal crewmembers, working for the most famous fashion artist in the world of the future! My official label as a business person? Why, Captain Dean, the highly sought-after fashion pirate and forecaster!



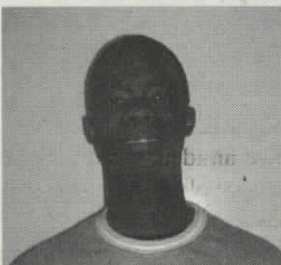
What do I do for this prospective famous designer? It is my job to journey across country and sea, cruising in search of new looks for the upcoming North American season! When I spot something with potential, be it on an underground runway in France or on a flower girl in a tiny Brazilian village, I will photograph it and document my grounds for believing in it. My reasoning must be concise or else my employer may not accept it and I would not receive my... rather large paycheck. When my assets for travel are low, I must stay in my humble abode - perhaps a trendy New York suite or a cabin in Canada - and predict what will be hot and what most certainly will not sans inspiration. (This would not be much of a problem, however, being that, regardless of what people can tell by looking at me, I have predicted past trends with disturbing accuracy; often it seems like clothing designers take images directly from my brain before I can do anything with them. Curse them!) I should be very illustrious company indeed for anyone lower-caste in the social system of the fashion world - any fledgeling stylist would be honored to be in the same room with me, nay have me give them advice!

A wondrous vision to be sure, and one I do plan on working towards with all my might, starting with the blue hair. I am already a fairly talented photographer and fashion forecaster - the challenge is in perfecting my art and taking the requisite courses. Such is my plan for the upcoming years, and I will not be satisfied until my desires are realized in glorious entirety.

A wondrous vision to be sure, and one I do plan on working towards with all my might, starting with the blue hair. I am already a fairly talented photographer and fashion forecaster - the challenge is in perfecting my art and taking the requisite courses. Such is my plan for the upcoming years, and I will not be satisfied until my desires are realized in glorious entirety.

Charles Aiken

School of the Arts is a school that teaches and shows the values and fundamentals of learning, provides you opportunities for the future, and also prepares you to move on. For the past seven years it has been a phenomenal experience in a wonderful environment. My fellow classmates have treated and accepted me as a brother. I enjoyed every moment of it: the laughs, tears, drama and everything else. I will very much miss SOA and everything it has to offer. I will cherish what I have learned, and I will go forth in further learning and allow new experiences to reveal my future. It's so long from now!!



2005-2006 SOA Highlight

Senior Creative Writer Jessica Atkinson was the subject of a New York Times feature story in May.

Lea Yanetti

What do I, Lea Yanetti, wish to be doing when the year 2016 rolls around? Good question... In this essay I will explore my innermost wants and desires. I may even share my thoughts on life with you! Get readyyy...

I am a Senior, currently attending and hopefully graduating North Charleston's fine School of the Arts. I am quite on the brink of figuring out what kind of drastic turn my life is about to take. Here's what I'd like to happen:

I will be accepted to The School of Visual Arts located in Manhattan. Soon after, I'd become an apprentice at a friendly tattoo shop. I'd probably collaborate on a short run of comic books and get them published. At some point, I'd move out to Portland, Oregon. In the end, after I have dwelled in the city for long enough, I would live in a cottage in Mexico, grow my own vegetables and practice simple living after being drained by the excess of urban life.

I have a positive outlook on life today. I hope this is what happens, or that I'm happy doing whatever it is I may end up doing later in life. Good luck to everyone with goals and dreams!



Lindsay Gallagher



After graduating high school, I'll have a lot of old report cards, a diploma, and one very important acceptance letter. Though I'll keep those on my shelf, I hope the things closer to my heart are what I'll have to show for all these years. The time one spends at School of the Arts makes a whole lot of memories, friendships, and unique experiences. When you're at a school where its name's reputation really matters - you've got it good. Our well-rounded education and opportunity to flourish as artists is obvious. Although I have no idea what I want to do in the future, I have had wonderful guidance from all my teachers. Because we have been given the tools for success, honored is a word that will come to mind when walking away with my class. Watching my friends become such beautiful people is what I will take from here. I couldn't imagine myself having been anywhere else, and I'm grateful for where my path has ended up so far.

While college is more appealing every day, this is a bittersweet beginning of an end. "I don't know what tomorrow brings. It is alive with such possibilities." Learn from everything. Always give yourself - you would want the same. Make a legend for yourself - take what comes at you and run with it. Even if you're running in the wrong direction, all you'll have to do is turn around. In the words of Swift, "He was a bold man that first ate an oyster." You will never have the advantage of experience until after you need it, so don't waste time.

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Senior Essays

Frances Morris

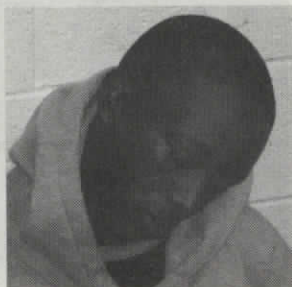


Who knows what I'll do ten years from now
 I can't say where and I can't say how
 I might be living in that year
 But I'll list a few possibilities here:
 I'm hoping I won't end up on the streets
 With a cardboard box and no shoes on my feet
 I hope I'm not forced to sell myself
 As my only means of getting wealth
 And if I must deal drugs for the money I lack
 Just let it be anything before it's crack
 If I must collect garbage from others' yards

Don't let me get cut by beer bottle shards
 If I end up in prison 'cuz I stole and got rich
 Just don't let me become somebody's...friend
 I'd certainly rather be down on Spruill pimpin'
 Than wind up in a war and come out limpin'
 Either way, my future is just hard to tell
 But as long as I don't clean port-o-potties, all will be well.

Garian Wilkinson

If I was able to do the whole SOA thing over again, I would definitely do many things differently. For one, I would do my homework, and would make an attempt to pay attention in class, even in the boring ones. I would also keep my mouth shut so more teachers and students would like me. If I could do the whole thing over again I would have been myself and not something I wasn't. I would be that laid back dude that is also country and crazy (LOL!). Also, I would better my study methods because my study methods suck. I would not get a job because my time management sucks as well and I can't afford to give up on a subject or two like I did this time around because one of the goals that I have the second time around is to be a member of the National Honors Society. Yeah, that's right, I said I would be a member of the National Honors Society and many other clubs if I could do the SOA thing over again because I would stay ahead of the game this time, and would not be such a lazy bum. Finally, I would be nicer to people; those that I liked and those that I did not care for. Not for them, but for myself, because I see it this way - hate or dislike for a person doesn't hurt the person you hate or dislike - it hurts the person who's doing the hating or disliking, and honestly, there is no point when you realize that the whole thing is a waste of time, and me, being as busy as I would be if I could do the whole SOA thing over, wouldn't have time for that foolishness



Zak Fasola

Looking back on the 3 years of music training I have acquired, I'm glad to look forward to using it in my future jobs or performances.

This school has taught me a lot of different values(not all positive), but none the less, this school has prepaed me for my future job.

I'd like to thank my teachers:

Ms. Olson,
 Mr. Eakes,
 Mr. Brehm,
 Ms. Kay,
 and especially Dr. H.



Meredith Jones

Before I start this so called, "Senior Essay" I just want the reader to realize that we are expected to write this essay based on our years at SOA. But I don't think this assignment is quite that easy. You see, an SOA experience is not something that can just plainly be written about. No one can sit down at the computer and type out what they truly feel about SOA. It is impossible to completely express in words how I feel right now as a senior. There are too many memories to get out, too many funny stories and adventures that I want to share. Those who will be able to fully understand and appreciate me are those that are experiencing what I am right now, the bittersweet sadness as I write this essay- the class of 2006.



I remember the last day of eighth grade. Two of my best friends were leaving our small school to attend huge high schools. Thinking of their departure made me want to change schools too. When I think back, I am so glad I stayed right where I was. SOA has made me the person I am today. There are so many people that I want to thank. Mrs. Rene Bufo Miles has taught me how to "show don't tell." She has helped me develop not only into a good writer, but also a young woman. I thank her so much, and I don't know where I would be without her guidance. Acecily (AAA)- girl, I would be completely lost without your crazy self in creative writing. I could always count on you to have the same amount of pages I as did to turn in. And you always know how to make me laugh. I will miss you.

Allison. We have been through so much together. It's funny how some people still don't know we are cousins. We've come a long way. From me living hundreds of miles away and barely knowing each other existed to basically living together for the past nine years. Whatever you do, you can't forget... Uncle Tom's underwear drawer, the cricket files, the light game, JAT, stalking, Italy, Mrs. Fettucini, horse camp, Frick and Frack, spilling that milk after 8th grade prom, our numerous experiences with Buster, dressing up Rebel and Frisky, Frog Frenzy, Huey, Dewie and Lewie, spending the night in your car, Thin Ice and many, many more. I know we will always be together because we are family. But I wouldn't want to get rid of you, even if I could. I love you.

Cameron Elizabeth Funderburk. There are so many memories that need to be brought to your attention... Big Poot and Lil' Poot, our first USC game together, paying our Physics tutor to flirt with us, being cuties with booties in Myrtle Beach, bar hopping with Gregg, Allison driving us around on top of my Trooper at midnight, stealing that test, then returning it, our Friday night mall excursions in eighth grade, almost getting killed that night at Allison's, saying a title and taking a picture, dancing on the beds to "Sometimes" by Britney Spears, breaking that window the second night, our Latin lover Guilherme, commemorating our young lives in that journal, Hilton Head 2002, Dr. Cusatis's class and "when in disgrace with fortune and men's eyes", and so much more. When you go to Texas to become a cowgirl, please don't forget me. I love you.

To all my friends, we have watched each other grow up, and in the process grown up ourselves and learned from one another. I look forward to this summer where we can make many more memories together.

Well, that's about all I can say. SOA has given me an amazing seven years. I wouldn't change anything about them. SOA has given me the opportunity to meet everyone here and I'm eternally grateful. I will miss you. I love you all.

2005-2006 SOA Highlight

Applause published nine colorful issues, one per month, in 2005-2006, including this quadruple graduation issue.

Senior Essays

Dalia Dalili

A lot of people take School of the Arts for granted, and I know I've been guilty of it too. As the end is all of a sudden right around the corner, I'm realizing how much I'm going to miss everything about this unique school, almost even the smelly trailers.

I've been going here since sixth grade [give or take a few months of absences], and I wouldn't have it any other way. Kids who try to hate on our school probably just didn't get in. At SOA, you experience something you couldn't receive at any other uptight public school. It is such an advantage that it revolves around your major, which is more than likely your passion, allowing you to express yourself on a daily basis and even get grades for it. Most of the teachers are so personable, and it shows how they genuinely care about their students and their education.

Over the years I've created a strong bond with my visual arts teacher Ms. Jaycie. Honestly, I can't trust anyone else's critiques on my work except for her's. I don't know what I'm going to do without her being just a yell across the room away after graduation, so I'll probably just lurk around campus for a few extra years. She's probably the most interesting and kindhearted person I've ever met, and she's amazing for being so patient with all of us. She definitely deserved her own paragraph.

From my senior year, I will never forget Dr. Cusatis's ebonics English class, the respectable Mr. Brehm's cheesy jokes that I found funny, sweet Dr. Holden-Musser always worrying about us and showering us with junk food. Some teachers that have made an impact on me over the past few years are Mr. Orvin, he's a man I will definitely always have a place for in my heart; I've never laughed so much and learned so much in one class before. Mrs. Olsen is the most intimidating midget when she tries to pretend that she's mad about the stolen podium in the boy's bathroom. Mr. Moore's elective classes are probably when I had the most fun. I kind of wish Mrs. Rogers was my mom, and I have a lot to say about Mrs. Bronk, but not nearly enough room. And of course, Mrs. Caldwell for always keepin' it real. Thank you to all my teachers who have put up with my need to always be fashionably late, my need for sleep, or just my need for a break from class for a day or two. I'll never forget you.

I feel as if I'm a part of a family at SOA because most of us have all been together from the beginning and we're all so accepting of each other. We've been exposed to so much diversity and it has only made us more appreciative of each other's differences. More importantly it has prepared us for life after high school. I've made so many great memories and met so many amazing people that have each affected my life in some way. To be surrounded by such creative energy all the time is really a privilege. Thank you for everything.



Emily Steele

My stride will be the same walking across the stage at graduation as it was seven years ago walking into SOA with a confident, but nervous, march. And that's about the only thing that I can say hasn't changed. I've learned a lot with every experience that I have encountered at SOA and grown from them all. I can proudly say that SOA has prepared me well and has helped me become the woman I am today. But it's funny how I can remember saying such bad things about SOA and hating coming to school and now that I am leaving soon, I have gained such respect for it and I am trying to make the best of my last days here. However when I reflect upon times at SOA, those "bad things" are not what I first think about. I think about my friends, teachers, trips, concerts and all of the good times we've had together. But there is one thing that sticks out the most and that is probably being the youngest Steele.

Being the youngest Steele or having older siblings has many upsides. For example, getting to recycle old projects, knowing certain teachers' tricks of the trade (hey sucking up at SOA will get you very far), having people watching your back and of course being recognized by the upper classmen, duh! Speaking of upperclassmen, I'll never forget the days when my brothers and I had to catch a ride with Ian Lampkin (this is before they destroyed our beautiful surrounding neighborhood) and he would run over the plastic trash cans that were lying on the street. (Wait, maybe I shouldn't have put that in!)

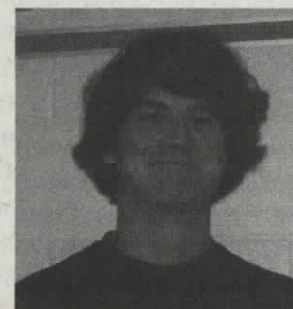
Despite the fact that being the little Steele was pretty cool, it also had some disadvantages. People will be your friend just to get closer to your siblings and teachers' expectations are really high or low, depending on the brother. But mostly, it isn't so good because I feel as if I am only known as the last Steele so that's why college is very important to me, so I can set myself apart from my family and not just be known as "Little Steele." Although that is what college is for most of us, it is essential to my college experience. Yet I am pretty sure most of the teachers are glad that the Steele family is gone, and I really can't blame them.

So as we seniors prepare for our new journey and become individuals, let us not forget what SOA has taught us and brought us. So thanks SOA for the life lessons like, how to dodge rain puddles, how sucking up puts you ahead in life, how not to sit in the front row in French class, how wandering the halls is very educational, and how not to discriminate. And thanks for all of the dances, "pep rallies," convocations, Jump, Jive and Wails, the dance performances, all of the music concerts, visual art displays, literary readings, teachers, and friends. Friends like my dear Lauren, Kel, Joia, Helena, all my band geeks, my black people, my white people, and those very special underclassmen (you know who you are). So, my final note is: I hope all of the underclassmen enjoy their new campus - yeah, right - and stay classy SOA!



George Bates

Yeah, so our senior year is almost over. Stuff has happened. Yep...lots of stuff. Lots and lots of stuff. I really think I'm getting on a roll with this paper so far. Here, let me explain some of this stuff. Well, there was Ms. Nichol's class. "Meh Nigolss!!" We were some bad kids in that class. I have Ben and Johnny to back me up on that one. I think just about everyday we'd get in trouble for something and be stuck cleaning the sink or the tables. I think that once Josh (Floyd) left things started to calm down in art. He was basically the instigator of anything and everything that happened in that class. Just about everyday he would do something that made you think "Should I be laughing or should I be disgusted?" Most times you went with disgusted. For instance, one time he licked Dalia's eyeball. You decide for yourself with that one. Since I'm on the subject of middle school I might as well bring up riding the bus. Basically, riding the bus sucked. In seventh grade, Ms. Campbell had speakers down the entire length of the bus and would blare "93 Jamz" constantly. After about a week of hearing "Get Crunked Up" a thousand-bajillion times you couldn't help but know the entire song WORD-FOR-WORD. "Get crunked up, stay crunked up, ball to tha club in my Navigator truck!" Them junks was tight. But occasionally we'd have some fun, or at least fun in a middle-schooler's mind. For instance, throwing food out the window and up the aisles, or making those staple shooters out of mechanical pencils and shoot them at people's faces, or holding up signs on the back window like "Honk if you're a lesbo." It was middle school, okay? Don't get so offended. But for the record, every now and then we'd get a honk or two.



Senior Essays

Naudia Harrison

In all truthfulness, I spent most of my high school days wishing and dreaming. I was sad that I didn't have many close friends, discouraged because I wasn't as great academically at my new school as I was at Alice Birney Middle School, and I even wished that I could be as pretty as the dancers, so guys would flirt with me, too. Of course, everyone knew me and I got along well with everyone, but I missed many good times I could have had while I was wishing for more.



I finally gave up on being like everyone else and moved on to become proficient in my major. I've won many awards and received many honors - even a part in the school play. Though I've accomplished so much, a while ago I looked back and saw nothing because I didn't share these wonderful moments with anyone. I spent so much time hoping and wishing to be a part of someone's circle, I never befriended the people that were with me

every step of the way.

When the senior vocal majors recorded their senior video, everyone was supposed to talk about their favorite memory. Finally, it was my turn and I couldn't think of anything. I wondered: Where has high school gone?

I wrote this essay for the unpopular students, the students who receive no more than a "Hi" and "Bye" from their peers. Don't spend high school worried about who and what you wish you could be - focus on who you are and how you need to grow. Enjoy the time you have here, it will be over shortly. Be a friend to yourself first and to others second.

I'd like to conclude with my quote: "Listen as if you're hearing your last. Look as if you're seeing your last. Laugh as if happiness is becoming extinct. Sing as if every song will be your last. This is how you live without regret."

Peter DuPuis

When I think back on my mind set entering SOA, and the mind set I have now, the one thing SOA has truly shaped is my appreciation for the arts. Entering SOA in 6th grade, I treated art apathetically. Theater was merely a pass time, I found little sense in visual art, didn't care to comprehend abstract art, and rarely read. This doesn't seem like a rarity, many 6th graders don't place any significant value on art, but as I grew older, I found that the amount of adults and teens that appreciate art is frighteningly low. This is where I think SOA has helped me. In other schools, they seem to only touch on the arts, offering electoral classes that may introduce students to a specific art form, but never truly divulges the fine points of that art area. This perhaps, is why there seems to be an overwhelming amount of young adults that lack passion, or a strong appreciation for art. I'll admit, even in the art filled atmosphere of SOA it took me a while to find my own appreciations. However, I don't think I would have evolved myself artistically at any other school.

I am not saying that SOA is solely reasonable for the art advancement of a person. Rather, SOA allows for a person to advance. I am sure people enter and leave the school with the same dwindling view on art. I am also confident that someone else at any other school could appreciate art with just as much passion. However, from what I have observed, art seems restricted in many schools. SOA allows art to flourish, showing an array of different perspectives. In theater alone we have covered the gamut from classical Shakespeare to Dadaism. SOA has allowed me to uncover my appreciation for something I have grown to place great value on, art, and I don't think I would have found it elsewhere.



Reba Bowens



When I arrived at SOA seven years ago, I was a shy, quiet ten year-old who knew no one except the teacher who was at her dance audition. On the first day of school, all middle school children were told to report to the cafeteria and bring their school supplies. When I got there I saw some kids talking to their friends, some sitting by themselves, and a select few going around asking everyone their name. As I sat quietly waiting, I began to wonder what I was in for, but I had no idea that I would be spending the next seven years here, at the School of the Arts. I remember the first day of high school. I had no idea I had entered the world of "It has to be MLA," which is code for it has to be exactly what the teacher wants or you fail (I am not even sure if I am typing this paper right.) Now almost seven years later, I am a sarcastic, outspoken seventeen-year-old who still knows very little about the world in front of her. Since I have been at SOA, I have grown into myself but along the way I have gained a few friends and lost a few. I don't care what anyone says about this school because it is true that we are different. As a student, our majors force us to accept people for who they are and be very tolerant of all kinds of personalities. I am truly grateful that I had the opportunity to attend this school - not only did I get to visit a foreign country and watch world-class performances, but I met people who I would have never associated with if I went to any other high school.

As I think back to the first day of dance, I remember sitting on the floor in Ms. Slowinski's dance room, as she told all eighteen of us what we should expect and what the teachers expect. As the years went by, our dance class went from eighteen to sixteen and finally seventeen. We all remember those who left us and those who have joined us but still we shared a bond. To the Senior dance majors and those before them, I would like to say thank you for being who you are. When you spend seven years of your life seeing the same faces every day, you realize that these are the people who you will miss the most; the drama, the laughter and the atmosphere. I would also like to thank my three dance teachers, **Ms. Slowinski, Mr. Anderson, and Ms. Hurtado** (Mrs. Cline) who have all morphed me into a dancer. When I came to SOA, I had very little knowledge about dance - all I knew was that ballerinas wore pink tutus, but now I know that dance is more than that. Ms. Slowinski has shown me that dance is what you make it to be; that no one can judge you on your dance, but only on the effort you put into dance. Mr. Anderson has taught me how to always have the need to better my technique. Ms. Hurtado has allowed me to think outside the box and create things that I enjoy even if no one else may understand.

No matter what I have experienced during the last seventeen years, I am still a sheltered, ignorant little girl who thinks nothing bad can happen to me in this world. I am like a lab rat, naive and ill-prepared, constantly searching for the exit, but always finding a dead end until finally I find the right way out. I am still in that maze, searching for the exit, always finding dead ends, but each time I find a dead end I am getting closer and closer to the exit.

Senior Essays

Acecily Alexander

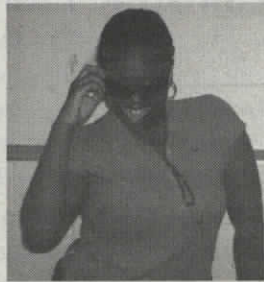
In my long seven years at SOA, I have experienced what some people will not. It is hard to explain what this is, but I will try. Here at SOA I mingled with all types of people. From that, I am a better person. I can relate to people that don't have the same backgrounds or beliefs as I do. Words can't really explain how far that may take me in life. My homely teachers have definitely inspired me. MOST of you actually taught me something and loved me while doing it. Special thanks goes to: Mrs. Miles, Mr. Orvin, Tizzy, and Dr. Holden-Musser. Especially Rene Miles, who has advanced my talent. At first I thought poetry was all about rhyming, but she has helped me find my voice better than any of the 6 Creative Writing teachers. All of my SOA teachers are great, except one who is awful and she knows who she is.

Lets get to the good stuff. Here are a few jokes to lighten up the mood: I leepy, and ya don't stop, 365 BLACK, Winter Formal 2005, taking Zimone to the ER after our Junior Prank, parking in the late lot during exam week, getting ZEROS in Ms. Bronk's class, Chemistry B1 when class started at 8:45, Tizzy's preschool quizzes, Domo and the keyboard, FUGLY, Bam Bam Bam, Physics for the technical thinker, elegant up-do, Ms. Marks and Kim-Kim, Oh boy here comes Jenna, on POINTe, trieflin', so what about those pages, rather cheat than repeat, myspace, and ya know dat, zut, I'M GOING TO HOLLYWOOD, birthday jinx, HEY-OH, Chinese fire drill, community slushies, I paid 5 dollars for that, J.Cu, C.C.Slow, ghetto nonesuch, post up, Dalia is in school today, Acecily your major isn't dance, chillin', Cranium, Fall Ball 2004, say cheese...fromage, riding in Hilari's trunk, Fab 4, leaky leaky, stop being chingiy, I'm gonna need an Honors credit for that, fighting over Corey, crashing the other parties during Ring Ceremony, Ashley having Turrets in Mr. McKinney's class, being scared of Tanyesha in the bathroom, Michael aka "sleepy man," Allison cursing out the drunk guy at Waffle House, everyday is skip day, that's my wifey, what up fool, big Sue, gap rangsta, Zimone gotta circle head, I Huckleberry me, Leavin's Not the Only Way To Go, Rocky jamming at all the school functions, Cameron does the best stage make-up eyebrows, Battle of the Bands, and where is Justin? I could go on forever (like I did) but everybody knows I like to have a good laugh. At SOA, I surely got one.

When I lost my mother, school became a home away from home. All of my peers and teachers that knew about my mom were highly supportive, and I love them for it. Comfort is something I can always find at SOA, but most importantly I found friends. SOA has blessed me with four wonderful people. Three of them are from the amazing class of 2005, who took me in as part of their 05' family. First, Michael Robinson, I owe my social life to you. If there was something fun, you made sure I was there. No matter how famous you get, you will always be my "question mark head," Mikey. Second, there is Tanyesha Sumpter. You probably have no idea how much you've helped me. I always admired your self-esteem and wild personality. It wasn't easy being PROM ROYALTY, but you made sure I kept my head up. Third, there is Ashley Clark. I really can't explain how you've changed me. You have given me the unconditional love, confidence, and encouragement that most people could not. We've had our share of ripping each other's heads off, but managed to stick together. I love you three and will forever be your, "Etily Roh," "Maggie," and "Cec." I'm pretty sure everybody knows the fourth person is Shadana. There's nothing I can do to show my appreciation to you. We've been through some crazy things, but are still sisters. It's hard thinking about not seeing you everyday next year, so I don't. You're probably crying now, so I will stop. I love and will miss you like no one knows!

Well I'm going to end this before Dr. Cusatis cuts me off. I want everyone to know that you will be missed and try not to forget me! To my fellow graduates, I hope life brings many blessings not babies. I can't believe [most of us] made it this far! I love all of you. If we never talked, I love you. If you don't like me, I love you. If you pretend to like me, but talk about me behind my back, I love you.

From: SOA's Prom Princess of 2005-Acecily -"OH SIX AND YA DON'T STOP!"



Allan Babcock

Art. This is the one thing that I have gotten from School of the Arts that I could not have gotten anywhere else. I could have gotten all the same academic courses and probably have gotten teachers who are just as good as teaching their classes, but I could not have gotten the art education anywhere else.

Not to say that having great academic teachers won't be helpful in school. It's just, that art can help you with living. For me going to my major 100 minutes everyday has kept a balance in my life. Since I'm planning on going into a very technical career, still being able to have the imagination from being an artist will help me everyday. My other peers will always have a technical solution to a problem, but I, on the other hand, will be able to have a creative advantage over them.

Another benefit I have had from going to this school is the help to become an artist. One thing I am sure I know about art is that you can never un-become an artist. Art will help me with living even more than it could ever help me with a career. I doubt you fully appreciate it now, but being able to create something of your own that you didn't have instructions to do is what makes art so powerful. Art is something that you have created: it's part of you. You can use art to express whatever you want, however you want. If you aren't able to use art to its fullest, you will often find yourself stuck and frustrated.

Going to this school has given me freedom that I would have never realized I had if I went to another school. I have learned that I do have a freedom of expression and not just the one given to us by law, but we are born with rights to our thoughts and a freedom to do what we want to do. Going to School of the Arts has opened my mind in ways that would not have been possible at any other school, and that is what makes this school so valuable.

Chelsea Richardson

My time at School of the Arts has been one of the best experiences of my life. I can't even imagine going to any other school. School of the Arts has that "artsy" feel that you can't receive at any other school. I have met so many awesome people at this school. And each of these awesome people has certain passion for their art. Not only am I knowledgeable of my own art area, I am also knowledgeable of the other arts areas. And that is not easy to find at a school other than School of the Arts.

I remember the first time I went to the School of the Arts visual arts show in eleventh grade, and I couldn't believe how talented everyone was. Everybody had a different style and a different way of painting. It was so fun to see my classmates create such great artwork. Everyone is unique and open. I now have an appreciation for many different kinds of people and not just one certain kind of person. People here understand my weird and random ways and I hope that they enjoy that about me.

There are so many memories from my time at School of the Arts. One vivid memory I have is the time I made my first purse in Costume Design. I had never made anything in my life, and I was so excited that I had sewn something from scratch. I also have many great memories from vocal. This year vocal went to New York and sang at St. Bartholomew's, the most beautiful church I had ever seen. We sang many different songs, but the sound that echoed throughout the church was something I had never heard before. It was such a tremendous experience.

Next year I am off to College of Charleston. I can only hope that I have the same phenomenal experience at College of Charleston as I have had at School of the Arts. I will truly miss this crazy and unique school.



Senior Essays

April McKnight

When I first came to School of the Arts in the ninth grade, I was very quiet and known as the tall, light-skinned girl with the long sideburns. But through the years I've acquired a sense of belonging to the school and became very comfortable with the environment itself. With this, I also have obtained many good friends and a strong personal relationship with my teachers. Mrs. Smyth, by far has been one of the best teachers ever, not just in her specialty (math) but also in more



general areas. She really connects with her students and assures that we all understand the lesson in math and any other vital information needed that pertains to our personal lives. Coming into ninth grade and expecting more of a formal, liberal style of teaching; Mr. Orvin definitely was against all odds. He was by far one of the better teachers and was loyal to his subject area and to his contribution to his students. He made everything clear and understandable but took a very different approach. I call it the Orvin

education, so unique it doesn't even fit into a regular genre. Even after we left his class in ninth grade, he still keeps up with us today because he truly cares. Mr. Kerr has not only been an excellent band director but an excellent friend. He connects with each and every student, not just on musical terms but personal terms. Not only does he care about the well being of the band, but the people in the band itself. His instruction over the last four years is greatly appreciated and beneficial to my future in music. What can I say, he's the one that approved me for the school four years ago and for this I am very grateful. Thanks Mr. Kerr, I couldn't ask for a better opportunity. Friends, now isn't that a broad topic. I've developed good friends, bad friends and associates over my four long years here at SOA. First and foremost, Patrick Allen de la Pena has been my bestest (I know that's not a word) friend in the whole entire world. Patrick and I are from two very different walks of life and this is probably what tied us together. I remember us sitting by each other back in ninth grade being very competitive over clarinet seats, unsure of each others abilities or aspirations but we finally at one point, put all of that aside and became a dedicated team. He's been a dear friend. Everyone would always say, where there's Patrick, there's April. We were always together and had a new adventure each time. I can truly say, I love you Patrick and that's from the heart. Whitney Patterson, what can I say? You've been a true friend over the years. When I was diagnosed with cancer, you were there every step of the way helping me get back onto my feet. You helped me a lot and I am very thankful towards you for all of your doings. Yea, we had some highs and lows, twists and turns but in the end we realized who our true friends were. Thanks for being a true friend over the years and keeping it real, love ya. Jerell (no middle name) Lewis, I can recall those countless times we sat in chemistry and talked the whole time. We constantly made jokes and laughed but something we didn't know at the time, it brought us a lot closer. Jerell and I are like siblings, we had our ups and ups, no downs and we had a really good time. I don't ever think we've argued about anything. I've really enjoyed being your friend over the years, I wish you luck in the future, I love you dearly. Johnny Knight (missing the Mc), you know we've gotten to be really good friends. We had good times and bad times but we made it through. Thanks for all of the good times we were able to share. Keep being yourself, love ya! Timothy James, you know what we've gone through, especially in the last year. I must admit, I've enjoyed every second of time spent with you. I hope you continue to do great things with your music and I wish you the best. Love Ya! To all of my other fellow classmates: Joia, Tiara, J.T., Matt, Terrence, Helena, Morgan, Zimone, Shadana, Acecily, Justin S., Justin W., Phil, Taylor, Kelslie, Lauren, Emily, Dominick, Charles, D'alonzo, Zippy, Amy, T.J.M., Garian and the rest of ya'll, I love all of you and I wish you the best of luck in your futures and hope that you meet all of your aspirations. I wish the best of luck to the underclassmen. Continue to represent after we leave. Love all ya'll! God bless! We out, '06!!

Christine Piontek

A School of the Arts education is a powerful tool that you should cherish forever. All my life I have dreamed about my graduation from a pristine high school that followed in the footsteps of Pegasus and Albert Einstein so that I could further my education in college. Coming from a family that stresses the value of education and demands high educational standards, it has always been my belief that education is one of the most valuable tools a person can possess. I have spent the past four years considering my future, establishing goals and knowing that the only way to achieve those goals is through continuing my education and working as hard as possible in my classes...especially during senior year. I believe that a quality education is required for success and I found that right here at School of the Arts.

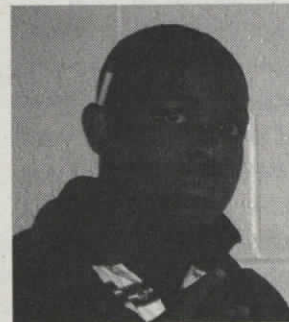
Here's a little known secret about the value of an education: as a rule, the most important part of your education is not what you learn but how you learn it. So it's the skills, not the information already learned, that are often most crucial to your future success. Another point about these skills is that there is no real limit to how good you can get at them. So, on the basis of these observations, I offer some advice:

- 1) A fantastic teacher can make the most boring subject in the world fascinating, and, in the process, greatly further the development of your intellectual skills. Our best, most exciting teachers got their training from our one and only Rose Marie, and we thank her every day for the TIME and effort she puts into the announcements.
- 2) Never cheat! It won't get you anywhere.
- 4) The more you put into a class, the more you get out of it, again, regardless of the subject. The more work you do, regardless of whether you need to do it to pass the course, the better your skills will get. Work, work, work....that's my motto!
- 5) Do not take advantage of slack school attendance policies. You should be in class learning about biochemistry and Pope John Paul II.
- 6) An education is not a thing you can get or have gotten once you graduate. Rather, it's a process that should never stop.

So stay in school, keep yourself focused and don't get sent to jail or anything.

Daris Sullivan

What am I going to do with my life you ask? In my wildest dreams, I want to become some type of doctor, but half the people that start off hoping to become



a doctor don't even make it out of medical school. First the facts, I could barely come to school my final year of high school, so how am I going to be able to get through another nine years of school before I even start any of my hospital rotations? I have a passion to help people and save lives, which I believe is what is going to get me through my nine years of school. That is what I have to look forward to. So let's say that I get through my first four years at Georgia Southern University and go straight into medical school in the fall, taking note that it is hard as anything to get straight into medical school after you graduate from a four-year school, even if you graduate with a 4.0. After I graduate from medical school hopefully I will be able to start my residency as a doctor. This will drop me off in the ten year mark after high school. I am not sure how I am going to do all of this. Let's just hope that I am really good at working without sleep because I have a lot of work ahead of me. Most of that work is going to be done by pulling all-nighters. So if you see me ten years from now, a very tired Dr. Sullivan in some hospital's emergency's room, you know I have made it, no matter how sleep deprived I was and cranky I had become. At least I followed my dream and I will be happy.



Senior Essays

Grace Davis



Throughout my years here at SOA I have managed to fall face first into one of the many mud puddles, get my car broken into, witness two yardmen get arrested for having a toy gun, see New York City, and complete a portfolio. I would say that's a pretty memorable experience. When I first come to SOA I was ashamed of the campus and always will be at this location. However, I overlooked that when I realized how much freedom I had here. You get that freedom by being yourself and staying on the teacher's good side. (Keep this in mind) I have learned a lot about the world

and myself here at SOA. Even though it has a crappy campus I hope that the other students can appreciate it as much as I have. So since I'm approaching the ultimate case of Senioritis this is difficult to write. Basically, it has been a great experience, I have met some awesome people, and I will always remember SOA and everything that came along with it.

JT Tolbert

I don't even know where to start. Well its OVER, I am done. Closing another chapter in my life and on to the next. Its crazy because I can still remember coming in as a sixth grader being mad because we had trailers for class rooms. (Cheap right) Now its time to leave. (Moment of silence) Middle school years were straight but i just couldn't wait to get to the high school hall. Then i did and that is when you realize that you might should consider going to a different school because SOA isn't a regular high school. I mean it has no sports and you're basically with the same people from middle school. That is what probably makes SOA so unique because its not like any other high school. Its been fun and if I could do it all over again i wouldn't change a thing, well besides failing in

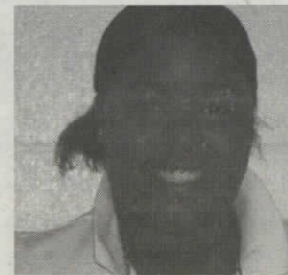
Dr. Price of that new french teacher class, but whatever. To the friends i made I love yall and to the ones I loss..... Anyway, moving on (yall know who yall are). My boys Rell and Johnny. We been together from the start (when Johnny had that rat tail) I want yall to know that we boys for life. Matty B i ain't forget you boy you just came later on, but I got mad love for you too. The four of us been wild in all high school growing from lil' boys to grown men, chasing girls and trying to keep Matt out of trouble . We ain't never gone through none of that bull those girls went through and that is how we know that our friendship was 4real. My dogs Daris, Charles, Domo, Nate, Jonø, and Blake. Yall some good cool dudes man and I'm going to miss yall. Now yea I was cool with the dudes and all, but in my years of high school you know ya boy J.T \$\$ got real close with the ladies. TIERA, man words can't even explain how I feel bout you, you and i been down since the beginning. Keeping me from messing with dem chicken heads and I needed a partner to fail with. Helena you know I love you girl (except when you tried to take my food.) Joia, you know I got mad love for you especially after what we been through. You know what's up. Shadana, what up playa, I love you and I'm really gone miss you straight up. (Mr. Orvin class you know what's up.) Lil' Steele, April, Morgan, Whitney, Toya, and Sanora. I love yall too.

Now on the underclassmen men. Y'all get love from me 2 because y'all made the king feel like a king when I took my throne. Let me say this: it was a hard decision, but I since I leavin' SOA needs a new king/ big dog on campus. So I pass my royalty on to D.J and LEON. Don't let me down now, holla at all the lil' ones and keep things in check for me. Elizabeth and Ashli. Man, man, man I'm really gone miss yall two. We had some good times in theater. Nicole, Courtnay, Cherelle, Danielle, Dana, Nulani, Diana, Kristyn, Krystal (my shorty) , Gabby, Jenna, Brittnee, Jordan, Vicky, Lindsey, Jesse, Brittney, Olivia, Courtney, Kimberly, Erin , Jasmine, Ashlee, and Leah. I wish yall all the best of luck. I love all

y'all and remember that y'all got a special place in my heart. My lil' sis Janella, stay out of trouble, you the last TOLBERT left so represent. If I left you out I really do apologize and if you have to think if your name is pose to be on this page. It wasn't, y'all know who y'all are. It's ya boy J.T signing off, I love yall and I'm OUT.

Helena Smith

As these years have passed, I have learned a lot from the people that have been with me from day one. I learned there weakness, fears, what makes them smile, mad all that. Anyway, I've loved being here, all the good and bad, all the drama and everything. Everything happens for a reason and I believe I was meant to be here at School of the Arts. Being here makes me who I am today and I thank everyone who help me get here. First I want to give a thank you to the teachers that were a big and wonderful help to me; Mrs. Lasley-Orvin for her spunky and fun-loving spirit. Thank you!! To your wonderful husband, Mr. Orvin, thanks for always sticking up for me and I love ya!!!! To Dr. Ball, even though I never care for science, I think your good teacher, very interesting teacher. To Dr. Price, I LOVED YOUR CLASS!!!! This is the only science I ever liked, i really enjoyed experimenting in your class. To Mrs. Rogers, I love ya mama and you know you liked me gettin on your nerves and I'll always be your black baby doll!!!! To Mrs. Cecilia Slowinski, you my gurl and when are you and Mr. Brehm going to let me, Shadana and Cecily spend the night? To Mrs.Cline, thanks for believing I can do anything. To my favorite, Mr. Anderson, you are a wonderful person. You also believed I can do anything and for that I say thank you. Love ya!! To my peoples, where do I begin: Shadana, you are forever my sista and I love you. We have been through so much over the years and I don't regret anything that happen between us. You are a beautiful girl more inside as well as outside. My days couldn't start without seeing your sunshine smile wake me up and to know everything is all right. I love you mama!!! To Cecily, we been sistas for a long time. Let's remain that way gurlie. Thanks for the smiles and the laughs. To JT, you are booba!!! I love you so much; much more than any girl that ever liked you. And we don't have to lie no more, Me and JT gettin' married!!!!!! Jerell, you are my brotha and thanks for all you do and all the breakfast meals. Love ya!!! Morgan, it's been so fun to get to know you. You are one amazing girl. Stay the same, don't change. I love ya!!! Zimone, stand tall girl, don't let nobody bring you down mama!!! Justin, when JT leave me broke and hungray, can we get married and have two mixed babies? Love ya!!! April, you have been through a lot and through all that you remained the beautiful flower that you are. We gots to keep in touch. Love you gurl. Tiera, we are finally best buddies, I love ya. You will always be my girl!! To Whitney, girl you are crazy so stay that way!! You are beautiful and keep shining!!!! To Joia, keep doing you cause that's what matters. You will always be my home gurl!! To E-milly, I love you like a sista. Thanks for always being there, you and your family. I love you Michael and Matthew, Elizabef (hahaha) Big Daddy Bruce and Big Mama Besty. To Jonothon, you know you want me and tell your mama I say hi and we need to talk about the wedding plans when JT and Justin leave me. This one is special to me, Matthew Robert Bostick, where do I begin with you; you are a friend I can't replace not even if I wanted to. You are my boy to the day we die. I love you so much. We got so much history together, we got secrets together nobody knows (don't nobody ask me what) and so much more. I just want to say thank you are being there with all my drama with "you know who" and my outside problems with my friends. Thanks for being first to have my back without me even asking. I'm going to miss you so much. You are forever my little big brotha!!!! to everyone i didn't name, ya'll know i got mad love for ya!! Anyway, that's it, I'm tired of writing!! Anyway remember do you and always stand your ground, stand for something or anything you will fall. OK that is it, i'm out-Thick, Fine, And Sassy!!! Smooches!!!!



Arts Highlights



Piano

-In March, thirteen students participated in Achievement Day Competition for piano at Charleston

Southern. They had to perform two pieces from memory, sight-read, take a theory test, and be able to play major and minor scales, cadences, and arpeggios.

-In February, nine students performed on the Honors Recital at the MENC state convention.

-In April, Dr. Lenti from Lander University came and did a masterclass with the high school piano majors.

-April 21-22, forty-four piano majors attended the Solo and Ensemble Festival at Lander University.

-The piano students, middle and high, have had two classical recitals, in November and May and a joint ensemble recital in April. These ensembles ranged from two pianos to ten pianos. They also played in the jazz piano recital and did the Jazz café in May.

-There are two senior piano majors.

-Elise Giles will be doing a senior thesis on May 19, 2006. She is doing a thirty-minute senior recital. This will be held at St. Phillips Episcopal Church. She will be attending Presbyterian College in the fall.

-Adam Gentile became a piano major this year and has worked hard at learning new skills. He will be attending Clemson University in the fall.

Creative Writing Highlights 2005-06

This year the Creative Writers won many awards in local regional and national writing competitions. The Scholastic Art and Writing Awards is the largest and oldest writing contest for young people in the United States. In the Regional Competition, the middle and high school Creative Writers received fifteen Gold Awards which then moved on to compete at the national level. On the national level, Jessica Atkinson won a Gold Portfolio Award for which she received and \$10,000 scholarship and trip to New York City where she will receive her award at Carnegie Hall on June 8. Other national winners were 10th graders Rachel Lee who won a Silver Award for Poetry and Catherine Cox who won a Gold Award for Science Fiction/Fantasy. 9th grader Monique Collins won a Gold award in Short Story, and 8th grader Lauren DiNicola won a Silver Award in Humor and a Gold Award in Short Short Story.

In addition, the Creative Writers participated in the Poets and Painters contest at the Gibbes Museum. Students visited the museum and selected a painting about which they composed a poem. These poems were then submitted to a juried competition and judged by the members of the South Carolina Poetry Society. High School Gold winners included 10th graders Victoria Doose and Liz Gildea. High School Silver winners were 10th graders Suzannah Isgett and Rachael Lee. Middle School Gold winners included 8th graders Lauren DiNicola and Collins Rice and 7th grader Lauren Ryder. Middle School Silver winners included 8th grader Kiant Chapman and 7th grader Emily Chong. Students read their works at an awards program held in their honor on May 7 at the Gibbes Museum.

On the regional level 62 students had their work published in a hardbound anthology, Celebration of Young Poets in the Fall 2005 edition for North Carolina and South Carolina. Senior writer Katie Meitzler was presented with a monetary award for being one of the top ten winners in her age category. In addition, SOA received the Poetic Achievement Award for having so many winners of exceptionally high merit.

The Creative Writers also entered the Reflections Competition which is sponsored by the PTSA. This year's theme was "I Wonder Why". School winners were: 10th grader Katherine Cox, first place; 10th grader Suzannah Isgett, second place; 6th grader Jacob Elsey, third place; and 10th grader Allan Cabiad, 4th place. All four students went on to place in the District IX competition, and Suzannah Isgett won 3rd place on the state level.

The Creative Writing Department also introduced a new course. Mrs. Henry taught Writing for the Moving Image. This course taught the art and craft of writing for film. Students learned script format; various film genres; and the screenwriter's role in film production.

The Creative Writing Department sponsored both middle and high school literary readings at several locations including the Black Box Theatre, Gage Hall and Millennium Music. On May 18, the Senior Thesis reading was held in the Black Box Theatre. "A night in the Nook", this year's theme, was inspired by a reading area in Mrs. Miles' room and Longfellow's quote, "The love of learning, the sequestered nooks, and all the sweet serenity of books." Each student read a selection from her/his senior thesis, which was published by BookSurge.

The Creative Writers also traveled to some unique locales in order to practice their art. Sixth and seventh grade Creative writers hiked to the top of the new Ravenel Bridge and sailed aboard the Schooner Pride in order to write about our beautiful city, Charleston from two very different points of view. The Eighth through Eleventh graders spent a day relaxing on a harbor tour and strolling the streets of the downtown Charleston in order to awaken their muses. Seniors kicked off the Senior Thesis project by traveling with the Theatre Majors to Lake Logan, North Carolina for a four day writers' retreat. Their trip included workshops focusing on the written word and performance, long mountain hikes, campfires under the stars and a "Suppressed Desires" Talent Show.

2005-2006 was a year filled with opportunity and new experiences for students in Creative Writing. And, of course, the year overflowed with writing, writing and more writing!

The Post and Courier

THE SOUTH'S OLDEST DAILY NEWSPAPER

May 16, 2006 • Charleston • North Charleston, S.C.

TUESDAY

Founded 1803 • 50¢



Jessica Atkinson, a senior at Charleston County School of the Arts, and her creative writing teacher, Rene Miles, talk Monday about the creative writing she submitted to The Scholastic Art & Writing Awards program. Jessica was one of five creative writing students from across the country to win a \$10,000 scholarship.

Accolades come early for writer

Teen wins scholarship, national recognition

BY MINDY B. HAGEN
The Post and Courier

One narrator resorts to cutting her-
self as a way of writing situations from

On the Web To read a poem and short story from Jessica Atkinson's award-winning portfolio, go to www.charleston.net/webextras.

Jessica Atkinson, an 18-year-old senior at Charleston County School of the Arts, has her creative writing teacher said, Jessica's short stories and poems don't exactly focus on "suzetts and butterflies."

"Jessica always had a different way of

The program aims to recognize creative teenagers early on and to offer scholarship opportunities for graduating high school seniors for excellence in visual arts, photography or writing.

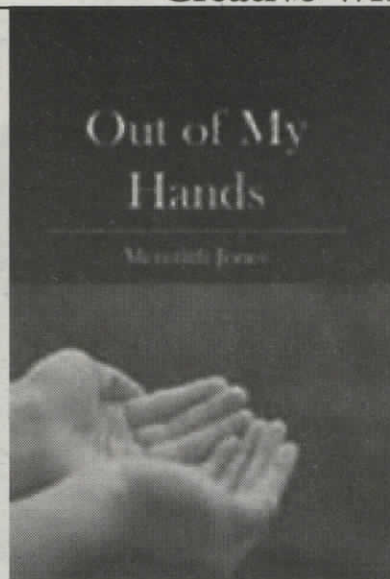
Jessica is one of 12 national top portfolio

Jessica Atkinson was one of five students in the United States to win a \$10,000 writing scholarship from Scholastic.

Creative Writing

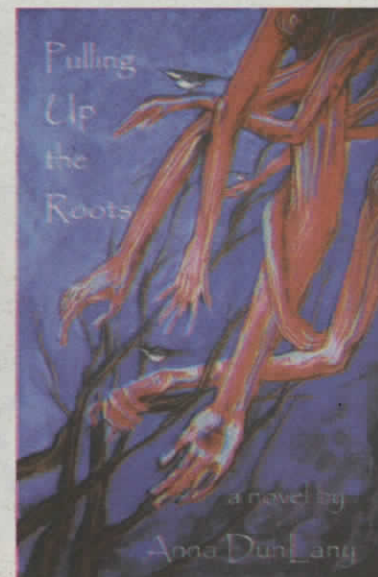
"Meredith Jones weaves words into a swing, lifts us up and places us on it. She gives us the safe push to fly into the air of childhood and then the landing down, getting our feet dirty. Her childhood is one where bright lollipops magically appear in drive-through bank drawers and where a grandmother's rug feels like a snake. But the poet grows and takes us with her on the journey of adulthood—the camaraderie of friends, the disappointment of betrayal, the sadness of abuse, illness and death, all describe with sensitivity and empathy. The girl has grown; the poet has evolved. With fresh language and strong endings, Meredith Jones is bound for bright beginnings."

-Jerri Chaplin, certified poetry therapist



Anna DunLany's moving story of a young southern girl's coming of age parallels the changes occurring in the lowcountry landscape that she loves. Poignant and compelling, it is a remarkable first novel. I'm proud to have been her mentor."

Mary Alice Monroe on Pulling Up the Roots



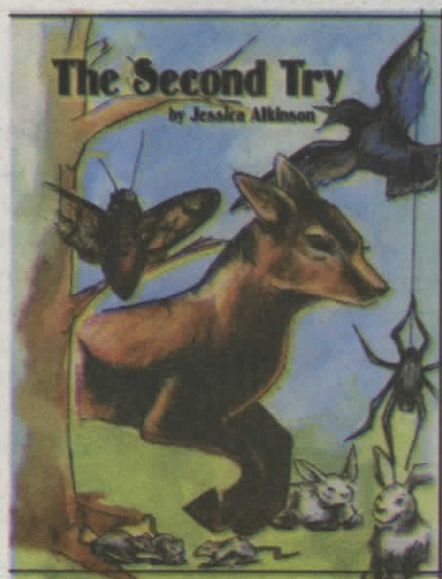
Silent Jukeboxes
by **Laci Dean**

At least once in your life, you meet someone who leaves such an impression on you that you never forget them. Their personality, their appearance—it doesn't matter why, but they stick in your mind, they refuse to let themselves be forgotten. And yet, these people are the ones who are never recognized as special; they are overlooked, begging in silence to tell their stories and share their lives, like old jukeboxes sitting in a dusty diner awaiting a coin to begin their magic, to pour their music in to the world. These silent jukeboxes are the strangest and most fascinating individuals one can meet. The stories and poems reflect the emotions, thoughts and lives of these people, in hopes of shedding light on their existence to those whom absentmindedly pass them by.

The Second Try
by **Jessica Atkinson**

Cait is a twenty-two-year old woman who looks to her diary from when she was fourteen to confront ill feelings she has about herself in the present. She finds that memories of a burdensome friendship and rape still boil inside her, and she must shed her past, along with tearing up the diary.

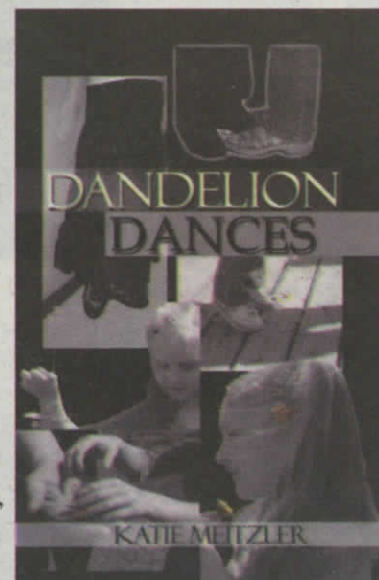
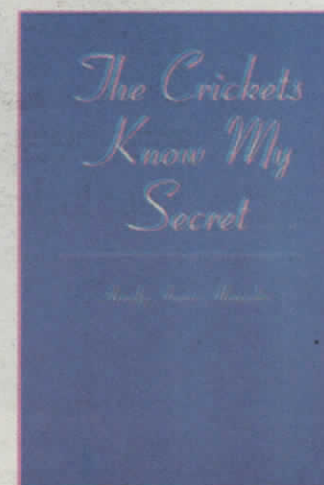
Written with a consistent string of bugs acting as symbols in the book, the dual feelings of being both predator and prey arise through the writing and convey both the helplessness and fierceness of the heroine.



Creative Writing Senior Thesis



Black Pearl contains poems written by **Tiera Rouse** during her senior year in high school in Charleston, South Carolina. This is her first collection of poetry. With a foreword by Marcus Amaker.



Katie Meitzler's "Dandelion Dances is the poetic and tenderly rendered story of two teenage sisters on the verge of womanhood. Despite tragedy and the drastically different turns each life takes, this novel has the power to convince that grace is the healing balm for which the broken soul yearns." – Beth Webb Hart

Whether she is describing some of life's best or worst moments, **Accily Alexander** writes of human emotions and relationships that we all recognize. Her poems are pithy, unpretentious, and bold. In them, what starts out as an ordinary circumstance—waiting for the phone to ring, eating Gummy Bears, or making a pinky promise—becomes an emotional ride, sometimes happy, more often not. The poems contain a sad knowledge that even though the day may yield the sustenance of shelter and food, it's often harder to come by what is just as important, love.

Susan Meyers, author of Keep and Give Away

Congratulations Class of 2006

TJ Mott

Congratulations T.J. We are very proud of you and your accomplishments. You will always be our number one!

Love, Mom, Dad, Krista, and Jonathan



Adam Gentile

Congratulations Adam! Study hard and have fun at Clemson.

Love, Mom, Dad, Abby and Jesse, Xani, and Anna Grace



Cait Brennan

Dear Cait, Congratulations on your upcoming High School graduation! We can't believe the time has passed so quickly. You have been a blessing to us for many years and we are proud and grateful to have you for our daughter.

Love, Mom and Dad (Pippin)



What an exciting time for you! You have made your way through the first significant phase of your life. Now, on to the next. Whatever that may be, your discipline, work ethic, determination and talent will carry you forward to success. It is the journey along the way that will house your memories of the good times, not so good times, and the acquired understandings to build upon-make the most of it and enjoy those special moments along the way.

Sincerely, Rose Maree Myers



The Class of 2006 has a very special place in my heart. You are the last class I taught as eighth graders, before I became assistant principal. I treasure my memories of your middle school days, and I observe with pride how you have grown into accomplished artists, dancers, musicians, actors, and writers. New faces have joined the Class of 2006, bringing more talent to an already gifted class. You are a grand group! I wish you well as you leave the School of the Arts. I already miss you! -Myrna Caldwell

Prom 2006



A night at the Grove

by Kathleen Smith

Even after losing our reservations at the restaurant and having to eat pizza at Mellow Mushroom, breaking one of my fake nails and getting lost on the way to prom, it still was one of the best nights of my life, and I definitely won't forget it. Ms. Tisdale and junior council picked the perfect theme and location to have our senior prom. Everyone looked amazing, including our prom princess, Noel Clemmons and prom queen, Acecily Alexander. And who could forget our handsome prince and king, Michael Linog and "J.T" Tolbert. I would also like to thank the teachers who got all dolled up to come chaperone, such as Dr. Ball, Ms. Bronk (WOW!), Ms. Tisdale, Ms. Colquitt, Mr. Reese, Ms. Jan, Ms. Sylvia and many more. Plain Jane sounded great and definitely had the party hoppin'. I don't even think I stopped dancing to try the delicious food provided by the PTA. Everyone loved the student performances, such as Nathan Matticks: "I just want to give props to my boy, Matty B. and girl, LaToya Smith for getting the party crowd going." All in all it was a fantastic prom, filled with beautiful people and wonderful music in an AMAZING setting.

Dance



Jazz Cafe



6th Grade Christmas Show



8th Grade Fitness Spa Field Trip



60's Day

Junior Composition



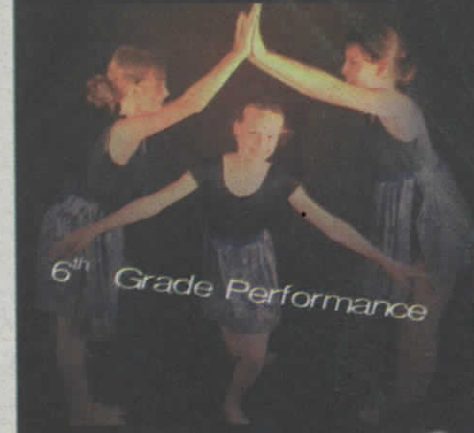
7th Grade Performance



Sweat Shirt Fundraiser



Art Smart



6th Grade Performance



Junior Composition



8th Grade Solo

8th Grade Solo



8th Grade Solo



6th Grade performance



Junior Composition

Dance



Rachel Maguire



Helena Smith



Morgan Hawkins



Sarah Myers



Hilari Ross



Shannon McSwain



Cameron Funderburk



Reba Bowens



Jenna Jones



Brandi Dirkes



Rindy Ross



Rachel Heidenberg



Zimone Mincey

High School Dance Performance Highlights for '05-'06

Outreach Performances:

Highlights: Ballet 4 dancers represented the SOA dance department by traveling to several elementary and middle schools and sharing an educational and diverse performance.

October

D.U.I...dancing under the influence: A Masterworks Dance Performance

Senior Thesis Performance 1

Highlights: Students choreographed their own masterworks as influenced by the master choreographers such as Balanchine, Ailey, and Cunningham

December

A Series of Unfortunate Events

Senior Thesis Performance 2

Highlights: Students choreographed peices that were inspired by social and political issues. All proceeds were donated to a cancer camp for children.

March

Common Ground

Site- Specific Senior Thesis Dance Performance 3

Highlights: The creative choreography of te senior thesis dancers inspired by non-traditional outdoor spaces.

High School Sottile Performance

Highlights: Faculty and guest choreography

April

Flying Solo/ Flying Through History

Junior Composition Dance Performance

Highlights: Student choreography from the SY05-06

May

Repertory 3 Dance and Creative Writers

Highlights: Collaborative performances created by writers and dancers

Improvisational Dance at the Jazz Cafe

Highlights: Dancers performed improvisation to responce to the jazz music performed by SOA students

One Last Dance

Senior Thesis Performance 4

Highlights: The final senior thesis performance of student choreography

Final Dance Senior Thesis Titles:

Sarah Myers: Shattered

Rachel Maguire: Walking Out

Morgan Hawkins: Possessed

Joia Tucker: Possessed and Egnarts

Christine Piontek: I Need To Find Some Peace

Shadana Moses: Sudden Change

Reba Bowens: Something Frank Gave Me and Egnarts

Cameron Funderburk: This is your Life

Jenna Jones: "...Not Like it Used To Be."

Rindy Ross: Polluted Holiday

Madalyn McCaulley: Dreams are Anywhere

Helena Smith: Envied

Rachel Heidenberg: caught between a rock and a hard place

Hilari Ross: Perfect



Shadana Moses



Christine Piontek



Maddy McCaulley

Senior Essays

Elise Giles



Though I've only been at SOA for two years and haven't come in contact with as many teachers as the rest of my classmates have, I've cherished each one of my teachers for the effect that they've had upon my life. It is awfully hard for me to choose just one and single them out as the one teacher who has had the most impact on my life; however, the one teacher who I believe has had the most impact upon my life would have to be Mrs. Benson.

Mrs. Benson has had such an effect on my life, and I will ever be grateful to her. Over the two years that I've had her as a teacher, I've learned so much about not only music but about myself, too. She's always been patient, caring and supportive, and she's helped me develop my musical taste and fine tune my talents. More importantly, she has sparked a new found love of music in me that had before been lost.

Over these two years, I've come in contact with quite a few teachers, but none of them can match the effect that Mrs. Benson has had on me. Over the time that I've been in her class, she's helped me to better know myself and my music which has ultimately helped me realize why I am on this earth. I shall never forget her, what I've learned, or the wonderful times that I've had in her class.

Katie Meitzler

I was nervous as I walked from class to class on my first day at SOA in ninth grade. Everyone knew everyone else, so I wasn't sure if I'd fit in. Pretty soon, I began to feel at home at SOA, especially in Creative Writing. With the couches and laid back atmosphere, CW really began to feel like home. That is until the second semester and I had to go to Mrs. Miles for Poetry Workshop. Everyone else knew Mrs. Miles, and for me, it began to feel like the first day of school all over again. Slowly, with the help of cookies and the candy jar, time in the nook, the thrilling poetry assignments and even dreaded response groups I learned that Mrs. Miles really is an alien frog, and I developed a passion for writing I never thought I would have.



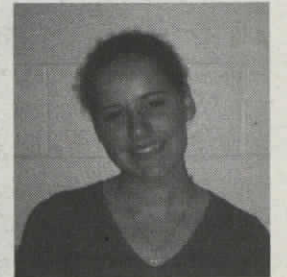
I say thrilling poetry assignments because they were thrilling. A few were more wearisome than others, and in the beginning my poems deserved to be shredded, but all of the assignments contributed to the roller coaster ride I found creative writing to be. There were the high points when I found an assignment in which my style and voice blossomed as well as the low points when I struggled to get words out on the page. Somewhere along the line I actually learned something. The exciting and the... less preferred assignments were all filled with reminders of various techniques and of course, "Show don't tell."

As much as I dreaded response group and reading my work aloud for everyone else to critique, I learned from that as well. The cookies and candy tasted better, but my peers gave me critiques I needed to improve as a writer. Going slowly around the table, I learned so much about how to take criticism and use for the best. It's definitely a necessary skill for life, and who better to learn it with than family?

The food was good, the naps refreshing, but the learning was the best. I've learned so much from Mrs. Miles and my cw sisters and brother about writing and criticism... I'll try to remember all of it when I nervously yet another new classroom in the fall.

Kirsten Palmer

My greatest fear in writing this essay is that the years I have spent at SOA will become trivialized by clichés and sappy truisms as I try to express how much my experience here has meant to me. One thing that comes to mind as I write this is that song that kids sing in church when they're in Sunday school: "The church is not a building. The church is not a steeple. The church is not a resting place. The church is the people." I'm not trying to compare SOA to a church; however, this song reflects my sentiments. Granted, my educational experience would have been strikingly different had the new school been built during my time here; it wouldn't have been the same without the occasional lakes popping up when it rains or the crazy artwork all over the walls or having to sprint the long distance between classes to get there on time. Nevertheless, eclectic landscape aside, the reason SOA is imprinted on my soul is because of the remarkable people that appear in the hallways and classrooms. I came to SOA as a timid, insecure seventh grader, not expecting to spend the next six years of my life here. Once I got a taste of the SOA spirit, however, I was hooked. I could not give up being able to spend 100 minutes of every day practicing and creating theatre. I didn't want to pass up the friends that I had made or the teachers that made such an impression on me.



This school opened my eyes so that I could see how wonderful it is to be an individual. Uniqueness and creativity run through the veins of SOA, giving students the courage to open up and accept change and diversity.

As I reflect on my time here, I realize how much this school has molded me. My friends and teachers have supported me and given me the confidence to face the scary reality of the "real world", although I will have to reset all of my clocks. Goodbye SOA and thanks for everything. I can't believe my time here is ending.

Leigh Dekle

I have been very lucky to call myself a theatre major at SOA for the last seven years. I still remember the first day of sixth grade when I had my first class in a trailer and Mr. Younts could not pronounce any part of my name. Now I am off to college, and for a while I will not have a major. It will be disconcerting, but I am hoping that either I will find theatre again or it will find me. That makes it sound like I am married and having a trial separation, which I suppose I am. It is actually quite ironic because studying theatre for most of my school career has shown me that I am interested and slightly skilled in other areas as well; I thought I would leave SOA an actress, but instead I am leaving a "person" Yes, a person!

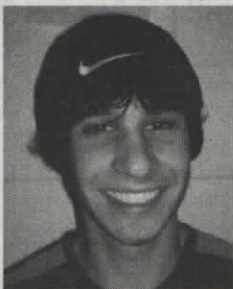


I have had tremendous opportunities at this charming place, everyone has. It is ridiculous to think that I could have graduated from high school somewhere else and never directed a scene, written a thesis, or been in really well-done, low-budget shows! And all of it was fun. I might be the biggest geek in the world, but I have had fun doing everything, even most of my academic work! There could not be a better collection of people anywhere else either. My class is especially fantastic; there were some people who I still did not know well enough before this year, and whatever force brought us together should be bottled. Anyway, leaving means I have to create a new "definition" for myself. I was freaking out about SOA not defining me, but not so much anymore. I did try to simplify my high school experience into a tidy and generic feeling, but that did not work out so well because it was too marvelous and expansive. It is like a present that is very difficult to wrap; of course I have no idea who I am supposed to give this present to either. Myself? Possibly. I think I have reached a conclusion (actually, partially through this essay): I am happy and leaving SOA a much better person than I was the first time I sloshed through the puddles.

Senior Essays

Adam Gentile

When I hear the question of what teacher or class has most strongly impacted me the first teacher that pops in my head is Mr. Brehm. Although I feel it's a shame that I had to meet him my senior year he has strongly impacted my life in many ways. As much as a cliché that it is he really makes my mornings brighter, since I do get to see him bright and early first block. For those of you who don't have Mr. Brehm 5 seconds past is the bell is tardy. Mr. Brehm is like no other teacher I have ever come across and is a perfect mixture of teacher and adult. He talks to the class as if we are intelligent and never seems to be talking down to the class. He is also very real with what he is thinking and what is happening. He isn't shy about saying that he doesn't care if you missed something because he's already given you a million other chances to make it up, but is the first to help you if you need it. Mr. Brehm's class is also virtually impossible to fail. If you are in danger of failing you can always do a lot of extra work, and you'll pass, he'll make you work and your work your tail off, but you'll pass. I not only find Mr. Brehm to be my favorite and most influential teacher, but I find myself quoting his mottos about life, and subject matter from both his government and economics all the time. He told us the first couple of days of school that when you see him outside of class or at a performance, which he attends most all of, that he doesn't want to talk about his class. He wants to know what else is going on and is one of the most easy going guy that you'll meet. His class opens your mind to a whole different realm and I value having him as my teacher. It is also under my admiration for him that made me decide that I couldn't give up teaching as a possible career choice.



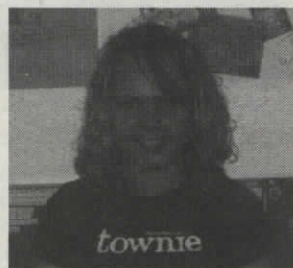
Brandi Dirkes

As I sit and eagerly anticipate the last seven weeks of my high school career I can not help but dwell on the past. For the last seven years, I have had my fair share of memories here at School of the Arts,

both good and bad. I entered my career at SA as a sixth grader and for the past 1,260 days I have had the same routine. I wake up at the same time, get to school just in time for the eight o' clock bell, travel to all my academic classes and go to major each day. Middle school through freshman year I played the clarinet in band, sophomore through senior year I shared many classes in the dance room where we all, "glowed, gleamed, and glistened" together.

Then, finally, that mysterious voice comes on the loud speaker announcing one of the best phrases, "may I have your attention for the afternoon announcement," which signifies there are only five more minutes left of school. The bell rings and all 876 students, plus a few members of the faculty, make a mad rush to leave the campus looking like ants after their hill has been mowed over.

Once a person does the same exact thing, give or take a few days, for seven school years it becomes natural. Considering any given school day I am on campus for approximately seven and a half hours which is most of the time that I am awake in a day. Meaning I spend enough time at school to consider it a home away from home. In other words, I have a home-sweet-home and a home-sweet-school.



Brent Sagan

I still remember my first day of high school at the School of the Arts. Hair combed back, teeth brushed, book bag filled with the days supplies and that new polyester smell, and soap suds still clinging to the back of my ears, I nervously took my first steps through the unfamiliar high school wing of SOA trying only to memorize my class schedule. I still remember the anxiety I had waiting for fourth period in which I was to meet my new art teacher Miss Jaycie Rappold. To tell the truth, I didn't immediately see the inspirational figure I now know her as, in fact I was intimidated and somewhat fearful of her booming voice and red hair.

It seemed like most of what I did that first year consisted of still-lifes and blind contours, a torture only fellow VA majors can fully appreciate. Miss Jaycie would profess that such horrific practices would only better our talent and were not just cruel forms of punishment. Of course she was right, endless hours of recreating the reflectivity of light on her dust-covered bottles have molded me into the artist I am today.

The most important thing Miss Jaycie ever taught me was the ability to see color. The best way I can explain this is by asking you to look at a cloud. Where most people would look at this cloud and see only white, I see blues, grays, yellows, and purples. You see, nothing in life is truly white or truly black. Everything has its own unique mixture of colors. Where most people would see a woman walking her dog in the park, I see a painting. I can visualize the paint as the brush spreads it across the smooth canvas, the marks made by the bristles still visible. I can picture myself toying with the light as it filters through the foliage of the overhanging trees.

Miss Jaycie gave me that. She gave my paintings meaning and taught me how to express myself through them. She taught me how to become a painter and gave me the attention I needed to become successful. She places the needs of her students above her own and that is why Miss Jaycie Rappold is such an inspiration to all SOA visual artists.



Jennifer Thomas

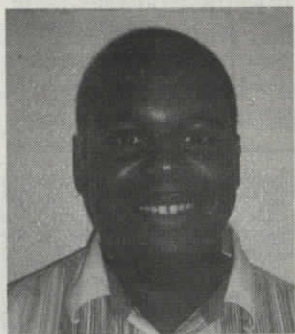
There is a teacher, a very special teacher, a teacher that has been with me from sixth grade all the way to my senior graduation. With her New York Jewish style and attitude, we all know who I'm talking about! I'm talking about the one and only Mrs. Kay.



She's always been there for me, helping me with my homework and projects. If I felt like giving up, she would pull me back up and help me continue my work. She is the one that helped me make it all the way to the 12th grade. Do I have to tell you that she is the best? If you can't see what a great teacher she is, you need to turn yourself around and march into Mrs. Kay's classroom!

I love Mrs. Kay bunches, and I will deeply miss her sense of humor. I will honor, respect, and remember Mrs. Kay for the rest of my life. Thank you Mrs. Kay!

TJ Mott



Although the lessons I picked up at SOA, both formal and informal, will help me for the rest of my life, it seems that even attempting to describe the value of my SOA education does it injustice. When I think about my education at SOA, I realize that the most important lessons were about processes; not necessarily remembering course-specific material. In other words, it's not crucially important to know what happens to characters in fictional works like Madame Bovary. What's important is that you can understand the process involved in reading a long, intimidating book to gain something from it. I find that this theory extends to art as well. Being a band major, I often find performances anti-climactic: after many hours of hard work and artistic development, I am forced to sum it all up into a comparatively short performance. That's one of the reasons it's so hard to write this paper: after seven years of working hard, all I'll

have to show is a diploma and this paper. No - my education and experience at SOA are worth the effort!

Over the years, I have learned the importance of working together and efficiently to complete tasks. Outsiders' opinions are invaluable in evaluating where you are academically and artistically. After all, art would be worthless without an audience to appreciate it. Community service is also an important aspect of my SOA education. It's good to be talented, but greatness comes from sharing talent with others. Having such a symbiotic relationship with others allows both parties to gain.

As I close my paper, I wonder if I forgot to include some important lesson I've learned. I have picked up many traits just from being at SOA, most of which are difficult to communicate in writing. In fact, brevity is best communicated in the lack of writing.

Matt Bostick

Many things to say and not enough ink to say them. First off, I'd like to say that without my years at SOA I'd be lacking in life experience. To my teachers, Mr. Wood thank you for all your love and support for me throughout my senior year, and I'm not gay! Never will be. Mr. Davis, thanks for the tuff love, 'nough said. Mr. Orvin, Ceasar, I shall forever be Achilles, your general! Ms. Olson, being small is a tuff job for us, but you handle it well. Mr. Brehm, hopefully my rights to the sixth amendment won't have to exercised, ever. Ms. Awkerman and Mr. Moore, bad jokes make good laughter and good ones create careers. To my friends, JT, Jerell, Johnny. The reign of the four Kings has come to an end, but the life of the four brothers is just beginning. We were young and dumb, but we were still greats and forever we will be.

Dalozzo, Charles, Domo, Jono, Nate, Daris, Blake my other brothers who've helped me become who I am and provided me with many fun times. Shadana, my high school love, I am very interested to see what the future holds for us. We've been through a lot, but I'm glad I went through it with you. You've loved and supported me for three years, and I thank you, love you. You too BB and Panda Man! To Cecily my dear sister, I love you. Helena, you too. Margan, Joia, Tierra, I'll never forget any of y'all and I'll miss all of you. Lynette and Leon Bostick (mom and dad), thank you for letting me sleep in your house for 17 years without rent! I love you very much; thank you for everything. Granny, thanks for being there for me when sometimes there was no one to be there for you. I love you granny. Granddaddy Nate, thanks for all your great advice and love, now I have to step-out. People pass, but memories are forever. Nautia, Brian, Josh, Kia, Bishop, Braxton, Chris, Love y'all.

Kissy, Poogie, Boo, Tarsha, Sammy, Leroy, Frank, Thad, Horse, Love y'all too. Man, this was supposed to be short. Goodbye.

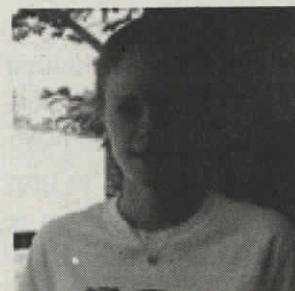
Lauren Shaw

In creative arts schools, but I'd have to say that my years at SOA have been the most memorable. I have been fortunate enough to grow as an artist from kindergarten through high school. And no, not because it is the most recent but because it's where I have learned the most.

Not just about music and my major, but as a person; socially, spiritually, and scholastically. Most students do not attend a school that is middle through high school, and I have been with

some people from kindergarten, all the way to high school. This has allowed me to gain friends and also a second family. It is going to be hard to walk across the stag at graduation leaving my family in the past and watching them move on in life. Without them, I wouldn't have made it through school. We have millions of memories that I will hold onto the rest of my life. I have been told by older friends and family members that high school is one of the most life changing experiences of our life and now that I have completed those four years, I can agree. So, I would like to send out my heartfelt thanks to everyone who has been a part of my life this far. My love goes out to two girls in particular. Joia Larae Tucker and Emily Michelle Steele. Girls, I don't know what

I'd do without the two of you. We will always be sisters, no matter what. I love y'all. And congratulations, class of 2006. We've finally done it!



Rachel Heidenberg

This is supposed to be my senior essay. It's the last quarter of my senior year and I'm supposed to be writing an essay. I've written enough essays this year to sell on E-bay. College applications, DBQs, Teacher Cadet reflections, scholarships and personal statements. We've all learned that essays must be structured and concise. They have to be organized and grammatically correct. Your three prong thesis must be in the last sentence of your first paragraph. Since this essay is supposed to reflect my time at SOA, I'm choosing to throw away those rigid requirements. My time at SOA hasn't been structured or boring and I don't want my essay to reflect that. So enjoy. There's no thesis and there's plenty of grammatical errors that should be circled with a red pen.

I started SOA as a naive private school student. Everything was huge. I had never had class in a trailer; much less have one broken in to. Middle school was a blur. Classmates came and went; and so did teachers. I remember we made our Giver map project entirely out of food. That was so much fun. Freshman year was a surprise. My classes were challenging and I became more determined. Dance was becoming a lot harder, a lot faster. I actually set a goal for myself: Be in Ballet 6 your senior year. Finishing my senior year, I can say that I accomplished that goal. I can also say that I've grown so much as a person and as a student. I've learned I'm not afraid of a challenge and I know that I have the ability to push myself. I'm determined and I'm not afraid of telling you what I think. Just like my essay, my experiences at SOA have been unstructured. I love that teachers take the time to listen. Every class is different. There isn't a firm lesson plan that thrusts "necessary information" down your throat. Everything is relative. Everything that I've learned at SOA, including the real world skills that are not included in the South Carolina standards, has been perfectly unstructured. Hopefully, just like my essay, which, of course, is a matter of opinion.

SOA's unstructured education can really be called "artistic expression," but I think it's better to just call it "perfect."



DaLonzo Gibson

It is now the end of the year and soon everyone will go their own way into the world, a society which has no favorites. But first, I want to thank God for bringing me as well as every one of you this far. Second, I want to thank my parents, who were determined for me to finish and go further in my education. Third, I want to thank my siblings who help teach me, defend me, and push me to go even further than they went. Fourth, I want to apologize to everyone for the things I may have said and done wrong and encourage those who admire me and desire to follow in my steps. Fifth I want to give praise and recognition to my senior brothers and sisters, and band. Sixth, I want to thank my academic and art teachers who have shared their wisdom and strength to get me farther in life. Mr. J. Braunruther my first music teacher, M. S. Harris my second, and Mr. B. Kerr my third, but not last. These teachers have taught me all I know in music education and performance.

I want to congratulate all the seniors for making it this far; this is the end of a new beginning. I also want to encourage you to follow your dreams, continue on, and be a STAR in the fields that you pursue, however many there may be. The sky is the limit, but always remember it goes higher than the atmosphere.

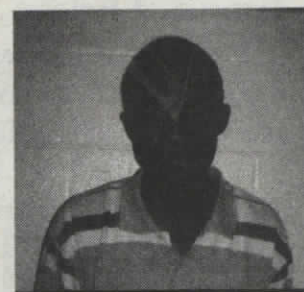
We have been through the fire, through the ring, SOA's swamps and puddles, and chemistry's blazin', Bunsen burners, but through it all we still stand. We oil up and start going as fast as we can, letting nothing get in our way and everything slip right off. We grew strong with and in our fellow brothers and sisters, walking by faith, never knowing when something tragic would occur. Together as we've walked our walk we have thrown numerous punches and knocked out the toughest of the tough and that's a success itself. Not to brag, but this is the best and strongest school in the world. Many seniors here have grown together since sixth grade and others later, and between that time a UNIQUE bond has formed. We all have come together on numerous occasions and accomplished many things that other schools couldn't nor dared to do. We come from the ends of the county just to form a school of progressive, excellent students, teachers, curriculums, and arts. AMAZING.

Finally I want to thank everyone for giving me the chance to unite with them in friendship. I thank you all for being there and showing care and respect to me and each other. This is the end as I say goodbye. I will reach for sky and grab a star and make it my own, so that I can learn its ways and become one whatever I do. Farewell, See You Soon, God Bless.

Thanks for Reading.

Brothers: Jerrell Lewis, Matthew Botsick, Charles Aiken, Johnny Knight, John Tolbert, Dominick Palmer, Peter Dupuis, Nathan matticks, Daris Sullivan, Jonothon Brunson, George Bates, and Ben Aton

Sisters: Reba Bowens, Helena Smith, Joi Tucker, Sonora Griffin, Caitlin Brennan, Tierra Rouse, LaToya Smith, Cait Brennan, Shannon Mcswain, Acecily Alexander, Shadana Moses, Kathleen Smith, Zimone Mincey, Morgan Hawkins



Senior Essays

Cameron Funderburk



I'm supposed to be writing about the most amazing years of my life, (so far), so this is going to be really difficult. First of all, I've been at SOA for seven years. That's almost half of my life. People wonder why the students are so different at our school... I guess it's because we know each other so well. Other things that I've only found at SOA are the sense of community, the acceptance, the artistic talent, the passion, and the most unique, interesting individuals. Some of the best memories and experiences of my life have been created because of this school. See...

Kathleen, you're my one and only Sife. Since every minute of my life is spent with you I will just touch on some of the more important aspects of our relationship. Belting out our many love songs in the car has definitely held us together. I love how everything Avril says relates to our lives and how we have the same guy problems (you know what I'm referring to.) I will miss talking about everything with each other and spending the night together almost every night. My favorite times with you are the frequent big O's at Moe's, the many trips to Columbia, spring break in M.B., Jantzi, all the memories in the smart mobile, our Summerville boys, sigma chi chums, CofC group, Edisto crew, Hanahan posse, making a million plans, leading people on, and ditching out (we still haven't learned), and our attraction to dating guys that are best friends (: T&H, T&J, D&A, R&T, J&M, C&J, and of course the best Rob and Chris). I luh you porky! We're GRITS. We're gonna paint the town. The world is our stage. You know I told you on the Don Holt bridge that I can never love a boy as much as I love you. And that won't change.

Oh, Allison, we are definitely partners in crime. Thanks for wanting me to be your accomplice for anything scandalous you've ever done. It all started when we went to Miguel's pool and it's turned into doing detective work at people's houses, trips to the creepy place with posters, creating the j club, big C nights, and DEW. But of course the best times were wrecking up telephone wires, attending horse camp, and our trip to Disney World when we snuck into Splendid China. I will always be available to give you counseling and advice! I know you wouldn't be able to survive without it. You can just pay me by letting me read your text messages like always! Meredith, we have Myrna to thank for our friendship when Big Poot and Lil Poot were born. We've always stuck together even when markers were thrown at us or when we were kicked out of Mr. Murray's class. I don't know HOW we haven't been kicked out more...but I guess since we leave to do community service during school they love us. We just paid our physics tutor to flirt with us. We definitely became C's with B's when we went to Myrtle Beach for the CS concert. Disney World in 10th grade was a blast, but going this year and meeting Guilherme and being threatened to get kicked out definitely topped it off! JC better be ready to see our UW's that say "When in disgrace with fortune and men's eyes" on the last day of school. If we do ANYthing today...Duck love equals our journal, our symbol, our innocence, the many "firsts" we've had together, reciting French poems everywhere we go, calling 93 Jamz and being extremely white, would you rather's, the thrill of lifting, buster, the picture over my bed, some people don't know this but...

Lindsay, thinking about the 17 years we have spent together, I wouldn't trade any moment we've had for the world. The wonderful memories we've created are unforgettable and our bond is so insanely incredible. I can't really explain any of it. Ah, those rides to school, nights downtown, songs we've memorized and the many we've composed, our commercials, the food concoctions you create and I consume... I'm going to look disgusting without you to do my hair and make up for big events next year. GRIL, the trips we've taken together to LA, Paris, and OBX and the many trips to Disney, skiing, cruises, the ATL, NYC, and the Bahamas were amazing and will always be some of my favorite experiences. We're hard people to understand so I love that we know each other so well. If I could take up a whole page I would, but we have that crazy connection so I know you know exactly how I feel. I love you. Acecily, where am I going to find another black person like you?? Wait, I am black. Seriously I don't know what I'm going to do without you. And my other honey Shadana, girl we are too funny in dance. We have to live on the ballet dictionary legacy or we will dishonor Russially. "Girls come out I'm just freshening my makeup." Y'all are Trieflin' but I love you so much!

Now my dancers...Spending every day together has definitely made us close over the seven year period. Trying to escape from Ms. Cline's studio through the ceiling (and light fixture,) spending half the period in the dressing room and then hiding behind the curtain...we have some good times in our dressing room...and interesting conversations that Andy listens to. I will always remember doing kama sutra before performances

to calm our nerves, taking sr trips to McDonalds and WalMart, devising our secret grad. dance plan, dyeing leo's, and most of all the jokes we have come up with during ballet class. Christine we have that special "oh what a beautiful morning" bond and we've shared many moments on our many trips to Wal-Mart, McDonalds, the famous Bojangles adventure, shopping the "five dollar discounts" and gossiping at Chili's. AH OH!

I had another ENTIRE page typed up with memories my friends and I have created over the years but I had to delete it due to the length. Those old times will always be remembered but it is now 2006 and it is definitely the best year I've spent at SOA. Chinese firedrills on V-day, how blest we are ZOOT creep off stage, painting eyebrows, the chimes in psych, sausage fingers, come on guys I need gas, crying at Moes and staying until it closes, lunches with my Bday early out crew, and of course living at CSA. I got a little carried away. This is the longest essay I've written all year. So, this is it... SOA has truly impacted me. Incredible moments have occurred because of some of the most amazing people. These are people and events that have made a difference in my life and have shaped me into the person I am. Everyone knows I'll be the first person at our 5 year reunion! BEAUM

Daniel Vincent

Ahhh.....what I wouldn't do to go back in time and correct some of my errors. Yes, hindsight is 20/20, but I'll spare the clichés and get to the heart of it. I am actually content with the way I've chosen to spend my time here at SOA and, for the most part, the



mess-ups I've made are really not worth going back to fix. Instead, I'm going to digress from the focus of "number two" and lean more towards "number five" in this essay (those of you who had to write one of these know what I mean). There are actually quite a few good memories that I wouldn't mind reliving simply to feel that unmatched sense of satisfaction that comes with an unprecedented accomplishment, a good laugh, etc., and while I've had x number of these experiences (where $x \rightarrow \infty$ for all you privileged children who get to take Calc AB next year), I'm going focus on three and throw out the rest for the sake of y, the space in which I'm allowed to write (which _ 2 pages, double-spaced).

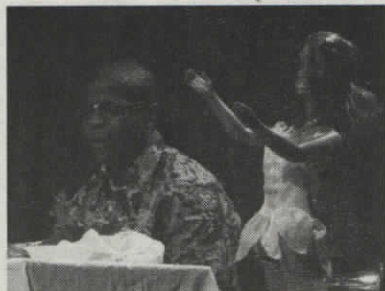
There are only two of us left who remember the days of Hammy (the other being David DuTremble), but believe you me, we remember them most vividly. In fact, perhaps the only memory more vivid than the AP U.S. history class itself was the 60 I made on the first test. Sixty. Not exactly something a straight-A student is used to, and needless to say it didn't sit very well on me. So, where's the pleasant experience here? Perhaps it was the sense of humility I was force-fed, but more likely than not it was the 95 I made two tests later after completely re-learning how to write an essay. I had nothing but that grade on my mind for the next four days. After all, I earned it! And...what is this? I actually learned something in the process? How absurd. Anyway, If given the option I would definitely sit through the class period again when Ms. Hamilton gave me that paper with that number written in oh-so-beautiful red ink at the top.

Guess what, experience number two on my list comes from the same class. As if the standard curriculum weren't tough enough, we were assigned at the beginning of the second semester a research "project" to be turned on May 1. To make a long story very short, I had to buy a 1.5-inch binder to hold its 250 pages at its completion. I spent all of spring break in '04 typing 22 essays and outlines in addition to completing my 8-page chemistry paper. I would certainly relive the feeling of just getting that sucker DONE. So, when your teacher assigns you a few math problems to do next April, just remember old Daniel who had to type three essays per day.

All right, enough with that U.S. history business. What I really want to go back and relive is Big River, not because I was obsessed with the play (or Corey Webb-cough, cough OMI) but because it meant that I was actually able to play my guitar, even if it was mostly cheesy music. I actually developed some decent calluses by the time the last show dropped, but once school resumed its usual life-devouring schedule I quit playing almost entirely, so now my fingers have about five minutes of endurance. Oh, well, I guess I'll just have to settle for watching my Big River DVD and reminiscing over the days when my life was consumed by music and not by confidence intervals (for all you privileged children who get to take stats next year), antiderivatives and verb conjugation. Oh, yeah, and that sexually promiscuous woman whom I like to call Madame Bovary.

Arts Overview

Theatre Overview

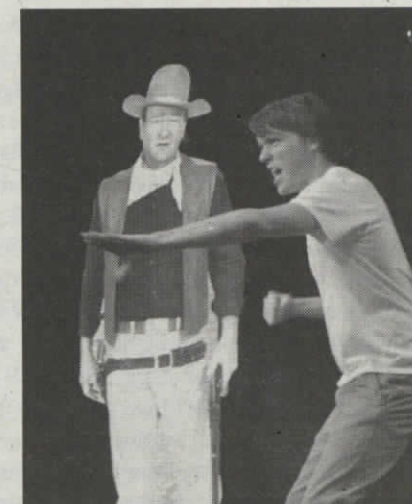


The SOA Theatre Department had an extremely busy year. Theatre majors picked up their academic schedules and it was already time to audition for the High School and Middle School Touring/Competition Play. The high school competition play was an adaptation of Agatha Christie's *Murder on the Orient Express*. The cast of 25 actors and crew participated in the STCA One Act Competition. Blake Alford and Alex Phillips walked away with top honors as members of the "All Star Cast." *Murder on the Orient Express* won for best technical production. The middle school touring production of *Much Ado about High School* was directed by Mary Stone. Katie Isaacson was the assistant director for this outstanding production. *Much Ado About High School* toured schools throughout the Charleston area. The audiences responded enthusiastically to the production's well-acted characters and clever direction.



Our Fighting Gnomes is a one of a kind youth improv troop. This year's troop has lived up to all expectations. The Fighting Gnomes performed throughout the year for audiences of all ages. This year's improv performances included schools from the tri-county area, a gig at Theatre 99, a workshop in Orlando, Florida and a workshop/performance in Myrtle Beach SC.

The high school theatre majors accomplished an amazing amount of work this year. In addition to the many classroom assignments and projects, the high school theatre majors came together to create the annual Haunted House and Smack Down Stage Combat Competition. November brought High School Juries in which the theatre majors perform short scenes and monologues for judges that included Charleston theatre professionals. The final performance before Winter Break was the 9th Graders' mask pieces. The New Year was filled with the preparation for the annual South Eastern Theatre Conference and Spring Play Fest. Every year our junior class auditions for colleges while at the South Eastern Theatre Conference. This year's juniors received more call-backs to college interviews than any previous class. Spring Play Fest is a festival of one act plays that are written and directed by the 11th graders. The 9th and 10th graders are the actors. Best Ensemble went to Larrisa Clarke, Jackson Holder, Ally Bing, Robert Kleiman and Leah Wilson. Kurt Polley won Best Supporting Actor. Gabrielle Erranova was awarded Best Supporting Actress. Raymond Caulder and Ally Bing were recognized as Best Actor and Actress. Ashli Burnell won Best Director. The top prize of the evening went to Brittney Harrington for Best Playwright. In March, Ally Bing and Katie Isaacson competed in the National Shakespeare Competition, sponsored by the English Speaking Union of the United States. Ally won for the Lowcountry division and went on to represent our school in New York at the Kennedy Center.



The high school Theatre Department ended the year with its annual Gnome Coming and the high school Theatre Banquet. The middle school theatre majors were equally busy this fall term. The year started with the middle school theatre majors touring all of the major theatres in downtown Charleston. The 6th grade majors wrote and performed monologues. The 7th grade participated in Art Smart and presented two evenings of Short Form Improv. Finally the 8th grade tackled Long Form Improv performing for friends and family. The second half of the year for the Middle School Theatre Department is quite demanding. February is the month of the Tunnel of Love Show and Dance. March is the month of the 8th Grade play. The entire Middle School Theatre Department join forces to create the Tunnel of Love, which is a dance and theatrical production. This year's Tunnel of Love was a huge success. The eighth grade play, written by Mr. Younts was a wonderful night of old-time theatre. Audiences were delighted by the talents of the theatre majors, the lively audience participation and the silly melodramatic word play. The spring brought the annual Middle School Adjudications. Middle school theatre students are judged in three areas: 1) monologue, 2) cold readings and 3) theatre vocabulary. Adjudications challenged the student's skill and talent. This year we have four students that scored 93 or above: Addison Dent, Leila Gorstein, Matt Paul and Everett Pompeii. The year rounded out with the 7th and 8th grade physical theatre performance and the 6th grade performing scenes by William Shakespeare in the Elizabethan Showing. The Middle School Theatre Department ended the year with our annual Middle School Picnic.



The SOA Theatre Department has a successful year due to the talent and dedication of the theatre majors and their families. As we say goodbye to our talented 12th grade class, we look forward to what the future has in store for us all.

Visual Arts Highlights

Visual Arts New York Trip.

Lainey Harrison won the Archibald Rutledge Scholarship for \$5,000.00

Brent Sagan won 1st in the Junior Duck Stamps Competition

1st Annual senior show - Largest AP class to date (and the best AP class to date)

Senior Thesis Portfolios

Addie Brown: "Relationships"

Meredith Eads: "Abstract Bridges"

Brent Sagan: "SC Water Fowl"

Erynn Hampton: "Self Portraits"

Leslie Thompson: "Cycles"

Michelle Willies: "Self Portraits"

Ben Aton: "Self portraits"

George Bates: "Fears"

Lainey Harrison: "Self Portraits"

Cait Brennan: "Personality Traits"

Lea Yannetti: "Texture"

Grace Davis: "Childhood Memories"

Allison Smith: "Abstracted Landscapes"

Dalia Dalili: "Text"

Stephen Carlock: "Drawing"

Senior Essays

Corey Webb

They asked me where I'll be in ten years. 2016? Well, I'll be the most influential, thought provocative songwriter in the country. My technicality as a musician will be superior to most and my presence alone will be enough for people to surrender their personal greed for the improvement of humanity. My voice will be heard throughout the world. I will be a leader among nations, a unifier of cultures, the catalyst of green societies global. I'll be the purist, the savior, the first avatar of the coming age. I'll practice Siddha Yoga and navigate oceans and beyond as captain of a sea-vessel, fleet commander, commodore of ships. I'll write an epic poem of a young girl who takes up sword only to find the dragon has already been slain by those hired to slay her; and maybe a book or two for the road.



But there are always problems. I can't write well, I can't play any instrument particularly well, I can't sing beautifully, and my dad is the boat captain, not me. Why couldn't I have started focus when I was six? It seems custom of great people to have a particular focus on something special, anything special, as a youngster. Me? Nope. I suppose I was "trite," but boy did my parents try. They pushed me into piano lessons with which I, in turn, "lost" my practice books and they also bought me a little guitar with which I never replaced the string I busted. If there was a non-alphabetical list of children destined to grow into musicians, I was last.

It's not too bothersome being in the back right now though. What? I believe. If there's one thing that starting here, looping north, and coming home-front again has shown me, it's the value of belief. One must believe in who he can become because without dreams, there is no identity. I believe in who I can become because of the inspiring people with me. To be surrounded by those who value creation is to be blessed and though dreams do not always come true, the process holds far more value than the presentation anyhow.

There are two objects: a large mountain and a sheet of glass. The mountain goes to my mentors, parents, and my friends. It is my appreciation to you because you have led my little head to the sheet of glass that is now before me. I find it interesting to look through this fragile, transparent sheet, to see what lies on the other side but to also see my reflection looking back at me. Those I love are grasping my sheet of glass around the edges to hold it steady and I thank you. This glass is my potential and as this year draws to a close, it seems that we are all finally arriving in front of our very own breakable reflections of life, with more and more hands reaching out to hold each one high. We won't let go. As we move and grow, hands may seem to interchange but it is not loss of connection because we, all of us, are one. What an honestly beautiful community of give and take we have here! There is much love in the world, but so much room for more, and that is our purpose. We move on and we grow, but we never forget. Plus no one wants a bunch of broken glass on the ground anyway. And what if you're bare foot?

My years at SOA have been short but sweet. What I will remember the most about this school is not the academics, but the experiences I've had here. I have been challenged and tested and pulled in different directions over the course of my two short years here.

Amy Green



I have met people of every variety whom have taught me that it is impossible to classify others into groups. I have no desire at all to classify others at this point in my life, but instead want to soak up every minute I get to spend with other people. It does not matter to me if I'm having a blast or if we're debating or arguing; essentially, it doesn't matter if the time shared is positive or negative because I'm experiencing other people and learning about how they think, what they enjoy, and whatever else they share with me. SOA has taught me to enjoy life, all aspects of it, not just the big things. I've come to appreciate the small things, too, because of my years at SOA. I have been taught how to love life.

Loving life makes everything so much more enjoyable. As a senior, my biggest concern is spending as much time as possible with the people I've come to know and love. Graduation is certainly something to look forward to, but will only be another memory to add to my list of "Things Amy Loves About SOA." I'm spending my last few weeks here, as I believe many other seniors are, enjoying the atmosphere, the students, teachers, other faculty, the "wonderful" facilities, and the ability to focus on our senior theses and other art major activities. For many of us, these are the times that will be what we remember most about SOA, so it is almost too early to be writing this essay. I don't feel like I can completely reflect upon my time here without my ending. I know that I've greatly enjoyed my two years here and have grown academically and as a person, as cheesy as that sounds, but I can't come to a conclusion, or as Leigh says, "wrap up my time here" quite yet. I suppose it will be something that happens in time.

Whitney Patterson

I always knew that looking back on the tears would make me laugh, but I never knew that looking back on the laughs would make me cry!

Wow, seven years have already gone by. I can remember sixth grade, standing in that crowded cafeteria trying to figure out where I was suppose to go. Time sure flies! When I first came to SOA, I wasn't real thrilled about being here. I was going to be away from all my home friends. At that time, I didn't realize that being here was actually a big accomplishment. As the years went on, I realized I was here for a reason.

I remember entering high school, wishing that I went to a regular high school. Wishing that I was "normal" like other kids. I was grateful that we did have a cheerleading team (which I was a part of). Even though we didn't have sports it was fun cheering for the arts. Go Arts! Even after wishing to be "normal", I'm so glad I stayed here. I believe I learned some lessons that I would have never learned at a "real" high school. SOA has provided me the opportunity to experience many cultures. The diversity here represents the world!

As I reflect back, I can't believe that I have made it thus far. I made it through all of Mr. Younts' play reports and class assignments (Theater majors you know what I'm talking about). I also made it through Senior thesis. I have achieved many goals, but out of all these goals, completing senior thesis is my most prized. For I know that it was nobody, but Him who brought me thus far.

I am thankful for the relationships I have established here. At SOA everyone is like one big family. I'm pretty sure that these relationships will last a lifetime. Joia- Thank you! Thanks for always being there. Continue to dance as if no one is watching. Make me proud; I know you can do it! Helena & Sanora- Stay loud & crazy! For someone somewhere will always enjoy that. To my new found friends: Tiera, Morgan, and Zimone- I'm so grateful you guys entered my life. For I know you all came for a reason. To all my homeboys, brothers: Jerell, JT, Matt, Johnny, etc....- Thanks for having my back. Y'all know I got mad love for y'all. Last but not least, my girl April. April we have had so much fun over the last couple of years. It's been crazy! Through all the hatin' and lovin' you stayed strong! Continue doing what you do and stay REAL! You have been through a lot, but continue to give HIM praise. Like I always say, "He ain't through with us yet!!!" Gurl, I will always love ya! Thanks to everybody who made this SOA journey memorable. I had a lot of fun, but now it's time for me to move on. I'm now closing this chapter in my life, but will always come back to revisit it. I'm now passing the torch on to my mini-me, Shekinah: Hold down SOA and rep it well; just like I did. Reach for the moon, for if you fall you will be among the stars! Love ya much!



To the Class of '06: Stay strong and brilliant. Continue to be the best you al can be. I can't wait to see where all of you are in 10 yrs. Don't forget about me! I'm out. This chapter is now closed!

Alex Phillips

The prompt said to reflect on my years at SOA. So I did, and it made me think, what about this school really makes me love it, what is it that is going to make graduation such a bittersweet affair? For me what I will miss more than anything is the family I will be leaving behind that are my friends and teachers at SOA. Not only is our school small enough that we can create bonds with each other and with our teachers that normal schools cannot achieve, but being within a major created for me a real feeling of a family that I will miss for the rest of my life. I can't imagine being closer to a group of people. We have all been through so much together, most of us from 6th or 7th grade. Though all of us have very good friends outside of theater, no one else can possibly understand what we have all gone through to be able to walk across the stage at graduation and be able to hear Mr. Wood call our name, "with senior thesis". For me, I consider it the greatest achievement of my life, and without every single one of my fellow theater majors, and of course Samuel, it could never have been accomplished.

Besides being put into such a community, I was given skills in the art I care so much about that I will have for the rest of my life. I know I could never have grown so much as an actress in any other setting. Though there were plenty of days when the test after performance after project after cold reading after monologue after pantomime after improve work after game that Mr. Younts made us do made me what to just throw my hands in the air (with a dramatic air of course) and do away with this class that I did not need in the slightest to get through high school with, now I am immensely grateful for what we were put through. I without a doubt became a better artist than I ever should have hoped to be. And if nothing else theater majors seem to revel in being able to hold the title of being in the hardest major (at least as far as the work load and expectations go).

I guess that's really what I wanted to say in this essay. I am of course very happy with the fabulous academic education I received at this school, but that isn't in the end that exceptional of a thing to get in high school. But the experiences I had going through theater at the School of the Arts can be denied by no one as being exceptional at the very least. I'll never forget the people and things I've met and accomplished here. And if nothing else, I have learned that it is actually possible to accomplish things that you could swear at the onset can't be possible. They definitely are, and that is certainly something that I can use for the rest of my life.

Where are they now: SOA's Valedictorians

Adam Kassim: Class of 2001

What are you doing now?

I am in Chicago, still struggling to figure out which way is east ("they say" east is toward the Lake... but I ask you, what happens when you cannot see the Lake?), working two jobs to support myself while I am in two plays, trying to be a real person, and of course, making a whole heap of mistakes. Exactly where I am supposed to be. *How did your status as valedictorian at SOA affect your post high school life?*

It did not affect me that much. I am sure it helped me get into college. However, other than that, it is like one of those fact books one keeps in the bathroom for toilet reading. The truth is any achievement gives one more confidence, whether its finishing a paper or graduating high school. The confidence of accomplishment helps propel us into the next stage of life.

Were you prepared for "life after high school" in college or in job by your years at SOA?

I do not think anything can really prepare you for life after high school. SOA gave me the tools, but it was up to me to learn how to use them. And lets be honest, I am mechanically challenged.

What thing most surprised you about life after high school?

Our parents were right. Money does not grow on trees. Money is paper and paper comes from trees. But trees take a very long time to grow.

What is the best thing about life after high school?

The best and hardest thing is that you take responsibility for yourself, your actions, your life.

Where do you want to be in 10 years and what do you expect you will be doing?

Ann Carter and I will be living in a farm house decorated with a French



country flair about an hour away from a large bustling city with our rich husbands who are never home, a dog or two, and some chickens whose pen is very far from the house (so Ann does not get annoyed with all the clucking). Hey, it might happen - who knows! The possibilities are endless. *What bit of advice could you offer the class of 2006?*

In an Oscar Wilde's *An*

Ideal Husband, Lord Goring offers Mrs. Cheveley "some good advice." Mrs. Cheveley responds "Oh! pray don't. One should never give a woman anything she can't wear in the evening." Oscar Wilde will have to forgive me for my "good advice." Be true to yourself. Its honestly the most important thing.

What have you been doing for the past five years?

Oh, not much. There was a whole lot of rolling around on the floor feeling my feelings, some trekking in India (Buddhism, Himalayas), a few busted relationships. There have been hard lessons learned from failure, both bad and good acting, clear plastic high heels, bad hair colors, a couple of incriminating photos. And along the way, I have made some true friends.

Kristin Gaetke: Class of 2002

What are you doing now?

Well, I will graduate from the College of Charleston (summa cum laude) on Sunday with a major in English and a minor in Political Science as well as a minor in Dance. I've just finished my Bachelor's Essay (like a Senior Thesis) in my major. Everything is pretty hectic right now with the different receptions and dinners. Also, I've just moved out of the dorms for the final time, so now I am trying to figure out how to fit everything from my dorm room into my bedroom at home.

How did your status as valedictorian at SOA affect your post high school life?

I think it made me put more pressure on myself as a student in college. Being recognized as valedictorian made me that much more obligated and even driven to study and work harder.

Were you prepared for "life after high school" with college or job by your years at SOA?

I was definitely prepared for college. Taking AP courses really helped me ease into the work load at school, and writing essays twice a week in high school prepared me for the same in college.

What thing most surprised you about life after high school?

I'm going to be really practical--money. I didn't realize how frugal you have to be with your finances. This year, I've been working four jobs to help pay my bills and expenses. I've become good at searching for sales. It took a while for me to realize that I have to learn to stand on my own two feet.

What is the best thing about life after high school?

Well, in school, not having to be in class from 8 to 3:30 is wonderful. Freshman year, my roommate and I even got to take naps every other day (which soon stopped sophomore year). Personally, I like having my own space to come home to every night, and I like being able to call my best friend (who lived right across the hall) and go grab McDonald's sundaes at midnight for a study break. It all boils down to the freedom you magically have when you finish high school. People start to recognize you and respect you as yourself instead of somebody's daughter or someone's sister.

Where do you want to be in 10 years, and what do you expect you will be doing?

Well, right now I am deciding between two schools as to where to go to law school, so I hope in 10 years I will be a practicing attorney. At the Case School of Law at Case Western Reserve University, they have an Arts and the Law concentration where you can study how to represent a museum, a gallery, a performing arts organization, a musician, or an athlete. Of course my dream would be to represent the Atlanta Braves organization, but we'll see. As for my personal life, I just hope I will be happy with whatever life brings me.

What bit of advice could you offer the class of 2006?

Don't be afraid of going for what you want. If you know what you want (which is often a miracle), then don't be afraid of challenging yourself to take it. Never think that something is too difficult or too risky or too frightening. Opportunities are too often wasted.



Andrew Bentz: Class of 2003

What are you doing now?

Right now, I am studying at Al-Akawayn University in Morocco. The country offers everything that I wanted to study: third-world cultures, developing economics and Islam. I have traveled from the Mediterranean coast down to the Sahara desert and seen everything in between. I've talked with snake charmers, eaten with Sufi brothers, and ridden through the desert on a camel. While I have enjoyed my time in Morocco immensely, I am ready to get back to the US. Back home, I am an International Studies and Music Major at the University of South Carolina Honors College and was recently nominated for a Truman scholarship. Upon returning to the US I will be doing research with a professor and be a camp counselor for academically talented youth.

How did your status as valedictorian at SOA affect your post high school life?

It has opened doors. I don't know if it is necessarily the title of valedictorian as much as it shows an established pattern of academic integrity and success. I do not think you have to be the valedictorian or salutatorian to show that; however, it is necessary to establish a pattern in high school that will carry you through college and beyond. *Were you prepared for "life after high school" with college or job by your years at SOA?*

Things after SOA are more different than you can imagine or plan for. There is so much freedom once you are out of your parents' house and out of a regulated school system. You have to determine your own path and no one, except you, is responsible for your decisions. SOA offered a wonderful balance between regulations and freedom which I think prepares those who are strong-minded and ambitious to succeed in the post-SOA world.

What thing most surprised you about life after high school?

How easy it is to get bogged down. At SOA it seems that nothing ever goes wrong (ok that is a bit of an overstatement). As a kid you almost always get what you want and if you mess up there is usually another chance. Out of high school, that

Where are they now: SOA's Valedictorians

paradigm does not exist. I am not suggesting that it is an awful world by any means. It is still a world where you can live out your dreams and define yourself to be whoever you want to be. But it is up to you. After high school, there are no more parents to tell you to go to school, or teachers to tell you to stay in. If you want to quit it is as easy as not going to class. But in the end, the freedom makes you stronger. And strength is what you need to achieve your dreams.

What is the best thing about life after high school?

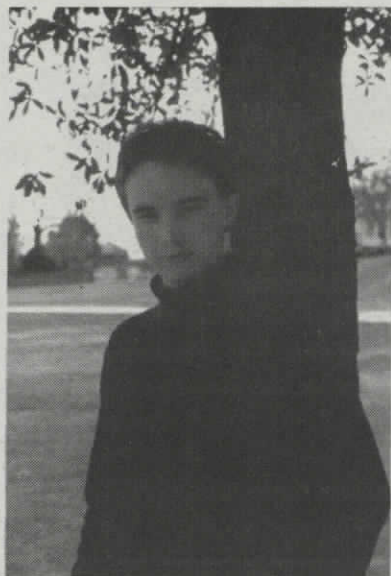
The freedom to choose your own path is the best aspect of post-SOA life. You can literally do whatever it is that you want to do. You can have a job, go to school, travel, run off to Broadway . . . it's your choice finally; so take it.

Where do you want to be in 10 years and what do you expect you will be doing?

That's the million dollar question. I am still trying to figure out just what I am going to do with arts and academia. The relationship between them is beginning to break down and I will soon be forced to sacrifice one for the other. However, I hope that in ten years I will be a professor at a university and planning to move into policy-making positions within presidential administrations, hopefully within the international domain.

What bit of advice could you offer the class of 2006?

Stay true to your dreams. Though the path changes you should stay consistent. Remember your past, look to the future and live in the present.



Emily Harkins: Class of 2004

What are you doing now?

I just finished my sophomore year at Occidental College in Los Angeles. After I tell people where I go to school they usually ask me if it was an accident that I got in or if I'm going to be a dentist. Clever, isn't it? I'm living in LA full time now, working at the Audio-Visual department at my college and getting ready to start auditioning for film/tv/commercials this summer.

How did your status as valedictorian at SOA affect your post high school life?

Honestly, it didn't affect my life at all. I have a really nice silver cup to hold my pencils.

Were you prepared for "life after high school" with college or job by your years at SOA?

Being a theater major at SOA certainly prepared me for being a theater major at Oxy. Classes at SOA have such a huge workload, which teaches you how to manage your time or at least how to finish something passable just minutes before your project or paper is due.

What thing most surprised you about life after high school?

First of all, College classes are often easier than high school in terms of the amount of work you do. You might have 2 papers and 2 exams that determine your grade for the entire semester. Sure, it gives you some more free time, but you're whole grade depends on 4 things! So you figure out very quickly that you have to put lots of work into those 4 things.

Secondly, the world is an expensive place. I always thought it was a joke that college kids lived off of Ramen noodles, but sometimes you run out of meal plan money a little too fast, and that Chicken flavored Cup 'O Noodles starts looking mighty tempting.

What is the best thing about life after high school?

Life after high school is MORE FUN! Way more fun. I'm thinking of changing my major at least 5 times so I can spend most of my life at college. Well not really. That would be a little pathetic, wouldn't it? But if you move away from home for school, you live by your own rules. There is no one to tell you what you can't do, unless you do something a little too crazy and then the police or campus safety will tell you what you



can't do, or you'll end up in TJ naked and extremely hungover wondering if you really swallowed a worm last night.

Where do you want to be in 10 years and what do you expect you will be doing?

Working at a job with flexible hours that I enjoy so I can support myself while I feed my addiction to acting. I'm on the Oxy improv troupe Fantastiprov right now, and it feeds into two professional troupes, so I'll be making pennies doing improv on the weekends.

What bit of advice could you offer the class of 2006?

Move out of your parents' house if you can. It's your life, so start making it yours. Do things that scare you. And please, don't get disgustingly drunk your first weekend of freshman year and end up at the hospital getting your stomach pumped or passing out in the hallway. People really will write on you, and they use permanent markers.

Paul Saylor: Class of 2005

What are you doing now?

At this exact moment, I am lounging around the house contemplating lunch options and answering questions for the SOA newspaper. In the bigger picture, I am between semesters at Catawba College in Salisbury, NC, where I am majoring in Theatre with a possible concentration in Musical Theatre Performance. I am also currently preparing to depart for Bardstown, KY, where I will begin my summer job performing in Stephen Foster: The Musical and The Sound of Music.

How did your status as valedictorian at SOA affect your post high school life?

Well, it certainly didn't hurt when I was making the rounds of begging the wealthy for scholarship money. However, I think the fact that I was an SOA student in any capacity has had as much impact as valedictorian status; having a strong background in my intended arts major combined with the generally solid base of education put me in secure academic position and helped me to approach the first year of college with confidence.

Were you prepared for "life after high school with college or job by your years at SOA?"

So far, I'd say so but I suppose time will tell, won't it?

What thing most surprised you about life after high school?

I think the most jarring thing about college for me was the sudden need for self-motivation; it's a big change not having someone there to remind you to get stuff done, and when necessary to forcefully bludgeon you into doing it. I've had to do a lot more self-bludgeoning this past year than throughout high school. It has also been somewhat shocking just how far away high school feels. Already, it seems like it was eons ago rather than a year, and I often catch myself giggling at those crazy high school kids? immediately prior to realizing I am only a year removed from being one of them.

What is the best thing about life after high school?

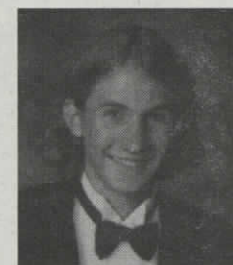
No A.M. Wake-up calls (cue: angelic Hallelujah chorus)!

Where do you want to be in 10 years, and what do you expect you will be doing?

Ideally, I would like to be doing professional theatre performance, or at least working in the theatre in some capacity. While I confess to the quintessential starving artists dream of Broadway, the odds are against it becoming a reality but that's no reason not to try, now is it?

What bit of advice could you offer the class of 2006?

Buy some earplugs. Just trust me on this one. You never know who may be living on your hallway, and what sort of drunken activities they may partake in to amuse themselves, so it's best to be prepared. And be absolutely clear with your family and friends that you will not be taking phone calls prior to noon (or, on college time, the crack of dawn). Also, don't run with scissors. It's been said before, but it's still darn good advice.



In Memory of
Diamond Kennedy
 School of the Arts
 Class of 2004

Congratulations, Class of 2006

Rachel Maguire

Rachel,
 Where did the time go?
 I'm so proud of you and your accomplishments!
 Nurture your passion and find balance at USC.
 I love you bunches,
 Mom



Whitney Patterson

Whitney,
 We thank God for answering our prayers. He blessed us with a baby girl. You were a blessing from the start. We are all very proud of the beautiful, intelligent, and talented young lady you have become. Always know that we will be there for any curves that may appear in the road ahead.
 College



is an interesting and fun part of life, but also a lot of hard work. We know with your determination you will succeed. Continue to do us proud - "Mahalia"! We wish you much success for the years to come. We are honored to have you as a part of this family. Go after your dreams and God Bless! Congratulations to our 2006 graduate!!



Peter DuPuis

Congratulations Peter!
 We are so proud of you. You continue to surprise us with your many talents and we can't wait to see what you do with your future. We love you
 - Mom and Dad



TJ Robinson

**Congratulations CLASS of 2006
 and
 TIMOTHY JAMES ROBINSON
 "MOST TALENTED"
 "Baby Maestro"
 "TJ"**

Our entire family is very proud of your accomplishments! We wish you the best and brightest future!

Play On...

WE ALL LOVE YOU!

"Extra Special" love from your Dad, Mom, Grandma and sister Tahlia!

GOD BLESS YOU!

