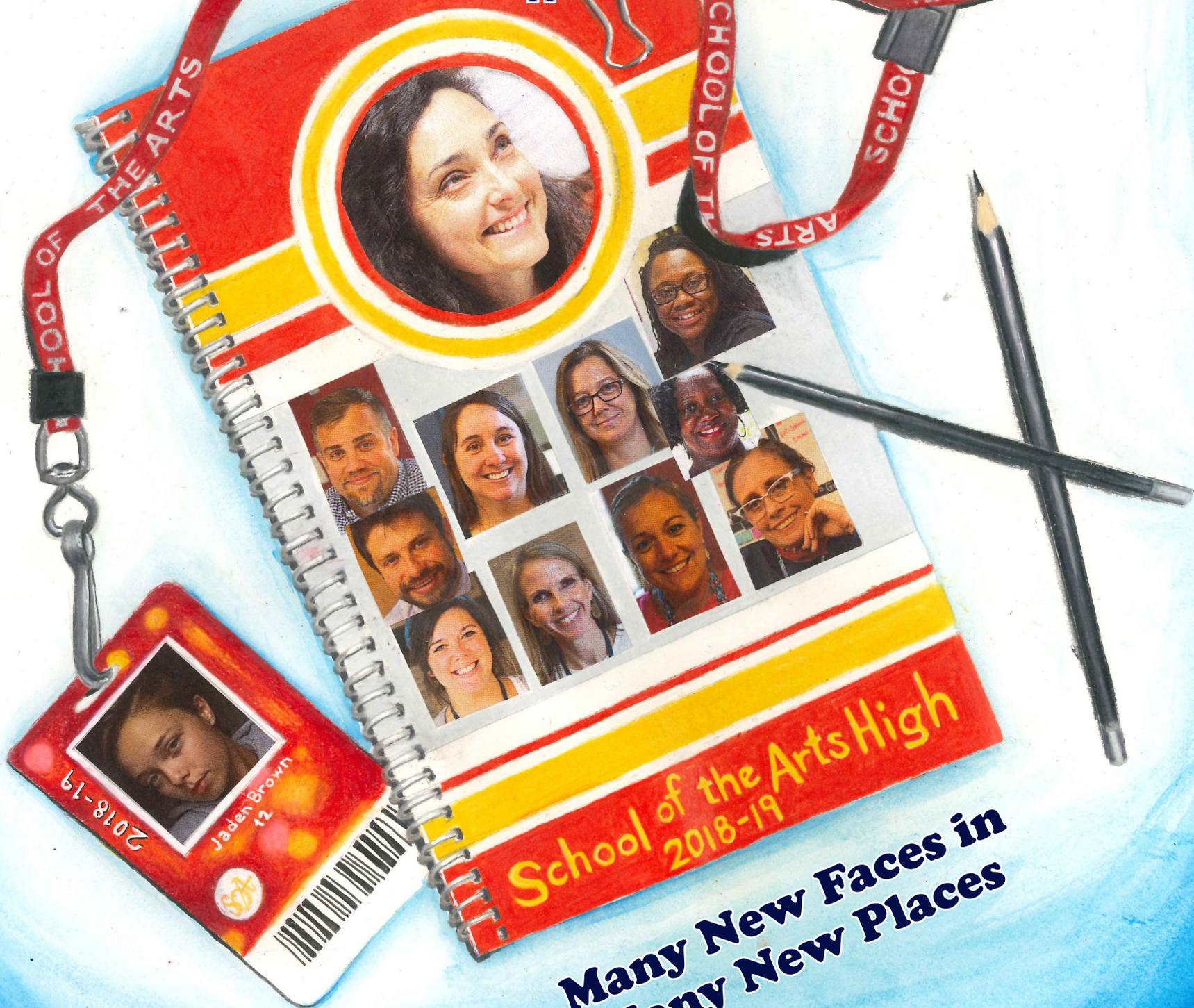


Applause

Volume 20, Number 1

School of the Arts, North Charleston, SC
soa-applause.com

October 2018



School of the Arts High
2018-19

**Many New Faces in
Many New Places**

DIAMOND

**Ben Traywick
Law Firm**

**EMERALD
The Abedons**

RUBY

David & Judith Anderson
Dr. Shannon Cook
John & Anna Cusatis
Harold & Katie Johnson

Katy Richardson & David Bundy
Maria Woodul

AMETHYST

River Abedon
Bud and Kay Hipp
Lowcountry Shellfish Inc.
The Varnado Family

TOPAZ

Anonymous
Kathy Bailey
Susan Bennett
Yvonna Bennett
Scott K. Carpenter
Karl Clark
Joe Clarke
Danielle Detiberus
Sylvia Edwards
Ann-Marie Fairchild
Fitz
F. Rutledge Hammes
Elizabeth Hart
Henry Hipp
Brett Johnsen
Marion E. Johnson
Larry Krasnoff
Beth Lasley
The Lee Family
Ed and Linda Lee
Brandon Lyons
Jennifer Mathis
Alea McKinley
Amanda Miller
John Morrin
Logan Murray
Heath Orvin
Woody & Regi Rennie
Mark Ruppel
Kevin Short
SOA Deaf Program
Meg Voelker
Aaron Voelker
Alfonso White

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Ms. Mahoney
Ms. Orchard
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Cindy Phillips
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Dean Walters
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Stacey LeBrun
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Kindall Smith
David Southwick
Kathryn Sullivan
Kathleen Traylor
Bethany Weeks
Kyle Wells

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Alan Bi
Leigh Boten
Anne Cimballa
Lou Collins
Connor Denny-Lybbert
Katie Dorn
Dylan Enriquez
Ciara Greco
Diane Hoagland
Kaitlynn Ishler
Karen Lyle
Michael Morelli
Shannon Penneti
Jack Rigsbee
Luke Shaw
Caitlin Shelor
R. Stalmsmith
Maddie Thomas
Cass Wauben

Letter From the Editors

Dear Readers,

As *Applause* enters its twentieth year of publication, we are happy to serve as this year's co-editors, and welcome you to our first of nine issues.

We appreciate your patience as two hurricanes deterred our progress. We were also slowed down by this year's challenging schedule change, which prevented two dozen *Applause* staff members—including the three editors—from fitting Journalism into their busy schedules, creating a situation where *Applause* is being written, edited, and laid out by a committed staff (see pgs. 4-7) who work almost entirely on their own time. Thanks to Google Classroom, Google Drive, and Google Mail, we have managed to put a system in place that allows us to continue to produce a substantial monthly newspaper, despite rarely getting together as a group.

We are grateful to be publishing our first issue in time for SOA's most popular annual event: Jump Jive and Wail. And we are happy to devote much this issue to getting to know our new faculty and staff, as well as learning more about one of our veteran teachers, **Mr. Naas**. We also caught up with alumni, **Caleb Smith** and **Joseph Dubay**.

A huge "thank you" is in order to all our generous patrons and advertisers for their support, especially to all who participated in the *Applause* patron and advertising drive.

And finally, thank you, readers, for helping *Applause* grow and flourish for twenty incredible volumes. Please visit our entire archive at www.soa-applause.com. Here's to a wonderful year!

Maya Cline, M. B. McConnell, and Tes Smoak
Editors-in-Chief



Applause

since 1999, the official student publication of

School of the Arts

Founded in 1995 by Rose Maree Myers

Editors-in-Chief:

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M. B. McConnell
Tes Smoak

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Lisa Fimian	Jayla Sanders
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Evelyn Howe	Zachary Shirley
Carson Stehling	

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Editorial: One Vote Can Rock the Boat

"Nobody will ever deprive the American people of the right to vote except the American people themselves, and the only way they could do this is by not voting."

- Franklin D. Roosevelt

By exercising your right to vote, you contribute to the collective power in deciding the direction our nation is taking. You influence policies that steer the future of equal protection under the law, environmental conservation, and education funding, to name a few. If you're an American citizen over 18 years of age, your vote matters.

U.S. Census Bureau records show that only 70% of eligible voters were registered for the 2016 Presidential Election, and an even lower 65% of eligible voters registered for the Midterm Congressional Elections. In the 2016 Presidential Election, the amount of eligible voters who didn't vote outnumbered the votes for either individual party. Thus, the popular vote resulted in a margin of 2.1% in favor of the Democratic party, but the electoral vote determined the final result. In order to win the presidency, a candidate must secure 270+ electoral votes. Elections are often decided by a few electoral votes in state elections. If the popular vote tends to lean more to one side, it's plausible that the electoral college will consist mostly of members belonging to the party favored by the popular vote. Every vote does count; especially those of young voters, as they will have a greater influence as the more ballots they cast over their lifetime, the greater their political impact will be.

Before voting, be sure to educate yourself on the candidates running for election; know what you're voting for and stand by that. Lastly, respect your right to vote, as it is a privilege that many people in the world don't have.





Parker Thompson
Senior Dance Major
SOA's only: conservative
Dream dog: Newfoundland
Cats' names: Pants and Barry Goldwater



Cecilia Connelly
Junior Theatre Major
Instagram: @cececonn
Favorite animal: sharks!
Dream school: University of Oxford



Hannah Burton
Junior Fashion Design Major
Chronically: stressed
Find me: drinking my body weight in Starbucks in the school parking lot
Loves talking about: my dog Cookie and my fear of impending death

Meet your new Applause staff!

Applause welcomes many new faces to its crew this year (seriously, we have a record size staff—get ready for four pages of witty introductions).



Maddie Thomas
Senior Visual Artist
Favorite band: The Beatles
I am: a science nerd
I love to: play guitar and paint



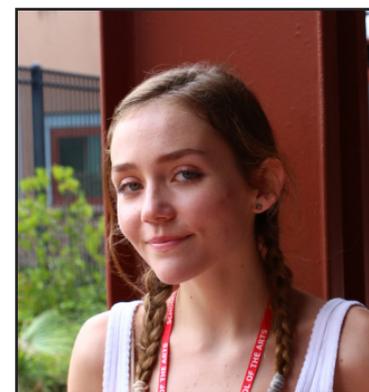
Arden Dodge
Senior Creative Writer
Commonly compared to: egg, banana spider, flame princess
Totally can live without: being corndogged, mean people, pizza with cheese on it
Really good at: swearing in front of friends' younger siblings



John Allen White Jr.
Junior Vocal Major
Briefcase: Gucci
AMOSC: WHITEcommaJOHN
Words to live by: don't dream it, be it.



Lou Collins
Junior Creative Writer
Favorite movie with below a 25% on Rotten Tomatoes: *P.S. I Love You*
Dislikes: the concept of time
Has: opinions



Roey Leonardi
Senior Creative Writer
Current mood: Tyra Banks screaming
Special talents: baking, knuckle cracking, crying
Greatest fear: monkeys



Kyliah Catalan

Senior Band Major

Relationship: senior year, no one cares

Best doughnuts: Krispy Kreme

Best fast food: Dairy Queen



Elle Hueske

Senior Creative Writer

I am: a competitive foil fencer

I love: to read

Current favorite food: eggs benedict



Galen Berger

Senior Dance Major

Has: two poodles named Telly and Tata

Hates: reptiles

Favorite state: unconscious



Zachary Shirley

Senior Vocal Major

Likes: listening to and making music

Cannot: do math

Loves: dogs



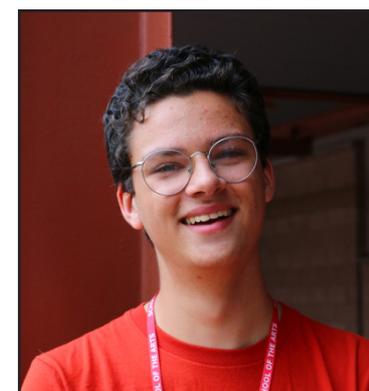
Chasse Palmer

Senior Creative Writer

Favorite movie: Moonlight

Favorite artist: Aminé

Hey my name is Trey: I got a basketball game tomorrow



Adam Krasnoff

Senior Creative Writer

Talents include: self-deprecation

Can recite: every important Frank Reynolds quote ever

Nominate me for: most Jewish name



Lisa Fimian

Junior Piano Major

Loves: documentaries

Dislikes: sweet tea

Role model: Leslie Knope



Luke Shaw

Junior Theatre Major

Is not: a nurse practitioner in pediatrics
Would like to be: a nurse practitioner in pediatrics

Forgot: Tiesum Nosce (on the Shaw coat of arms; shoutout to Mr. Orvin for teaching me that)



Carson Stehling

Junior Theater Major

Known for: laughing when receiving bad news

Controversial opinion: cold, leftover pizza is better than hot pizza

Life Goal: Keep at least one houseplant alive



Evelyn Howe

Junior Vocal Major

Favorite book: *A Thousand Splendid*

Suns by Khaled Hosseini

Likes: cranberry juice

Hates: zucchini



Jessica Fisher

Senior Visual Artist

Loves: cats and cake

Master: procrastinator

Values: happiness over grades



Liv Provosty

Senior Creative Writer

Favorite type of asian cuisine: thai

Favorite boy band: Brockhampton

Come talk to me about: aesthetically pleasing packaging



Maya Green

Junior Creative Writer

Listening to: Freudian by Daniel Caesar

Afraid of: desserts with hidden raisins

Guilty pleasure: Hallmark movies



Jayla Sanders

Junior Dance Major

Future career: aerospace astronomer
engineer/astronaut

Instagram: @Mckenzie_Ayanna

Favorite quote: "You can call me ugly, but you can't call me broke." -Oj JuiceMan



Christina Lewis

Junior Creative Writer

Fave color: all of them

Fave band: Big Time Rush

Fave movie: Monte Carlo



Loulou Hranowsky

Junior Creative Writer

We can't be friends if: you bite your string
cheese

The person to the right of me: is stupid

Easily [sic]: roastable



River Abedon

Junior Creative Writer

Wants to live in: the Pacific Northwest

Favorite animal: my dog, Buddha

Dislikes: the reemergence of the term
"grody"



Maya Cline

Junior Creative Writer

Favorite brainwashing method:
inception
Hates: crafts
Loves: Kraft



M. B. McConnell

Senior Creative Writer

The M. B. stands for: Moldy Bread
Likes: people, places, and things
Superpower: can make stressors appear
out of thin air



Tes Smoak

Junior Band Major

Hates: shopping
Can play: trombone and harp
Pets: three dogs, one cat, and two kittens

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A Day in the Life of a Sixth Grader

by Guest Writer Kyle Klugman

Being a sixth grader at SOA can get pretty confusing if you don't know what's going on. So, here's how the day goes, (your schedule may be different but this is the gist of things).

Ms. Bourgeois is my first block Social Studies teacher. So far, we have learned about nomads and farmers (the first permanent settlers), and right now we're studying ancient Mesopotamia. The next class I have is strings.

Being in strings is AWESOME. The songs can get difficult but all you need to do is practice, and Ms. Mears is really laid back. She never has to raise her voice at us.

The next thing we have is lunch, which is really good. The pizza is okay, but I would recommend the soup bar. Then I go to ELA. The teacher for sixth grade ELA is either Ms. Lasley or Ms. Mitchum. I have Ms. Mitchum, who is a VERY cool teacher. As of right now we have learned about grammar (pronouns, adjectives, nouns, and articles) and stems. Right now we are studying literature and learning about how setting effects dialogue and plot.

For math, my next class, there are also two teachers: Ms. Pennetti and Ms. Sullivan. I have Ms. Pennetti. In math class we are working on algebraic equations. Right now we are working on Function Tables, Function Rules, and sequences.

Now you might be wondering "what about science?" I have Social Studies on A-Day and Science on B-Day. In science we have been working on Protists and Fungi and were recently doing a project about Fungi called "Fungus among Us." We have already learned about scientific names (Binomial Nomenclature) and the kingdoms of life. This is not all we learned. I just don't remember any more of it.

So, this is the life of a sixth grader at SOA. It's pretty insane, so brace yourself if you get in, but no matter what, it's been a fun ride so far.



Student Council Update

by Maya Cline

It is no doubt that the Student Council representative election started the 2018-2019 year off with a bang. By the second week of school, hallways and bathrooms were plastered with campaign posters. On August 30th, the voting line was long all through lunch, packed with students fulfilling their patriotic duty. Six people ran for the senior class, eleven for the juniors, nine for the sophomores, and a whopping thirteen for the freshmen. The results were announced later that afternoon, greeting some veteran representatives and welcoming a few new names.

The Junior Vice President, **Maya Green**, has high hopes for student council this year. She wants to meet with the representatives more often throughout the year, as well as listen to more student input. She also expressed desire to “work with administration to improve the school atmosphere.” As far as school activities go, you can be expecting the traditional events, such as Spirit Week, Fall Food Festival, Winter Dance, and of course, Prom. But don’t be surprised if some new happenings pop up on the calendar this year.

Calendar

- Sat. Oct. 20**, Jump, Jive & Wail, 7:00 PM, Visitors Center Bus Shed, 375 Meeting Street
- Tue. Oct. 23**, HS Orchestra Fall Concert, 6:30 PM, Rose Maree Myers Theater
- Tue-Wed. Oct. 23-24**, 8th Grade Theatre: Seuss Odysseus, 6:30 PM, Black Box Theater
- Thu. Oct. 25**, Early Release Day
- Fri. Oct. 26**, Teacher Professional Development, No School
- Tue. Oct. 30**, Spook N Blues & Haunted House, Piano performance 7:00 PM; Haunted House 6:30 PM, Cafe, BBQ
- Mon. Nov. 5**, High School Preview of SCTA One Act Plays, 6:30 PM, Black Box Theater
- Tue. Nov. 6**, Election Day, No School
- Thu. Nov. 8**, Charleston Symphony Orchestra Quintet, 6:30 PM, Rose Maree Myers Theater
- Fri. Nov. 8**, Y’all Fest Authors, Rose Maree Myers Theater
- Mon. & Tue. Nov. 12th & 13th**, Piano Recital, 6:30 PM, Rose Maree Myers Theater
- Wed.- Thur. Nov. 14-15**, 10th Grade Theater Showcase, 6:30 PM, Black Box Theater
- Wed.-Fri. Nov. 21-23**, Fall Break
- Tue. - Wed. Nov. 27- 28**, 7th Grade Theater Improv Show, 4:00 PM Black Box Theater

Four SOA Juniors among those who Balance Arts, Academics, and Athleticism

by Kaliah Catalan

Each year, several SOA students display even more versatility by adding sports to their already demanding academic and arts obligations. This fall, four students are playing for their home school, West Ashley High School.

Junior band major **Abby Kothera** has been playing volleyball since fifth grade and has played for West Ashley High School for the past four years. This season, Abby hopes to become a supportive leader and help the new girls on her team, since there is only one other girl returning. Abby’s team is doing very well this season, she says, due in part to “a terrific coaching staff.” WAHS has qualified for the state playoffs in late October, and will likely play against James Island High School. “Come and show support!” Abby says.

Balancing arts, athletics and academics is challenging, Abby explains, “but school always comes first.” She says she is very committed to all three, “but if there is a conflict with a concert and a game, I always pick the concert.” Abby says the key is to set her priorities and manage her time carefully. “It can be difficult. In the fall I barely have any free time.” Abby’s team practices every week day from 3:30 to 5:00, “but since SOA doesn’t get out until 3:30, I stay late to get extra practice.” Her team competes every Tuesday and Thursday, sometimes three days a week. Sometimes, they have tri-matches, while at other times, they have region matches, which may involve up to five games. “West Ashley is always looking for new talent so just come find me if you are interested!”

Junior creative writer **Maya Cline** and junior band majors **Caroline Salisbury** and **Izzi Lindon** play tennis for WAHS. This is Caroline’s first year playing, but Maya has been playing three years, having played last season for Academic Magnet. Izzi has been playing competitively for many years--including stints with SOA’s intermural team as a 6th and 7th grader--but is playing at the high school level for the first time. Izzi says her goal this season is “to win more than I lose,” while Maya hopes to “have fun” and try her hardest. “I always try to win, but overall I’m just focusing on really enjoying the season and giving my all,” says Maya.

WAHS’s tennis team has had a good season so far and is heading to the Lower State playoffs this month. All three girls say that in order to balance their arts, academics, and sports, they have to stay organized. “With academics, you pretty much have to use your free time during the day to do homework because some nights I don’t get home until eight or nine o’clock,” says Caroline. Izzi adds, “provided that I don’t have a ton of homework and many things to study for, I try to play tennis almost daily, and I try to practice my instrument at least once or twice a week.”

West Ashley dismisses earlier than SOA, so sometimes the ladies miss half of their fourth block class. Whatever they miss, they have to make up on their own time. “I have to sacrifice some things, such as being at a match because of rehearsals with band or symphony,” Caroline says. Their team competes twice a week and practices on their off days.

Good luck to all our SOA athletes! We will catch up with our swimmers next issue.



Abby Kothera, volleyball in hand.



Maya Cline, giving it her all on the court.



Izzi Lindon (left) and Caroline Salisbury (right) strike a courtside pose.

Provided

Provided

The Inside Scoop on SOA 101, Our Newest Procedures Presentation

by Tes Smoak

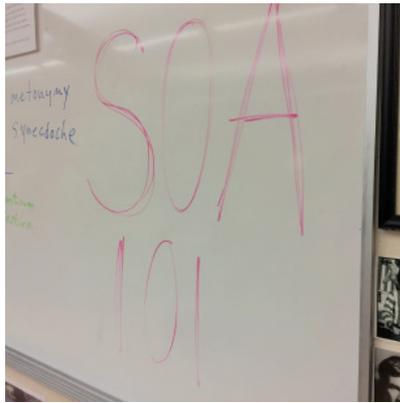
The beginning of the 2018-2019 school year saw many changes in just one month, including SOA 101. This eight-day presentation included topics such as the location of the school's many services and various rules and regulations. I sat down with two teachers: **Ms. Courtney Moschella**, the sixth grade Science teacher, and **Mr. Kevin Short**, the Biology and Environmental Science teacher. They shared their own points of view of SOA 101 from their classrooms, and the impact it might leave on their students.

Ms. Moschella gave the middle school's point of view, but most importantly, sixth grade's. Most of the student body does not remember how alien their first day of school was, such as working out the new schedule and getting to know SOA's campus. SOA 101 gave the sixth grade team ample time to guide the new students through their day, which proved successful. One suggestion Ms. Moschella made was providing an incentive for the Monthly Class Acts, such as "some kind of contest or teachers nominating certain students for each monthly act." Mr. Short gave a high school teacher's point of view, explaining that the "expectation of consistency across the school" sold SOA 101, as well as the visual reminders of the Class Acts and the ice cream social at the end. At the same time, the presentation might be done better as a whole group instead of individual academic classes, not just because of conciseness or consistency, but rather to "see our whole high school student body and faculty come together." Mr. Short hopes SOA 101 will leave an impact on the new school year for both students and faculty.

I spoke to various high school students about SOA 101, and the majority said it took up too much time from class to class. Some teachers didn't participate in the presentation, as accounted by students, saying that it wasn't interesting enough. Although **Ms. Zerbst** mentioned the test was for assessing student knowledge and teacher instruction, a few students said there shouldn't have even been one.

Middle schoolers responded a little differently. Seventh and eighth graders I spoke to that had previously attended SOA said they didn't care for SOA 101 because they already knew the information and were subsequently bored with it. However, most sixth graders said SOA 101 was very helpful. The tour was a great addition by the sixth grade faculty, but they do wish there were activities associated with the presentation.

Overall, SOA 101 was a step in the right direction. Although it helped many new students, it hardly did anything for veteran students except waste class time with known procedures, long Google Classroom code lists, and a slightly stressful assessment. If there would be any changes for next year, they would be to cut down time, target the new students more than the old, and make it more interesting. Even doing one large assembly on the first day seems better than separate classes. Still, SOA 101 is new, and although it still has rough spots, these definitely can be worked out in time.



Tes Smoak

Hurricane Florence: To Evacuate or Not to Evacuate

by Evelyn Howe

The week of September 9th was shrouded in uncertainty and anxiety as Hurricane Florence spun toward the Carolinas. The sheer size and power of the hurricane had seemed unparalleled to even Hugo as meteorologists tracked it to potentially hit Myrtle Beach and Charleston directly as a Category 4 or even 5. It seemed the main source of anxiety stemmed from the seemingly simple but quite intricate question: to evacuate, or not to evacuate? This, of course, depended entirely on the track of the hurricane, though even that was not relatively certain in the days leading up to the weekend. As a mandatory evacuation was ordered for the coastal counties of South Carolina, it seemed quite clear to many people that the majority of residents would evacuate. However as the week went on and the hurricane came and went, it has to be noted that a fair amount of people, if not the majority, did not evacuate. I decided to investigate this matter further with our own students at SOA, to determine the ratio of evacuees to the residents who chose to stay, and why some of these students made these decisions.

In a poll consisting of approximately 100 SOA high school students, around 29% chose to evacuate in the week that Hurricane Florence was scheduled to make landfall. The reason behind the decision to evacuate or to stay obviously varied from person to person, however a common theme in the decision making of these students and their families was the reliance on past experiences, especially in relation to their choices during Hurricane Hugo. In an interview with **Luke Shaw**, an 11th grade theatre major, he states that "...my parents didn't evacuate during Hugo, so they didn't see a reason to evacuate during Florence." He then goes on to say that "...they have never really evacuated for a hurricane before..." For other students, the decision was based less on experience concerning Hugo and more on fear of leaving their belongings behind, as described by **Lisa Fimian**, an 11th grade piano major. "Even if it was a Category 5 hurricane, my parents would never let us evacuate, because people will loot the house," she states.

Even with these concerns, some families saw the dangers associated with not evacuating as too big a price to pay for increased security for their belongings and property. **Rebecca Clyburn**, an 11th grade vocal major, tells her story. "I evacuated because [during Hurricane Irma], my family underestimated the storm, and we did not evacuate... and then a giant hickory [tree] from our backyard fell on our house," she recounts. Because of this traumatic event, her family decided that evacuating was the safest decision. This isn't always such a bad choice, especially for the students who made a vacation out of the time they evacuated (see adjoining article). For some students, however, the choice to evacuate was of necessity rather than safety or possible enjoyment, like for **Naomi Marchant**, who owns a farm in Awendaw, and, if that flooded, could spell disaster for her many farm animals. She explains that "If the tide came up to the pasture, the barn would have flooded, and we didn't know how bad it would be. My parents decided for me to take the horses to my grandparents' house in Aiken."

It can be concluded that the decision to evacuate was largely based on past experience, whether positive or negative. Uncertainty and anxiety over the possible consequences of evacuating or staying also played a large role in the decision making of these families. The fear of property damage, opportunistic theft, and personal safety all influenced students' decisions, though it can be noted that the fear of property damage and theft outweighed that of personal safety in this instance.

A Blast to Remember: A Behind-the-Scenes Look at This Year's Jump, Jive & Wail

by Tes Smoak

It's time once again to put on your swing shoes and best dress and head out to SOA's annual Jump, Jive & Wail! Described as SOA's homecoming party, this big bash features the SOA Jazz Ensemble in all its glory, playing classic charts like "Sweet Georgia Brown," "Conga," and "September."

This year, *Applause* staff member **Tes Smoak** spoke with the Jazz Ensemble and its directors to see how it all comes together. New high school band director, **Ms. Kindall Smith**, commended the Jazz Ensemble on its great foundation laid out in past years, but saw a potential to raise the bar even higher. She has worked with the ensemble on "creating a fresh approach to this repertoire and performance," turning down the volume and bringing out little nuances of the music to make it pop.

She's very excited to be a part of SOA's "rich school tradition," carried on for decades by Basil Kerr to set a new foundation for years to come and to have fun: "I hope that the audience appreciates the hard work that goes into such a production, are moved musically, dance their socks off... and most of all have a TON of fun!"

The Jazz Ensemble also had the pleasure of welcoming a variety of guest artists who have years of experience in playing jazz: they range from a judge for All-State Jazz, a trumpet player in the Charleston Jazz Orchestra, and even a former member of the North Texas 1:00 Jazz Band (the best jazz band in the country). They worked with the ensemble on fine-tuning dynamics, articulations, and musicality to make the music even more exciting. Jump, Jive & Wail is going to be a "knock...out of the park" with their valuable help.

As everyone knows, Jump, Jive & Wail is nothing without its featured vocalists. The Jazz Ensemble has been closely rehearsing with the vocalists for the past two weeks, and all of them are so excited to be singing in front of that shining microphone.

Even with their fears of laughing on stage and singing in front of so many people, they are expecting it to be even more fun than the previous year.

The Jazz Ensemble's premier members are anticipating this performance

with frenetic energy; no one can wait to enjoy three hours of playing such lively songs. The "newbies" of the band are excited to show off what they can do, but nervous about the prospect of messing up in front of the large crowd. On the other hand, senior band majors are preparing for their final Jump, Jive & Wail with the ensemble, only having one wish: "Dang... I hope it doesn't suck."

SOA is in quiet anticipation of Jump, Jive & Wail, awaiting the first Swing set; the second Latin set, including the dance contest; and the third Funk set - the ensemble's personal favorite, mostly because of the seniors' surprising costumes.

Everyone is preparing for the Best Dressed Girl and Guy award, or to just have fun on the dance floor or in the Conga line. No matter the type of excitement, Jump, Jive & Wail 2018 is going to be a blast to remember.

Clubs at SOA: Why You Should Join

by Cecilia Connelly

New school years always bring new opportunities in the form of new classes, new people, new environment, and, as is the case at SOA, new clubs. As a transfer student, I was almost overwhelmed by the seemingly endless list of clubs and opportunities at the student body's disposal. Many students may not feel compelled to join a club solely due to the effort and time required, but, like with almost everything, there are pros to balance and challenge any potential cons.

So, what are these elusive pros for joining a club? Well, you'd be surprised: there are lots of upsides to joining any club at SOA. The most obvious answer is to nurture and expand any of your interests. SOA offers an expansive range of clubs for a variety of different interests, from ping pong to mock trial and everything in between. For every one of your interests, there is more than likely a club to go along with it. Students might also feel compelled to join a club because of the many opportunities available for pre-approved service hours that contribute to the SOA Community Service Credential, both with and without extension. Clubs based in community service such as the Memory Project Club, Jefferson Service Club, Liberty Hill After School Literacy Program, and others like them are great opportunities to not only gain service hours, but for students to give back to their community. And, as we all are painfully aware, we should always be looking for activities to include on our college applications and resumes. Almost any college admissions website will go to great lengths to emphasize the importance of dedication, leadership, community involvement, and true passion in one's school environment, and clubs are an excellent way to showcase these traits to admissions boards. Not only do clubs require a great deal of dedication, but most actually contribute to the local community.

All in all, SOA's clubs have something to offer for every single student. There's virtually no reason not to join one! Let this be the sign you were waiting for to join a club this year and try something new. Mr. Clark is responsible for club affairs and can answer any questions one may have about clubs. Happy club-joining!

Provided



Last year's jazz ensemble, hard at work.



A boisterous crowd of students dances the night away at a past year's Jump, Jive & Wail.

Provided

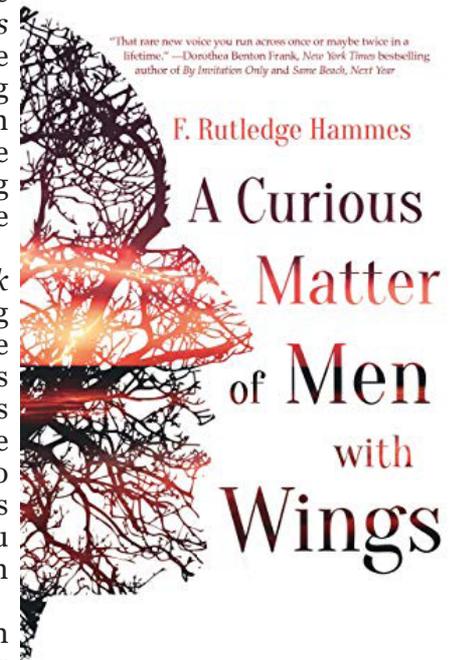
“That Rare New Voice You Run Across Once or Maybe Twice in a Lifetime”: Creative Writing Teacher Publishes Debut Novel

by Roey Leonardi

On Saturday, September 29th, SOA creative writing teacher **F. Rutledge Hammes** celebrated the release of his first novel among family members, friends, and colleagues at Blue Bicycle Books. *A Curious Matter of Men With Wings* tells the story of the Walpole family, who have fled their past to settle on one of the many uninhabited Sea Islands off South Carolina's coast. At the novel's start, the Walpoles' young daughter tumbles over the edge of her brothers' jon boat and seems to have drowned until two men with enormous wings retrieve her from the water, carrying her off into the sky. Struggling to cope with the strange disappearance, the girl's mother goes as far as to fashion herself her own pair of wings in the hopes of flying to retrieve her. In the meantime, the two Walpole boys set off to find their sister, and in doing so discover the truth of the Gullah tale of the Flying Men and many other mysteries native to the Sea Islands.

The novel has already been met with great critical acclaim from influential writers, including *New York Times* bestsellers Sue Monk Kidd and Patti Callahan Henry. Dorothea Benton Frank, author of the bestselling novel *Porch Lights*, remarked, “F. Rutledge Hammes is that rare new voice you run across once or maybe twice in a lifetime.” When asked how pursuing this career goal has affected his role as a teacher, Hammes insists that being a working writer is an essential part of instructing students. “I am constantly learning skills and techniques and pitfalls that I then prepare my students for,” he explains, going on to point out how “we too often overlook that invaluable part of our school. We not only get to do our art form every day, we get to learn how to do our art form every day. That goes for students and teachers.” Before the release, Hammes admitted to feeling nervous over the book's reception and success, but he later admitted that “as an artist, you have to, at some point, let your work go, pray for the best and believe that what you are saying is a thing worth hearing.”

I was lucky enough to be able to attend the signing, and from the crowd lined out the door, I can confidently say that many seem eager to hear what Hammes has to say. Among those in attendance were former and current SOA students and teachers, along with parents, family members, and friends. Even Marquette Goodwine, better known as Queen Quet, Chieftess of the Gullah/Geechee nation, made an appearance in support of the book and how it showcases the rich, historic culture of the South Carolina coastline. There was no shortage of love and support from all present, and I would encourage those who were unable to attend to pick up a copy and extend a congratulations to our teacher, coworker, and friend on the realization of a dream first conceived in the fifth grade with the first poem he ever penned. “At the time, it was probably nothing more than some child wishing someday to be an astronaut or a policeman. A silly dream, a silly poem,” he says. “But there's nothing silly about a dream come true, a dream you work hard for, shed tears over, risk everything for. On September 25th, 2018, that little fifth grade boy will have a book in print; he will be a published novelist.”



A Curious Matter of Men with Wings boasts a beautiful cover to accompany its beautiful storytelling.



Thank you to all who helped make the annual *Applause* Patron and Ad Drive a success. ELA teachers and their students assisted our staff, helping to raise approximately \$5000. **Ms. Lasley's** fourth block students, who were the top fund raising class in the middle school, and other top fundraisers were treated to a pizza party in the newly restored Pegasus Garden this month. Dr. Cusatis's 2B AP Language class raised the most money of any high school class. **Mia Voulker** and **Lisa Fimian** were the top middle and high school fundraisers, respectively. Both received \$250 Amazon gift cards. Other leading fund raisers were **River Abedon**, **Giovanni Cusatis**, **Henry Hipp**, **Peter O'Malley**, **Jacob Somsy**, **Tes Smoak**, and **Cate Traywick**, who each earned Amazon gift cards.

Happy Birthday.

Mr. Sinatra!!

Friday, December 14, 2018
Show Starts at 7:00 pm

The Joe Clarke Big Band takes the stage to celebrate some of Frank Sinatra's greatest hits on his 103rd birthday!

Tickets: ~Students / SOA Staff \$10 ~ Adults \$15
Online: Bold Type Tickets, Happy Birthday, Mr. Sinatra!

Joe Clarke delivers his own take on the Entertainer of the 20th Century's famous performances: 'Lady is Tramp', 'New York, New York', 'Fly Me to the Moon' and so much more!

Rose Maree Myers Theater
5109 W Enterprise St | North Charleston, SC | 29405

Join us for a Birthday Celebration like no other!!



Doug Berger, DVM
 224 Calhoun Street
 Charleston, SC 29401
 843.579.0030

Small Animal and
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 Radiology
 Surgery
 Acupuncture, Holistic
 and Herbal Medicine

Where Did You Evacuate For Hurricane Florence?

by Evelyn Howe

Amel Stewart



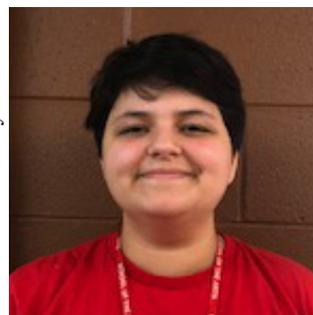
"Me, my family, and some friends went to Hilton Head and stayed at our grandparents' house."

Alexandria Jones



"I went to Chicago and ate some good food, took some college tours, and enjoyed my family."

Lilly Kozlowski



"It was a spur of the moment thing. We went to Disney because we have annual passes!"

Pegasus Garden Restored

by Maya Green



The Pegasus Garden sustained severe damage over the summer, but thanks to former SOA Art Instructor **Marie Nichols** and her helpers, the garden was restored in October. **David Manger's Roots & Shoots**, a native plant nursery in West Ashley, did an awesome job! One of our 6th grade parents, **Sarah Mullins**, was part of the installation team. Also, thanks to CCSD's **Mike Johnson** and **Dennis Burgess** for purchasing plants and hiring Roots & Shoots to clean up the site and install the plants.

PTSA News

Get to Know Your Parent Teacher Student Association

*Staff reporter **Maya Cline** sat in on the latest PTSA executive meeting and got to know two new members: Meka Mickell, Treasurer, and Julia Bowers, VP.*

Meka Mickell, Treasurer

Maya Cline: What do you hope to accomplish in your role on the PTSA board?

Meka Mickell: Well, as the treasurer, I hope to be able to keep the books balanced, which should be pretty easy, the financials look really good. The prior treasurer did it for three years, and I think he did a really good job. I was impressed with his spreadsheets. But, just to keep things balanced and make sure we have the budget and the funds to be able to do more for the school.

MC: Have you had previous experience in positions like this?

MM: Yes, I've been in the accounting world for four years now, so it's something I do every day. Day to day, I actually do payables and receivables, so it's pretty similar. Obviously, that's not a non-profit, it's my work, but yes I do have experience. Now, not so much in the treasurer position, but I will watch different webinars and familiarize myself with the actual position.

MC: What do you do when you're not working with the PTSA?

MM: I work a full time job and I have two kids, a 14 year old and an 8 year old, so they keep me busy. So yeah, parenting and working.

MC: So you have one kid at SOA?

MM: I do, I do. He's a theater major. He's pretty dramatic, and he actually does acting on the side, with an agency, and he's a musician as well, he plays the guitar. So that keeps him busy, which keeps me busy.

MC: Do you have any arts you're interested in?

MM: Haha, no not really. At my age it's primarily just working and taking care of the kids, and doing what I can do give back.

MC: Are there any PTSA projects on the horizon that you're excited about and you think people should know about?

MM: The Holocaust project, I think that's pretty amazing. I think it's going to be a good thing and hopefully we get a lot of people to come out and support it.

Julia Bowers, VP

Maya Cline: What do you hope to accomplish in your role as the PTSA Vice President?

Julia Bowers: My role as VP for the PTSA includes supporting the PTSA President with his responsibilities as well as to promote communication of our activities. Therefore, I hope to increase awareness of our activities and build a stronger school community.

MC: Have you had any previous experience in positions like this? How so?

JB: This is my first time supporting SOA and PTSA, however I participate in other non-profit boards that support our community.

MC: What do you do when you're not working with the PTSA?

JB: I am a Human Geographer. As a Human Geographer I currently map demographics information for use in market research activities.

MC: How many kids do you have at SOA? What major are they?

JB: I have one son at SOA this year, he is a 9th grader in the Visual Arts program and I hope to have my second son at SOA next year.

MC: Do you have any arts that you're interested in?

JB: As I mentioned before, I am a Human Geographer and I consider that to be the art side of geography. As a Human Geographer I take qualitative information, quantify it and map it. But the subjects of my work are living, moving Humans and not robots. It truly is an art to capture human movement and socialization in a quantifiable way. After all, we are not robots and always predictable!

MC: Are there any PTSA projects on the horizon that you think the people of SOA should know about?

JB: The board is looking forward to the PTSA teacher Christmas luncheon. Each year this event improves. Right now the PTSA is developing an incentive program for more teacher enrollment. PTSA President Baker sent out a personal email to all teacher department head and hopes to increase current enrollment of teachers this year! We appreciate those teachers who have stepped up and joined, but over the past 3 years, teacher enrollment has averaged 10-14 memberships. That's less than 10% of all SOA teachers.

Middle Schoolers' Holocaust Memorial

This year, SOA will join the ranks of the many schools and community organizations that have participated in the Daffodil Project. The Daffodil Project is a worldwide initiative to plant 1.5 million daffodils, one for every child killed in the Holocaust. The project also aims to raise awareness of the millions of children suffering today all across the globe. Thanks to a donation from the PTSA, SOA will be planting 500 bulbs this fall in between the Middle School and High School buildings. **Ms. Kramer, Ms. Horschel, and Mr. Morrelli** brought this project to our school to honor Mr. Joe Engel, a Holocaust survivor who has been telling his story to SOA students for four years.

On November 3rd, Ms. Kramer plans to till and cultivate the space under the live oak tree where the flowers will be planted. On November 17th, the planting of the bulbs will take place. The daffodil bulbs were intended to be planted by 7th and 8th graders, but anyone's help would be welcome and appreciated! This is an amazing project, and the students and staff of SOA should be honored to have the chance to participate in creating this memorial. For more information on the Daffodil Project, visit www.daffodilproject.net.

What Does the PTSA Do?

The PTSA is a parent-volunteer run organization that works hard to better our school. This dedicated group works to enhance the communication between administration, teachers, and families; spend their budget in ways that will help the school; and fight for the allocation of important staff funding. In fact, SOA's PTSA pays for fifty percent of our resource officer's salary. This is just one example of how beneficial our PTSA can be.

**PTSA Public Budget Meeting Oct. 25 @
6:30 in the Cafeteria
Serving desserts and coffee while
reviewing and improving 2018-2019
budget!**

Where Where They Then?

Applause's **Luke Shaw** sat down with SOA teacher **Mr. Joseph Naas** to learn more about his life.

Luke Shaw: Where were you born and raised?

Joseph Naas: I was born and raised in Stoughton, MA, a small town about 20 miles south of Boston.

LS: What do you remember most from your childhood?

JN: There was more freedom in my early years than youngsters have today. We would leave the house in the morning and be free to roam around the neighborhood as young as six years old. At night after supper we would be allowed out until the streetlights went on. Everyone in town seemed to know each other or at least my mother knew everyone. Adults looked out for all the children. Almost all the mothers were stay at home moms. I don't remember any pre-school. In fact, there wasn't any public kindergarten. We had three channels on our nine inch tv screen. I was an avid reader from an early age. In fact, when I was in middle school, I couldn't take out the adult books, so I used to read them in the stacks. One Saturday, I was so focused on my reading, the library closed and I was locked in. As a teenager, the social life revolved around the Friday night dances at the National Guard Armory, drag racing cars on back roads, cruising through A&W Drive In and hanging in the National Foods grocery store parking lot across the street. However, in later high school years a shadow started invading our sense of safety. The president of the United State was assassinated on live TV. Older students were joining the service and heading to a place in South Asia called Vietnam, a place none of us could readily locate on a map. Still, war had not yet begun registering. The draft did not start until 1966, the year after I graduated from high school.

LS: Where did you attend high school and in what significant ways was your high school experience different from what students receive at SOA?

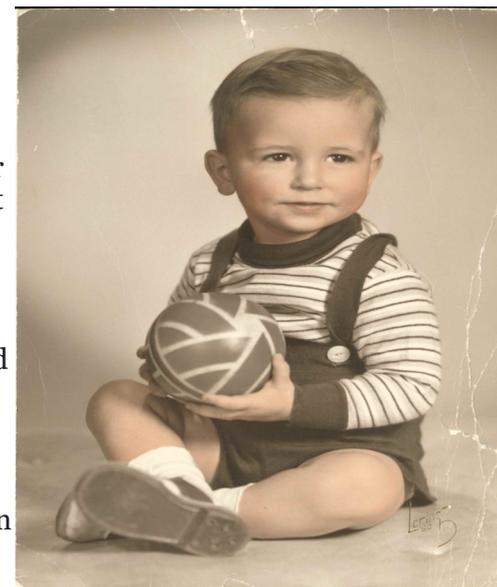
JN: I went to Boston College High School, a private all male Catholic high school in Boston. B. C. High was not your stereotypical prep school. The population consisted of students from blue and white collar middle class families most of whom lived in Boston and a small percentage of students like me who commuted over an hour each way from the suburbs. The mission of Boston College High School is: "Our mission since 1863 has been to form leaders of competence, conscience and compassion who seek to do all things ad majorem Dei gloriam – for the greater glory of God." The emphasis at B.C. High is on scholastic achievement with emphasis classical languages, science, math, religion and leadership. At B.C. High we did not have art or physical education (however, we did have plenty of after school sports). All students were required to have four years of Latin and three years of a modern language (if you selected the classics curriculum, you would additionally enjoy three years of Ancient Greek). Homework averaged five hours per night. There was no band, drama, dance, singing or any of the arts except creative writing. In addition to sports there were activities like Debate Club, Latin Club, Writers Guild, etc. The academic preparation from high school stood me well in college. College work requirements were much less. I worked full time, forty hours per week during both undergraduate and post graduate school. Attending B.C. High did have one thing in common with the SOA, the commuting. Attending a school that is not in one's own home town makes one feel like an outsider. Friends that go to the geographic high school are immersed in their own social community and it becomes increasingly more difficult to maintain close relationships. Invites often don't come because, "Out of sight out of mind." The good news is, however, students who have had this experience fit in better in college because they have already faced the need to seek out new friends in new settings.

LS: Thank you for your military service. How long did you serve and in what capacity?

JN: I served in the Army National Guard Combat Engineers from 1966 to 1972. I was a demolition expert. I blew things up and I joined the guard when the draft was re-established and my lottery number gave me a high probability of being drafted. At this time, very few reserve and National Guard units were called up unlike today when they are routinely sent into combat. However, units were frequently called up to handle civil strife. Two major areas of civil distress, equal rights and opposition to the Vietnam War, often boiled over into violent confrontation between protestors and authorities. After the Kent State massacre, when National Guard troops opened fire and killed 7 students, limits were placed on the number of National Guard troops would be issued ammunitions. Only one soldier per squad. I was one of the soldiers that would have ammunition when we were called up for riots. Sniper duties were added to my job title. I think I was chosen because I was in college and would be less likely to fire on other college students.

LS: Where did you attend college and how did the developing counterculture movement of the 1960s affect your campus?

JN: I attended Stonehill College which is located in the North Easton, MA, which adjoins my home town of Stoughton, MA. Stonehill is a small college and lagged somewhat in the 1960's counterculture movement. When I left for my active duty, there was little discussion of opposition to the Vietnam War and moderate civil rights movement. The atmosphere changed significantly during my absence. One obvious physical sign was the disappearance of the dress code. No longer were jackets and ties required in the classroom buildings. Guys hair was long and beards and mustaches were permitted. Girls had miniskirts or maxi skirts with peace signs and doves appliques. Bras were burned and female armpits and legs were not always shaved. Rallies were held in opposition to the war and support of civil rights. My military



Mr. Naas as a toddler in the late 1940s.



Mr. Naas graduating from Stonehill College in 1970.

haircut and conservative attire set me apart from the mainstream. The times were exciting! The music and poetry developed during those days continue in popularity in current days. My generation has firmly established that citizens can bring about change. Talk to someone who lived in Charleston back then and ask what has changed in the culture.

LS: What type of career did you embark on after college?

JN: I had little direction when I entered college. I thought I would become a psychologist because my friend's dad was a psychologist and made more money than my dad. I floundered through my first two years of school. My schooling went on hold while I served my active duty and I spent time working for IBM in downtown Boston. I decided that I really liked being in the business world. Everyone dressed up each day, had definitive roles to play and career paths. After I graduated from undergraduate school, I got my MBA from Northeastern University. I went to work in public accounting and passed the CPA exam. I then went to work for the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston. I started out in Auditing, and left the Federal Reserve. I worked my way up to Vice President and Treasurer and served in that capacity in three different financial institutions moving up in size and, therefore, salary.

LS: How did your early career prepare you for your role as a teacher?

JN: I entered the banking industry at the beginning of the technology revolution. I remember preparing and modelling the annual and forecasted budgets for a bank on an Apple III. My experience in banking/business enables me to bring real world experience into computing and business courses. When I discuss marketing and finances, I do from the real world perspective.

LS: How did you get into teaching and what finally brought you to SOA?

JN: My youngest daughter attended the College of Charleston and my wife and I fell in love with the area. When I made out the tuition check for her senior year, I said to my wife, "You know what, let's not wait until we retire. I have money saved to pay for Rachael's college, her eventual wedding (my other daughter was already married) and buy her a new car. Let's move now. One other thing, I would like to do something to pay back. I made money banking, now I would like to make a difference. I am going to teach school."

I spent the first fifteen years teaching in Title 1 schools. Teaching in these schools is extremely challenging. I just plain lucked out in getting assigned to SOA. The principal at Morningside Middle School decided to eliminate the STEM teaching position which resulted in my transfer. I was ecstatic! I had high expectations for the students at SOA and they have exceeded my expectations. I love the students here and I love going to school each day. I wake up before my alarm rings and am usually at school by 7-7:15 am. I am 71 years old and do not have any desire to retire.

LS: Your room is always filled with cool decorations and spooky creatures this time of year. Have you always been a Halloween enthusiast?

JN: I have not always been a Halloween enthusiast. About five years ago, my sister-in-law no longer wanted a lot of her decorations and gifted them to me. I put them to use in my classroom. Actually, Christmas and Naasmas are my favorite holidays.



Mr. Naas on his wedding day in 1972.

Provided

Holocaust 2019 Scholarship Essay Contest

The South Carolina Council on the Holocaust is pleased to offer an essay contest for grades 5-8 and grades 9-11 that honors the memory of those who perished during the Holocaust. The contest is open to all students in the state of South Carolina. Students must submit a 750- to 1,500-word essay with a Works Cited page in MLA format addressing the following topic:

“What can be learned from the Holocaust in regards to the treatment of other people?”

Essays due postmarked March 29, 2019 (or emailed by midnight)



Thomas Fimian

thomasfimian@docu-graphics.com

(843) 200-1722

Summer Highlights

Right: Junior **Hunter Garrett** began his college search at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, but couldn't resist paying a visit to the Oscar Mayer Wienermobile.



Provided



Left: Juniors **Katie Jo Gelasco** (right) and **Aidan Billings** (left) went to Florida State University for a two week orchestra camp.

Provided

Below: Juniors **Maya Cline** (second to right) and **Christina Lewis** (left) travelled to Peru and visited Rainbow Mountain.



Provided

Provided



Above: Junior **Maya Green** (middle) went to Stanford for three weeks this summer and took a course on revolutions at their Summer Humanities Institute.

Provided



Above: Junior **Thomas Polkey** (fourth from top left) went to the American Civil Liberties Union conference in Washington, D.C., an "eye-opening experience".

Below: Senior **Isabel Hubbard** (left) trekked the Great Wall while visiting China.



Provided

Right: Sixth grader **Kyle Klugman** visited the Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Florida.

Below: Freshman **Kiran Narula** (middle) went to Costa Rica to help the community and immerse herself in the area's rich culture.

Provided



Provided



Left: Sophomore **AJ Bednarczyk** traveled to Guatemala and "dug a hole, stood on a shovel, and painted a wall".

Right: Eighth grader **Giovanni Cusatis** led the Independence Day Parade, performing "This Land is Your Land" on the violin at the Sand Castle on Kiawah Island.

Provided



Provided



Right: Juniors **Luke Shaw** (standing) starred as the heartthrob Conrad Birdy in Charleston Stage's production of *Bye Bye Birdie*.



Provided

Meet the School's New Faces

Eighteen new staff and faculty members join SOA's unique environment.

Charlene Felder

By John White



Ms. Charlene Felder is our new Bookkeeper. She is originally from Ridgeville, South Carolina and got involved in her current field of work by starting out as an administrative assistant at the accounting department of a moving and storage company. After

nine years she was overseeing the operations of the entire accounting department. Before working at SOA, she worked at St. John's High School on Johns Island for two years. Ms. Felder replaced **Ms. Gail Moore**, who was SOA's bookkeeper for fifteen years.

Tristan Hill

By Adam Krasnoff



Mr. Tristan Hill is a new addition to the SOA foreign language department, teaching Spanish 3 and 4. Born in Alaska, he and his family moved to the Lowcountry when he was five years old, following his father's job in the Air Force to Lady's Island, near Beaufort. He spent his youth in and around Beaufort before coming to Charleston for his undergraduate years, where he earned Bachelor's degrees in both Spanish and French, going on to further his knowledge of the Spanish language with a Master's degree last year. During his time at the College of Charleston, he studied abroad for a semester in Trujillo, Spain, where his love of the language began to blossom. After graduation, he began teaching out of necessity—the stock market had just crashed—but it became his passion. Before coming to SOA, he taught at West Ashley High School. He cites SOA's diversity and love for the arts as driving factors inspiring him to make the move from West Ashley. In his teaching, he likes to embrace language as a means to understand the world around us: "language...binds us together, but also shows the differences in how we see the world." A class with Mr. Hill is spent less focused on memorizing conjugations as it is learning about the cultural practices of one of the many Spanish-speaking countries whose flags he has hanging around his room.

After three weeks of class, students have used plenty of Spanish, but have also engaged in discussions about the European Union, the Catalan independence movement, Simone de Beauvoir's *Second Sex*, and Galician geography, to name a few, proving that he is a foreign language teacher who teaches by putting his subject in context. As he puts it, he is interested in "more than just language, but...what it means to be human."

Kristen Jacksa

By Zach Shirley



Parker Thompson

Ms. Kristen Jacksa, the new 7th and 8th grade English teacher, was raised in the town of Joliet, Illinois, better known as the city where Jake and Elroy broke out of prison in *Blues Brothers*. Her hobbies include reading, sailing around to watch the

dolphins and just like so many others... binge-watching television! When she was younger, she excelled considerably, graduating from seventh grade to high school – she was the only student who went to the homecoming dance at age twelve! She is a National Board Certified teacher, earning her Bachelor's in English from Indiana University and her Master's at North Central. Her love of the English language arts are omnipresent, considering that she lives her life based upon the precepts in Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Not only does Ms. Jacksa help students learn, she also works with CCSD to raise awareness of mental illness in schools for twelve years. Her favorite moments of teaching are "when my students laugh with me, cry with me, trust in me, and learn with me.... I try to remind them of how lucky I am to have them in my life." Ms. Jacksa firmly believes that her students should always strive for excellence, not perfection: "This world demands that we get comfortable in the uncomfortable, for from those experiences we will find greatness and fulfillment."

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

AMERICAN PIE: A ROCK TRIBUTE

MAY 23, 2019, RMMT

Karen Lyle

By John White



Adam Krasnoff

Ms. Karen Lyle is the middle school counselor for all 6th grade students, and 7th grade students with last names A-L. She is from Jackson, Mississippi, but attended the College of Charleston, where she earned her degree in Elementary Education. She then earned

her Master's in School Counseling from the Citadel. Ms. Lyle went into the counseling program at the Citadel because of her, "passion for helping students with at home issues or school problems." This decision has led her to work as the director of counseling at Greg Mathis Charter High School for the last six years. Ms. Lyle loves her job because she is able to help students achieve their goals, and looks forward to graduation: "seeing these students graduate makes it all worth it." Starting the new school year, she offers this advice: "No one is perfect! Strive to do your best, but don't beat yourself up over it. Enjoy school and make sure to have an outside activity to help you relieve your stress and anxiety when it starts to take over."

Alisha Martini

By Liv Provosty



Adam Krasnoff

Ms. Alisha Martini, who teaches Government and Economics, comes from a family of teachers. She didn't think it was in the cards for her, but after a stint in the corporate world, she decided to become a teacher. She majored in Economics at

Clemson and earned her Master's degree from the Citadel. She wants to help her students become informed and passionate about the issues they care about, she say. In high school, she appreciated her teachers' passion for their job and how much they cared about their students. Ms. Martini has the same attitude, loving her seniors, "senioritis and all." She describes herself as "stuck in the 80's" as far as entertainment, one of her favorite movies being *The Breakfast Club* and loving 80's alternative music. Ms. Martini offers the following advice to her students: "Find something you love to do and DO IT! Be excited about what you spend most of your life doing."

Benjamin McCauley

By Carson Stehling



Mr. Benjamin McCauley, the new AP World History and AP Psychology teacher, grew up in rural Ohio, but after he and his fiancée visited Charleston a few years ago, they found themselves right at home. He was always a bit of an outdoorsman, but moving

here has allowed him to fish, kayak, and surf on the coast, none of which he was able to experience in Ohio. His educational pursuits began at a young age – both of his parents were teachers and instilled a love of learning in him. He fondly remembers “The Letter People,” a PBS program that promoted literacy and taught kids their letters through song. Since then his tastes have evolved a bit; his current favorite book is *Flags of Our Fathers* by James Bradley, meaningful to him because of his grandfather’s service as a Marine in WWII, fighting alongside four of the flag raisers in Joe Rosenthal’s iconic “Raising the Flag on Iwo Jima.” Mr. McCauley



earned his undergraduate degree in Secondary Education/Integrated Social Science at University of Kentucky and went on to Ashland University for his Master’s.

Since college, he has been a Social Studies teacher in New Port Richey, Florida; Conifer, Colorado; and Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, and he was also the Athletic Director in Pepper Pike, Ohio. In all his years of teaching, he has hoped for students to leave his classroom “more equipped to handle college and the real world as contributing members of society.” He is especially excited to be teaching at SOA because “it’s a great place with amazing students.”

Alea McKinley

By M.B. McConnell



While we all know and love **Ms. Alea McKinley** as our English II teacher, this year she has taken on the part of Theatre IV and Theatre Elective instructor. Acting puns aside, Ms. McKinley is more than overjoyed to

be teaching theatre,

calling it the “cloud nine” of her teaching career. She has quite the extensive background in theatre and education, earning her BA in Performance from College of Charleston, her M.Ed. in Theatre and English Secondary Ed. from DePaul University, and her National Board Certification in Secondary English. Ms. McKinley has taught at a wide variety of schools, from Academic Magnet to the Academy at Shawnee in Louisville, but she was ultimately drawn to SOA for its unique arts programs. Now, as a theatre teacher, Ms. McKinley has even more appreciation for us artists, her senior theatre majors especially. “Every single day here,” she says, “is a gift.” Outside of teaching, Ms. McKinley loves to take it easy with yoga, meditation, and long strolls downtown. She also is quite versed in the literary world, especially partial to nonfiction and a good **Danielle DeTiberus** poem. In regards to what she wants her students to take from her class, Ms. McKinley encourages students to “ask questions and to think for themselves” instead of running along with the status quo. Ultimately, Ms. McKinley aspires to be like Siddhartha, with every one of her “experiences through shape and time” helping to shape her into the best person she can be. We certainly hope that this particular space-time venture is one of her most memorable yet.

Amanda Miller

By Elle Blake Hueske



Ms. Amanda Miller, SOA’s newest high school math teacher, is originally from New Jersey, but earned her undergraduate degree in Mathematics and Secondary Education from Towson University. Afterwards, her family “all just

made the big leap of faith and moved down south,” when her younger sister got accepted into Clemson. She reflects on this decision as one of the best she’s ever made. In addition to moving, she also attended Charleston Southern University where she earned her Master’s in Educational Leadership and Administration. Ms. Miller is not new to a career in education – gaining experience from eleven years of teaching in South Carolina and Maryland – but is dedicated to her job as an educator, believing her lessons extend past the standards for a math course. While she concedes that the course content is important, “even more important is learning how to work with others, communicate effectively, think logically, reason abstractly and problem solve.”

In addition to raising her two young sons, Ms. Miller also remains a committed member of our SOA community. Not only does she work hard to ensure her students succeed, but she “appreciate[s] [the] opportunity to work with both the students and staff that are all high-performing and at the top of their game.”

Megan Orchard

By Maya Cline



Ms. Megan Orchard, SOA’s US History teacher, grew up outside of Atlanta, Georgia but earned her Bachelor’s in History at Louisiana State University, all the while becoming an avid LSU football fan. She then earned a Master’s in Social Studies Education at

University of Georgia, where she worked as an outreach counselor helping at-risk youth in Atlanta; this motivated her to become a teacher and help give kids the best opportunities she could provide. Teaching in Charleston, she bases her style on helping students like her past self: making good grades, but putting in as minimal effort as possible. She tries her hardest to make class engaging and worthwhile and hopes for students to leave her classroom with a true understanding of American history as well as lifelong skills, like the ability to “make informed political and personal decisions and how to analyze information critically.” However, she doesn’t “live” at school: Ms. Orchard has traveled all over the world, visiting four of the seven continents and 42 of the 50 states. In warm weather, she sails and scuba dives; in cold weather, she switches scuba gear for alpine skis. She also enjoys painting, reading novels like *The Power of One* and *Pillars of the Earth*, and watching movies – her favorite: *Bad Boys*, starring Will Smith and Martin Lawrence; as Ms. Orchard puts it, “I just can’t resist an explosively bad Michael Bay production.”

Cynthia Phillips

By Galen Berger



Ms. Cynthia Phillips is SOA’s new Media Clerk from Roanoke, Virginia, but instead, she grew up all over the country; she attended twelve schools in twelve years because of her father’s position in the Federal Government.

Despite the transfers, she retained her love of the discipline that her studies took and the knowledge she gained. She majored in accounting at NC State, but not without a job as a librarian, her first instance of the future. the world. Using her degree, Ms. Phillips worked as a tax accountant for a CPA Firm, and a Corporate Accountant for one of the largest companies in the world. Later, she became an Auditor for the State of North Carolina Emergency Management, where she surveyed storm damage and even wrote disaster declaration letters for the President of the United States. Through this job, Ms. Phillips learned compassion for those affected by the storms and the urgency needed for response. However, her and her family were transferred to Charleston from Raleigh with her husband's job in 2010, but they love it all the same. With two children, seven pets (including a parrot) and a job as SOA's Media Clerk, she has certainly made a name for herself already. She loves horror books and movies, but also explores other genres. With her job in the Media Center, she is sure that she can help students find that one special book that lead the way to creativity and enable one to explore a whole new world.

Megan Reid

By Galen Berger



Ms. Megan Reid, the new CP and Honors Chemistry teacher, is hailing from a small town in Miami, Florida called Monroe (between Atlanta and Athens GA). Despite being diagnosed with Double Deficit Dyslexia at a very early age, she finished high school and earned a Bachelor's in Pre-Med Biology at Bryan College, defying expectations. As a result of her trials and tribulations, her own educational story is one reason that she is so passionate and relentless about teaching. However, due to her stepfather's passing, she put off applying to Medical School moving instead to Zambia, Africa to perform medical work in the villages. There, she worked at an Orphanage School and absolutely fell in love with teaching. After obtaining her Master's in Education along with many different teaching certifications back in the US, she taught in Duluth, Georgia until the end of last year, when she moved to Charleston to be closer to her husband in US Navy. Ms. Reid is enthusiastic about teaching, especially considering her background;

she strongly believes that every student should have the best opportunity to achieve their highest academic potential, and is very thankful to the strong educators who believed in her and instilled the mentality that one can do anything one sets their mind to. Along with teaching at SOA, she is absolutely fascinated with genetics, DNA, homeopathic biochemistry, and endocrinology, exploring new recipes that involve chemistry. She also enjoys reading novels such as *The Blind Side*, *The Guardian*, *Pride and Prejudice*, *Anne of Green Gables* and *Freedom Writers*. Ms. Reid offers this advice to students: "Never give up on something you really want. The best things in life take hard work and dedication. It is more difficult to regret than it is to give up."

Stephanie Smalls

By Elle Blake Hueske



Adam Krasnoff

Ms. Stephanie Smalls grew up in the Charleston area, so she is familiar with SOA and most of the schools in Charleston County. She wanted to become a school counselor, she says, because she was interested in the field of education and had the desire to work with students but she did not want to be a teacher. Ms. Smalls wanted to enhance the learning process of students and help to promote their personal growth, positive social skills, and help them set career, academic and personal goals. She loved everything about her own early education. Ms. Smalls attended South Carolina State University and earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Sociology as well as Webster University where she earned a Master's of Arts in Clinical Counseling. In addition, she attended the Citadel College of Graduate and Professional Studies earning Certification in Secondary School Counseling. Prior to SOA, Ms. Smalls worked at Charleston Charter School for Math and Science, Baptist Hill High School, and West Ashley High School. Ms. Smalls enjoys assisting students with college and financial aid applications or encouraging them when they feel that they are not qualified to get into a good college. In her free time, Ms. Smalls enjoys spending time with her husband and son and enjoys arts and crafts. She loves the musical *The Wiz*, especially one song from its soundtrack: "Believe in Yourself." She often encourages her students who may feel lost to listen to it or read the lyrics.

Ms. Smalls would like students to know that she is always willing to assist and that she productive, contributing members of society. She also offers the following advice: "Believe in yourself, in all that you are. Know that there is something inside you that's greater than any obstacle."

Kindall Smith

By Kyliah Catalan



Provided

Ms. Kindall Smith, SOA's new high school band director, grew up in Mt. Pleasant where she went to Laying Middle School and Wando High School. She faced challenges in her childhood: "If I wanted something, I

had to work and pay for it," but still earned her Bachelor's in Music Education and Saxophone Performance at the University of South Carolina and her Master's in Saxophone Performance from The Hartt School. Her first teaching job was in Hartford, Connecticut, at an all-boys school, and before coming to SOA, she taught at Summerville High School and Dubose Middle School. "I was always grateful for great educators," says Ms. Smith, but she always disliked the behavioral issues and social drama that got in the way of learning. One of her biggest "aha" moments was when four of her students — who barely knew how to make a sound on an instrument just a year before — got the highest scores at All-State Band. She felt then that she was making a difference: "I want my students to connect with their art form on the deepest level and carry their love for music for the rest of their lives." First, however, she wants them to work hard and be kind human beings. Ms. Smith does not distinguish her leisure life from her work life; her life revolves around her passion: music. She performs on a regular basis, and her husband is a band director who plays trumpet. When not playing music, however, she loves playing with her Olde English bulldog, Daphne, exercising, meditating, being a foodie, traveling, and learning about different cultures. She has been to Japan multiple times and speaks Japanese. Ms. Smith offers advice for the school year: "Don't take things for granted and always be grateful for what you have."

Mark your calendar!
American Pie: A Celebration
of Rock 'n' Roll
Thursday, May 23, 2019
in RMMT

David VanArsdalen

By Hannah Burton



Mr. David VanArsdalen, is the new Seventh Grade Math and Algebra I teacher on the middle school team. A native of Bryan, Ohio, Mr. VanArsdalen attended Ohio Northern University, earning a Bachelor's in Middle

Childhood Education, inspired by his own struggles in school with dyslexia. After graduating, he traveled with his best friend to find a career in education. He found River Oaks Middle, and for eight years taught Math 8 and Algebra I, until the transfer to SOA. He was attracted to Charleston's arts school because of its "great school atmosphere surrounded by both talented students and faculty." If he had to choose a major, he says he'd like to be in theater, as he finds acting and character development interesting. Outside of school, he enjoys playing and watching sports like basketball, trying his hand at woodwork, and spending time with his wife by the water. When they leave the classroom, Mr. VanArsdalen wants his students to "believe in yourself and [remember that] hard work pays off!" Despite his trials, this inspirational educator works extremely hard to do the best work he can and overcome obstacles; he hopes to inspire his kids to do the same.

Kimberly Zerbst

By Roey Leonardi



Former AP World and AP Psych teacher **Ms. Kimberly Zerbst** takes on a new role as high school assistant principal. Before her years at SOA, Ms. Zerbst grew up in rural New York. One of her earliest jobs was caring for polo ponies at Cornell University,

where she claims she learned that "[her] goals are worth sacrificing my pride for." She would later attend multiple universities, ultimately earning degrees from Charleston Southern University and the Citadel. Before becoming a teacher, she was a business owner and artist, and her love of the arts is what originally drew her to SOA, the kind of school she wishes she could have attended. Her passion for education stems from a lifelong love of learning about everything, especially through reading; she insists she's "never met a book I didn't like." She claims, "I am who I am today because of the teachers who sacrificed higher paying way to learn,"

or more prestigious occupations to provide me with and describes a career teaching others or facilitating learning as "the most valuable way to spend one's life." She plans to use her time spent as a teacher to inform her decisions as an administrator, and feels this unique perspective will aid her in accomplishing her overall goal for her first year in a new position, which is "to find every way possible to make SOA the best place for our students to learn." The most fulfilling moments in her job are those in which "a student who shouldn't succeed does. (...) Sometimes those successes are really small and other times they are monumental," she elaborates, "but to me they are all moments of joy."

From Military Training to the Science Classroom



Kyliah Catalan had the chance to speak with Mr. JD Phillips, a student at the College of Charleston, serving as Ms. Courtney Moschella's student teacher this semester.

Kyliah Catalan: Did you grow up in Charleston? If not, then where?

Mr. JD Phillips: No, I grew up in Greenville, SC.

KC: What stands out about your childhood?

JDP: I grew up in the middle of nowhere until I was 10, so I love the outdoors.

KC: What schools did you attend before college and what did you value most about your early education?

JDP: I went to Laurens High School, and I value the friends that I made and my time in the Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC). I thought I wanted to join the military, but JROTC made me change my mind.

KC: What inspired you to become a teacher?

JDP: At first, it was just because I liked working with kids, but throughout my college career, that changed. I want to help my students to become critical thinkers so that they can develop their own opinion, rather than making someone else's opinion their own.

KC: What are some topics in your subject area which you feel strongly about and believe students should be more knowledgeable about?

JDP: Science is all about data, data, data! Being able to read it, make inferences and develop conclusions.

KC: What is your experience like at SOA so far?

JDP: Outstanding, feel welcomed just like anyone else does here. The atmosphere at SOA just screams acceptance!

KC: What are your hobbies and interests?

JDP: Sailing and Wakeboarding

KC: What are your plans for after you graduate from college?

JDP: At the moment, teaching for a semester somewhere in Asia (I prefer Thailand or Japan), coach sailing at the James Island Yacht club during the summer, and then start a career here in Charleston teaching middle school!

KC: Is there anything else you would like to share?

JDP: I feel blessed being here under Ms. Moschella's wing. She has been the best mentor that I could ask for. Huge shout out of love and thanks to her!

Back-to-School Volunteering Efforts are A+ Successes

by M.B. McConnell

In September, National Honors Society Liberty Hill pod leaders **Molly Hunsinger** and **Michael Moskos** organized the Back-to-School Drive, helping provide Liberty Hill Elementary with school supplies. The drive collected over 100 supplies, all of which were donated by SOA students. "It was such a joy to see the SOA student body come together and contribute to such a great cause," Hunsinger remarked. "There's such a sense of community when everyone can just come together and help the betterment of Liberty Hill, as well as the betterment of Title One schools."

There are only more good things to come in regards to SOA's volunteering projects. NHS co-presidents **Jessann Gentile** and **M. B. McConnell** have already begun planning the highly-anticipated Angel Tree project, a staple of SOA's community service programs throughout the years. Furthermore, Jefferson Service Club has announced a partnership with Liberty Hill in which SOA students each act as a mentor to a Liberty Hill student throughout the entire year.

For more information on how to volunteer at Liberty Hill (or to begin a unique service project of your own), email **Mr. Lindgren** at kurt_lindgren@charleston.k12.sc.us, or pay him a visit in Room 1105 in the high school building.



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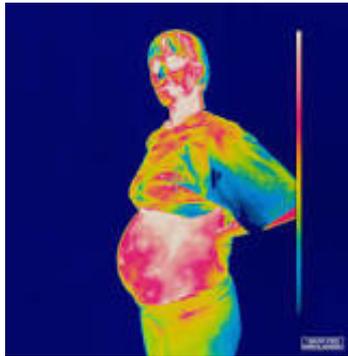
Andrew has a degree in Physics and Mathematics from the College of Charleston, and has been working with children and teens for 10 years. He provides one-on-one tutoring sessions, in the comfort and convenience of your own home. That means maximum progress for students, and minimum stress for parents!

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Album Review: BROCKHAMPTON drops new album *Iridesence*

by Hannah Burton



Following up the *Saturation* trilogy, BROCKHAMPTON's release of *Iridesence* is the beginning of their new chapter. The self-titled "boy band" began in Texas, when group leader Ian Simpson (Kevin Abstract) met other hip hop fans with a passion for producing music on a Kanye West forum. The 15 piece group, composed of rappers, sound producers, mixers, and creative directors, has been generating songs since 2015, rising to the public eye after the success of their *Saturation* albums. Earlier this year, Ameer Vann, one of the more prominent members of the rap group, was removed from the collective after being accused of sexual misconduct. This left fans wondering about the fate of BROCKHAMPTON's future albums.

After having to delay and rename their upcoming album due to the incident, *Iridesence* finally arrived with 15 tracks. Produced in an impressive 10 days, the group spent nights at Abbey Road Studio in London to turn out the beats promised to arrive in September. The album represents a new era for BROCKHAMPTON; it displays an obvious separation from their trilogy while still keeping their roots. The tracks' instrumentation proves to be more experimental than before, seemingly influenced by artists such as Death Grips and M.I.A. Although experimental, elements featured in their past albums that defined the group's sound are still obvious: hip-hop and R&B beats, dynamic vocal harmonies, stylized auto tune, and smooth transitions from track to track.

Each song seems to have no formula to it; a collage of sounds that mesh together to form an interesting new sound for the listener, each distinct voice from the group popping onto the track to create the dynamic that is BROCKHAMPTON. The new release shows their audience a side of them never seen before. Several tracks, including "WEIGHT," where Abstract's lyricism really shines above the rest, and "TONYA," give listeners a view into the more intimate side of the group, featuring low key instrumentation and emphasizing their emotional lyrics. With passionate verses

from Kevin Abstract, Dom McLennon, Joba, Matt Champion, Merlyn Wood, and Bearface, it is obvious that the album was the group's way of showing their listeners, as well as competitors in the rap industry, that they can in fact survive the loss of Ameer Vann.

Restaurant Review: Torres Superette

by Maya Green and River Abedon

Name: Torres Superette
Location: Downtown
(843 Rutledge Ave, Charleston, SC 29403)
Grade: A

Torres Superette is a convenience store on the upper peninsula that serves freshly made Mexican cuisine. Although there is no seating inside, the wait is practically nonexistent and it is half a mile away from Hampton Park, which makes for a lovely picnic. Maya and River took a trip to this local hidden gem on one Saturday morning this past month. Maya got a veggie burrito with an additional avocado half as well as a strawberry Jarritos (Mexican soda) for \$7.50. River got a chicken burrito and guava Jarritos for \$9.

Maya thinks eating a good burrito should be a journey, and that nothing should leak onto your clothes. River thinks it should be well put together, flavorful, evenly proportioned, and a hearty meal. Maya loved that her burrito was toasted on the outside, which gave it some added sturdiness and mostly prevented leakage. She found the flavors to be fresh and authentic. This was a girthy burrito. Vegetarians, do not worry about this burrito filling you up-- it gave Maya meat sweats even though it didn't have meat. She highly recommends adding an avocado half for the bargain price of \$0.59-- she liked how his burrito was perfectly sized, large enough to be a handful and get you nice and full while still leaving more for leftovers. Looking at a cross section of River's burrito, one could see a beautiful array of neatly organized

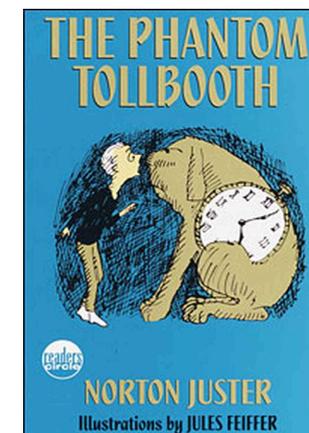


ingredients: seasoned Mexican rice, pinto beans, chicken, pico, and other vegetables that created a rainbow beneath the tortilla. Depending on the location of the bite, one can get a unique combination of flavors every time they dig in. Make sure you get your Jarritos bottle opened before you leave so you don't have to pry it open on a park bench (like River and Maya) and remember to snap some Insta worthy pics of your yummy dish.

In conclusion, these are great burritos for an affordable price. Thank you to junior Carson Stehling for the recommendation! If you want Maya and River to review your favorite eatery, let them know; they can be found frequenting Cafe Diem during most lunch periods.

Book Review: *The Phantom Tollbooth* by Norton Juster

by Maya Green



"There was once a boy named Milo who didn't know what to do with himself-- not just sometimes, but always." So begins Norton Juster's *The Phantom Tollbooth*, which I first read when I couldn't have been older than ten. The story follows Milo as he finds a magic tollbooth

in his room one day after school, and, with his toy car, journeys into the Lands Beyond to embark on a fantastic adventure. His mission is to restore order to the divided Kingdom of Wisdom by rescuing the princesses Rhyme and Reason from the Castle in the Air. Along the way he befriends a cast of characters such as Tock, a dog with a clock in his side (a "watchdog"), Chroma the Great, a conductor of color instead of music who directs the sunrise and sunset each day, and Alec Bings, a floating boy who grows down instead of up. It's pretty much as ridiculous as it sounds, and I remember having a lot of fun reading it over and over again as an elementary school student.

The bright blue cover caught my eye again this summer, and I picked it up expecting nothing more than a nostalgic way to spend an afternoon. To my surprise, I found myself completely charmed-- not only by Milo and his wacky companions,

but also by the clever wordplay and double meanings hidden throughout the novel. I laughed at jokes that had gone completely over my head, and marveled at gorgeous lines that I'd just totally missed. A great children's book operates on many levels, so that it's fun when you're a kid but you can get just as much out of it as an older reader. There is no better example of this than *The Phantom Tollbooth*. Milo's timeless story shows us there's a value in knowledge beyond memorizing enough to pass the next test. It reminds us that there's something to be gained from attempting the impossible, even if it's just a new experience. Most importantly, the book encourages its readers to look up every once and awhile and enjoy the day, which is a valuable lesson whether you're 11 or 18. Milo takes a chance on the tollbooth because he has nothing better to do; if you're ever laying around on a Saturday, I challenge you do the same with this book. It's a quick read, and I'm sure you'll find it's more than worth it.

Movie Review:

La femme la plus assassinée du monde (The Most Assassinated Woman in The World)

by Lou Collins

In the midst of over-advertised problematic teen shows, Netflix released a movie that tells the fictionalized story of Paula Maxa, a headlining actress at the Grand Guignol in 1930s Paris. The theatre specializes in telling gruesome and gory horror stories through their leading lady known for her shrieking, bulging eyes, and her tears. The movie delves into the story of Paula Maxa, who was killed 10,000 times on stage, by exploring her past. As the movie progresses, the audience learns of Maxa's history with sexual assault that continues to haunt her as she navigates a relationship with Jean, a reporter who allows the audience to see into the world of Paula Maxa, and with the crewmen of the Grand Guignol, who are hiding things much darker than the subject of their plays.

The film noir style with the femme fatale protagonist seems to give this thriller a kick in a feminist direction but it doesn't land. When Maxa first appears on screen she says, "Every part of my body has been cut up, planed, trimmed, demolished. But as you can see, despite all that, I stand before you now." This gives the audience the idea that she plays an active and powerful role in her

story. But thirty minutes in, Maxa establishes herself as a passive character in her own life; the plot is driven and told by the men around her. Although the movie manages pacing in a way that can hold the audience's attention for its duration, thirty minutes in it becomes a cliché film noir with a too dark color pallet.

A historical fiction thriller is still a creative idea that is well balanced in this movie. Many ideas are shown without treating the audience like they can't understand them. Boring conventional scenes are given an intriguing touch with new and interesting camera angles. Overall this movie is worth giving a shot on a night when you can't find anything else to watch.



Runway Fashion

by Roey Leonardi

This month iconic Italian duo Dolce and Gabbana presented their Spring 2019 ready-to-wear collection, which featured over 150 looks centered around the theme of DNA. Although the fingerprints projected onto the show's set represented a literal interpretation of this theme, the clothes themselves echoed DNA only in the individuality they conveyed. Each ensemble was unlike the next, and each dripping in the gaudy, over-the-top style for which the designers are revered. There was an undercurrent of duality, with structured suits contrasting gauzy gowns, baroque metallic embellishments paired with rustic florals and burlap materials.

Dolce and Gabbana often utilize their Italian heritage in their work. This season's show was no exception. Frocks adorned in flowers were reminiscent of a picturesque countryside, while jackets and gowns studded with golden crosses and images of saints unmistakably referenced the Catholic church. In focusing on their own roots, the designers celebrated identity in a way that directly tied to the show's overall theme. Individuality was further emphasized in the show's cast, which featured a diverse group of models including Ashley Graham, Carla Bruni, Emily Ratajkowski,

and more. Beside the household names were models of varying ages, sizes, ethnicities, sexual orientations, and gender identities, making the themes of acceptance and identity represented by the clothes themselves echo in the vibrant array of individuals wearing them.

As always, the Dolce and Gabbana show was a family affair. Grandmothers, mothers, sisters, and daughters walked hand in hand, further emphasizing heritage and what we pass on to one another aside from genetics: stories, experiences, and memories full of vibrancy and flowers and whimsy. The collection served as a reminder that these inheritances are every bit as responsible as DNA itself for making us the worthy, celebrated individuals we are.

2018 Grad Wins World Speech Contest

by Luke Shaw

Caleb Smith, Class of 2018 Theatre major, earned a \$25,000 scholarship by winning the Optimist International Club's local, regional, state, national, and international titles earlier this year. He is attending Oglethorpe University in Atlanta on a full scholarship and revisited SOA this month.

Luke Shaw: What did you learn or gain through your involvement with the Optimist International Club Oratorical Contest last spring and summer?

Caleb Smith: The most important life lesson that I have learned participating in the Optimist Club International competition, is that my voice, despite my age, matters. It fuels me with motivation and my passion for inspiring others around the globe. It provided me with a platform to travel and continue to touch the hearts and minds of people who may not have been in the best position of their lives. It gave me the ability to stand in front of the world, with one voice, and change lives forever in the matter of 4-5 minutes.

LS: To what do you attribute your extraordinary success in the competition?

CS: I personally would like to thank Dr. Custatis for pushing me to even apply. I was told that I was believed in to go far in the competition, and that I should just try it out for the exposure. His confidence coupled with my parents' words of encouragement really made me strive to make my family, friends, and school proud. After winning the local level of the competition, and seeing the faces of those

listening to my speech, I was then filled with a burning passion to keep matriculating through the higher levels of the competition. I realized that what I was speaking into existence, had a certain weight, and was important enough to positively impact several lives.

LS: How did you manage to maintain your composure when competing for the world title?

CS: Truthfully, I was nervous during the first levels of the competition, especially when I arrived to compete on the national and world levels. Through it all, my parents told me to remain poised and understand that I was my only competition. I was not supposed to see it as a time to defeat anyone, but to inspire everyone. I also had a personal goal to make my mother cry. I know that sounds extremely brutal and you're probably reading this with furrowed brows, but I wanted to speak from a poetic standpoint and connect with her through my speech. I wanted to speak to her, my family, and the world and make it known that I am genuine in my motives to change the world, and shine a light on lives that are in darkness.

LS: How has your experience at Oglethorpe been so far and how has living in Atlanta inspired or affected you?

CS: Atlanta is much different from Charleston. It's more fast paced, and filled with people who have and embrace their talents. Culture is the highlight of the city, and there is always something to do and something to see. Inspiration is constantly flowing through the streets, and the halls of my university. Oglethorpe has truly provided me with a second home. I feel more like a person than a statistic, and I really appreciate the individuality. One aspect that reminds me of SOA, is that a majority of the students at the university are fully accepting of others. I continue to try and involve myself in community serves and different ways to lead on campus and I am currently serving on the President's Emerging Leaders group. A select group of students trusted to bring about a positive impact on the university and assist to further improve aspects of campus life.

LS: In what ways has SOA prepared you for Oglethorpe?

CS: SOA has provided me with the confidence to be shameless with my craft and interests. I was provided with a high school environment that enabled me to communicate with anyone despite and background they come from. I appreciate SOA for trying to provide students with

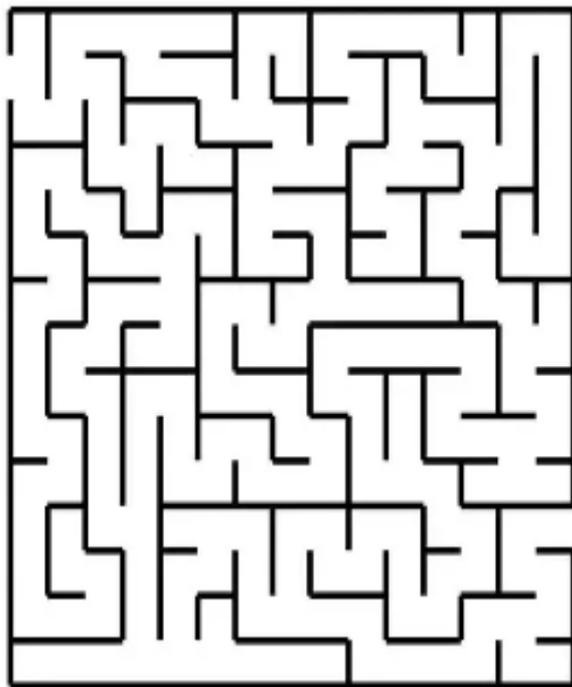
platforms to express themselves artistically. I have taken and am currently utilizing tools given to me by SOA to continue to better myself and others.

LS: What vision do you have for your next four years? What do you hope to achieve?

CS: I have an ultimate goal to become a successful actor and movie director. I want to artistically display the stories and struggles of those who feel their voices are not heard enough. I want to bring about awareness for problems groups of people constantly face in society. I have other hobbies that I would like to continue with, such as creating music and cartoon animation. Whatever I do professionally, I want to make sure that I am improving the lives of others, and serving mankind in an effective manner. I want to open the minds of those who only have one way of thinking, and make them understand that in order to improve, we must serve each other. One line from my world championship winning speech is "Our roots are soon to be tested by storms of negativity, violence, and hate, but with full faith in our roots, our flowers shall weather the storm, and we will live to see another day where the sun parts the clouds and shines rays of inspiration of our petals. [It keeps] our optimism alive, [it keeps] our optimism spreading to other flowers' roots." I want to be able to achieve the fulfill the idea of servant leadership wherever I go, or whoever I come into contact with, and this competition was only another step to make that dream a reality.



Caleb with Justin Bieber in Atlanta.



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Where Are They Now?

Applause's **M. B. McConnell** sat down with SOA alumni **Joseph Dubay** to see what he's been up to since his last "Where Are They Now" interview in 2016.

M. B. McConnell: Since your graduation, you went on to write and release several songs, with a few being featured on local radio stations. What's next?

Joseph Dubay: I'm currently working on two solo projects and one secret, very exciting project that is less about me and more about business. I'm very excited to unveil it. I've been dropping hints all over social media, not even subtle ones. There's a big thing coming.

MBM: Who or what has inspired your writing and performance?

JD: I think in high school, I would've said that my biggest influence was Kurt Cobain because he wasn't afraid to be raw, and now I might say my biggest influence was Kurt Cobain because he wasn't afraid to be raw. But, in a very real way, most of my inspirations in writing stem from music. A lot of it goes back to old turn-of-the-century, or 1940's and 1950's folk scene people who were just out to have their craft and be unafraid and unashamed of what they said. My biggest inspiration, I think, is David Van Ronk, who was a folk singer in Greenwich Village. He taught Bob Dylan everything he knew, he was a master orator, and he was a brilliant performer. My grandfather introduced me to him, so for as long as I can remember, this guy was always telling me stories, and even though it was music, it influenced how I write. More so as an adult, I'm a little more conscious of his influence, but it was a matter of being as real as you can be and not worrying about hurting anybody's feelings.

MBM: Right. And I know writing and music are, in some regards, one in the same with their shared sense of lyricism.

JD: Yeah. I fell in love with poetry at School of the Arts, and that's been my biggest takeaway. Now, when I write a poem, it's typically a song, but I write so much for work and for other stuff that it all just comes back to this class in the end. I just talked to the eighth grade class about that. I said, "listen, I'm not a novelist or anything, but I have to write four or five essays a week and go around the state talking."

MBM: Moving forward, what memory from your time at SOA really showcases the SOA experience?

JD: I think one of the best moments in creative writing was just this hilarious and bizarre happening that just really sticks with me and I think my whole class. We did a combined performance with band, and for reasons I won't get into, one of our fellow writers ended up coming in on the wrong side of the stage without shoes on, and it was the most unprofessional and embarrassing situation for all of us, but also so good for the rest of high school. We really tossed that back to them. We were in the middle of doing this great, cross-major performance, and here they come, without shoes and late and from the wrong side of the stage.

MBM: What real-world lessons or skills has your SOA education taught you?

JD: I think that specifically creative writing and how we tackle such real topics has taught me so much. SOA in general is a beautiful breeding ground for acceptance and forming a good picture of what the world is like, but the level of vulnerability we got to in creative writing really impacted me to be empathetic and to look at everything from every angle and to understand that there are real feelings that other people feel even when I can't comprehend them. So, I feel that my time in creative writing has made me a more receptive person to the needs of others and made me more critical of not taking things at face value and really slicing into what I'm presented with to figure out what the deeper meanings are. I think the best part of this is that you get to see everybody at their best and at their worst at the same time, and you can't replicate it anywhere else. If SOA is a microcosm of the art world and society, then creative writing is the place where everyone who cries too much goes. And it's really good.

MBM: One final question: do you have any advice for students looking to pursue a career in the arts? What about advice for SOA students in general?



Joseph Dubay as a teenager at SOA.

JD: No matter what you majored in, you're gonna find something you were taught and disciplined in that will be hugely beneficial to you in the outside world. Whether it's the hours of discipline and practice you put in as a musician that translates into diligence in your office setting, whether your theatrical practices make you a more engaging teacher one day, or like I said, just knowing how to write and manipulate the English language into something beautiful. You're going to have to write down everything you say when you're a lawyer, or when you're a public speaker, or when you're a therapist. You'll have to be able to empathize and understand and see other people's points of views. My big takeaway is this: don't be worried if you don't become a professional at whatever your major is. Do exactly what you want to do with your life, and the benefits that you receive from SOA that you might not even be aware you have are gonna show up, and you'll feel so much more equipped with what you're doing because of that.

MBM: Anything else you'd like to add?

JD: One important thing on record: everyone needs to go buy *A Curious Matter of Men With Wings*. It is a beautiful book written by a wonderful teacher (Mr. Hammes) who cares about this school and cared about me as a student, and I would be remiss if I didn't shamelessly promote his material.

Joseph Dubay in Charleston in June 2018.



Sophia Heinhold
10th grade, Visual Arts



Kiran Narula
9th grade, Creative Writing



ars poetica

by kiran narula (9th grade)

strip the leftovers of prose into poetry—
let it drain from your hair when you wring
it out in the shower, pool and flood. chisel
it down like wood, carve pieces out
with the pocket knife in your coat. peel away
the extra bark, the skin of the orange
you eat for dessert. your mother told you it's good
for your skin, chases away the wrinkles
sweets carry with them. but when she goes to sleep,
you use the rind to make candy, chew on it
as you read the newspaper. use it for papier-
mâché, laying stripped down parts across stripped
down parts until it feels like orange skin. transform
scraps of paper into anything. learn to make art from words
torn up; reshaping. learn to knock down brick walls and build
ones made from windows in their place; rebuilding.

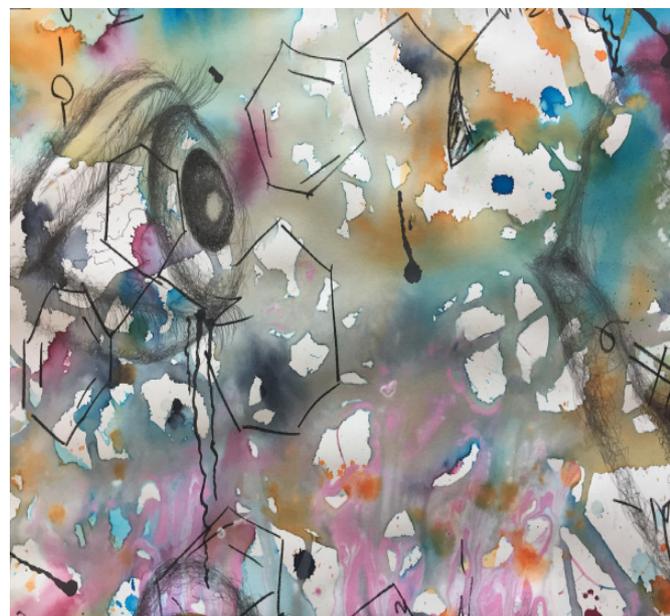
when you were young, your mother taught you
how to extract the fragrance from flowers. you
must bruise the petals to find the smell. you must
beat down one thing to create another, something
to carry with you on your neck. poetry is what's made
from petals in a plastic bag, crushed down to remains.
leftovers repurposed, rewritten. something stripped
down, made whole.

Looking for the Fountain of Youth

by Gus Varallo

De Leon cut through Florida, gripping
the machete's handle and swinging with his eyes
closed. He was guided
by his phosphenes and the small
maps in his journal. The fountain's in the blank
paper. He imagined it surrounded
by the trunks of a gumbo
limbo, coated in crossvine. He swung that
sword to the next brackish
marsh. Ink draining
like the juice of a chickasaw plum. Amaranth scent
mistaken for a violet's. He wasn't charting
fountains, instead he drew pictures of flounder before stabbing
them with his sword. Told tales about lake water that didn't
unwrinkle his skin, but still irrigated
the silt soil. He wrote down possible names
for the land whose bright
flowers seeped up the fountain's springs
long before time could. His failure replaced
by success as quickly as Semana Santa.

I, too, search for something
in tall grass, hidden by the branches
of three southern magnolias. Blank space
stares as I ready the machete. My hands
click the keys, and I start swinging.



Cherish Tolbert
11th grade, Visual Arts



Gus Varallo
9th grade, Creative Writing

Influential Artist: Cary Grant

by Luke Shaw

Hello SOA! This monthly column will explore artists who have shaped pop culture widely. I'm hoping that you might gather some inspiration from these people.



Cary Grant, born Archibald Alec Leach (oof), was one of the leading men in Hollywood from the 1930s-1960s. Grant had a rough early life in Bristol, England. His father, Elias Leach, left his family for another career and another woman. Grant's father had always told him that his mother had died. But when he was 10, he found out that she was actually put in an asylum by his father, not dead at all. Grant had always been fascinated by theatre. At the age of 13, he was expelled from school and ran away to join a comedy troupe as a juggler and acrobat. The group toured America and when they were in NYC, Grant broke off

and tried to break into show business as a career. By the late 1920s, Grant had appeared on Broadway as the lead role in a show called Nikki, where he played a soldier named Cary. In the 1930s, Grant signed a contract with Paramount Pictures where they told him to change his name. It's rumored that he got his first name from the soldier he played in his breakout role. Cary Grant built his reputation in the 1930s as a man of elegance, charm, and talent in many films. He was referred to commonly as the "epitome of elegance" and in 1941 he starred in his first film directed by Alfred Hitchcock called Suspicion. Hitchcock was the master of suspense in the film industry whose credits include but are not limited to Psycho and Rear Window. Around this time, he became one of the first free agents in Hollywood (this means he was not under one studio, he picked his own roles) and he starred in another Hitchcock film, Notorious. Two of Cary's most memorable films were To Catch a Thief (1955), where he starred as a former catburglar living in France accused of crimes, and North by Northwest, where he starred as a man mistaken for an enemy to the government (1959). You may recognize North by Northwest by the shot of Cary Grant being chased by the crop duster plane while wearing a suit. He later appeared alongside Audrey Hepburn in Charade (1963).



Grant went through countless obstacles: an unsupportive father, a mother that was not around (he later reunited with her in his 30s), four divorces, and addiction. Despite all these things, he still made something of himself and has become one of the most iconic faces in Hollywood history. He remains an icon in men's fashion known for his effortless elegance. He was an extremely loving father and was known for his charitable heart. There is something to be learned from Grant's success: you can bloom where you're planted.



Sass Attack

by John White

"Sass Attack" was originally created by David Sass ten years ago, and as per tradition, Applause writer John White has continued its legacy, giving us his take on life's daily inconveniences.

Hurricane Florence caused severe damage throughout the Carolinas, and in no way is this article aimed to make light of recent events. This article's sole purpose, however, is to make fun of people's reactions to evacuation orders from Governor McMaster. Immediately, I was struck by how few people made plans to evacuate at all. While I do acknowledge the effects of the storm on Charleston were minimal, many people decided to stay in town when the course of the storm was still unknown. What could you possibly gain from staying in town? "Maybe," some people think, "It won't be that bad... and maybe we won't lose power... and maybe the stores won't close." I've heard less "Maybes" from Little Orphan Annie. You know where there's maybe a place where you can worry less about your quality of life for the next 48 hours? Maybe a place that's not getting bombarded by a hurricane. Hey, but if the storm is really that bad and you choose to stay in town, at least you can play "Chopped" with whatever you can forage from your empty pantry as you try and cook dinner with no power. Maybe next year, just take the free vacation.



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Horoscopes

by Liv Provosty



Libra (Sept. 23- Oct. 22): Happy Birthday! Since you might be the center of attention for a day (a week if you're one of those people), you might as well get that haircut or second piercing. Also, although you are not an impulsive person by nature, remember to think everything through and be the best version of yourself.



Cancer (Jun 21- Jul. 22): Even though you're busy, try to focus on things at home a little more than you normally would. Make time to talk with your siblings or parents for a few minutes each day. Obviously, no one has the perfect family, but it's nice to know a few more crazy details about yours.



Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): If you wanted an excuse for you being sentimental at home with a less than normal social agenda, this is it. You've been taking more time for yourself lately, and that's a-okay, but remember to be present in the moment. Focus on making memories with the wonderful people around you.



Leo (Jul. 23- Aug. 22): This is supposed to be a calm time for you (emphasis on "supposed to be"), so distance yourself from obvious stressors. Maybe, this is the time to get away from social media and focus more on genuine communication with friends and family.



Sagittarius (Nov. 22- Dec. 21): Now is the time to embrace your inner social butterfly (or if you are more of a natural caterpillar, bring yourself out of your bed cocoon and grow some wings). Hit up your group chat and refuse to take no for an answer.



Virgo (Aug. 23- Sept. 22): With Virgo season just ending, you might be feeling drained. While your birthday was fun, you definitely faced the inevitable Virgo-growing-up existential crisis. But, I'm here to reassure you that all is well. I'm also here to tell you to spend your birthday money wisely (that being said, you totally deserve those overpriced jeans).



Capricorn (Dec. 22- Jan.19): The 'Independent Boss' side of you is in full swing, but remember to not focus too much on every little flaw. Try accessing the patient side of yourself. It may be hidden behind a layer of "I could do this better by myself", but yes, your patience is there. So, when someone is being indecisive and you're growing angry, take a deep breath and chill.



Aquarius (Jan. 20- Feb. 18): Now is the time to question everything. If you are considering a drastic change, be sure to think it through, but trust your own intuition. You feel what you are feeling for a reason. Look out for yourself and your happiness.



Pisces (Feb. 19- Mar. 20): Now is the time to open up with friends and a special someone, if that applies (totally cool if not though, because...same), but make sure you are clear about what you are trying to say. Misunderstandings are how drama starts. Stay honest and loving, and you will only grow closer with those you care about.



Aries (Mar. 21- Apr. 19): For once, you're not being stubborn and insistent on your own ways, but are questioning how what you do truly affects those around you. Absolutely wild, I know. Take this time to be a good friend, hit people up to get food or go to the beach without thinking you need a reason.



Taurus (Apr. 20- May 20): Relax. Seriously, take a chill pill. Stress sweat smells worse than normal sweat, just saying. Get into a satisfying skin care routine (one can never go wrong with a sheet face mask) and light a Bath and Body Works candle.



Gemini (May 21- Jun. 20): It's a romantic time for the Gemini, but try to listen to the rational side of yourself and take things slow. Just because there was a longer than normal glance between you and you-know-who in Algebra doesn't mean it's

October Spotify Playlist

In the mood for some new music? Head to @soaapplause on Spotify to hear some JJ&W inspired jams.



Spotify

"Dream A Little Dream of Me" by Ella Fitzgerald, Louis Armstrong

"Our Love Is Here To Stay" by Dinah Washington

"Come Fly With Me" by Frank Sinatra

"Feeling Good" by Nina Simone

"A Night In Tunisia" by Miles Davis

"The Very Thought Of You" by Billie Holiday

"You Won't Be Satisfied (Until You Break My Heart)" by Ella Fitzgerald, Louis Armstrong

"You'd Be So Nice To Come Home To" by Sarah Vaughan

"Ain't That A Kick In The Head" by Dean Martin

"Lullaby Of Birdland" by Sarah Vaughan

"Respect" by Aretha Franklin

"Sway (Quien Sera)" by Dean Martin

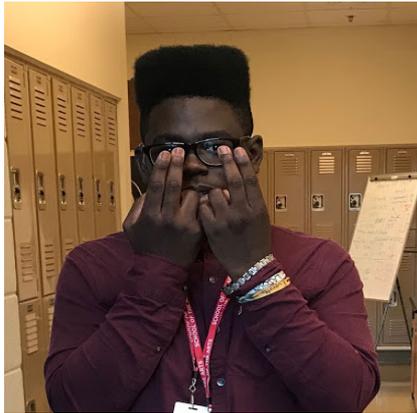
"Papa's Got A Brand New Bag" by James Brown

"One O'Clock Jump" by Ella Fitzgerald

Sign of the Month; “Happy Halloween”



First: “Happy”- holding your hands at your chest with your fingers straight bring your hands back towards you and up slightly not passing your collarbones



Second: “Halloween” pt 1- hold your index and middle finger out and together, hold the rest of your fingers in a fist-like shape, put your hands in front of your face like a mask



Third: “Halloween” pt 2- pull your hands out and around to your ears

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The Trivia Challenge

by Carson Stehling and Loulou Hranowsky

As Halloween is creeping around the corner, we paired up two SOA juniors: visual arts major **Euan McNaught** and theatre major **Olivia Bouknight** to answer this super spooky set of trivia questions.

Questions:

1. What is the most popular halloween candy in South Carolina?
2. What holiday is celebrated in Canada on the second Monday of October?
3. Who were the first people to celebrate Halloween over 2,000 years ago?
4. What day in October of 1978 did the movie Halloween come out?
5. What are the two zodiac signs that cover October birthdays?
6. Which celebrity died on Halloween 1926?
7. When is the MLB World Series set to begin this October?
8. What year is on record as having the coldest October in history?
9. Who gained their independence from Britain on October 3, 1932?
10. What country did the myth of “Stingy Jack”, the namesake of jack-o-lanterns, come from?

Euan McNaught 11th Grade Visual Arts

1. Reese’s pieces?
2. Thanksgiving.
3. The Celts.
4. October 13th?
5. Scorpio, Libra.
6. Houdini.
7. I have no idea.
The 27th?
8. 1943.
9. India?
10. France?



4/10

Olivia Bouknight 11th Grade Theater

1. Probably something gross like Candy Corn.
2. Thanksgiving.
3. The Celtic People.
4. The 31st.
5. Libra and Scorpio.
6. Houdini.
7. I don’t know.
1856?
9. India.
10. Ireland.



6/10

Our winner is Olivia Bouknight! She’ll return next issue to defend her title as trivia champion!

Are you interested in competing in an upcoming *Applause* Trivia Challenge? If so, email mjmcline@gmail.com with the subject line “Trivia.”

Answers

1. Candy Corn.
2. Thanksgiving.
3. The Celts.
4. October 25th.
5. Libra and Scorpio.
6. Harry Houdini.
7. October 23rd.
8. 2009.
9. Iraq.
10. Ireland.

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TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2018 AT 7:30PM

MOZART Quintet in E flat Major for Piano and Winds
GERSHWIN Three Preludes for Clarinet and Piano
STRAUSS Till Eulenspiegel's Merry Pranks Op. 28

Andrew Armstrong *piano*
Regina Helcher Yost *flute*
Zac Hammond *oboe*
Charles Messersmith *clarinet*
Sandra Nikolajevs *bassoon*
Debra Sherrill Ward *horn*

SUNDAY, JANUARY 13, 2019 AT 3PM

ENESCU Impressions d'enfance, Op. 28
BEETHOVEN Sonata No. 4 in A minor, Op. 23
BRAHMS String Quintet No. 2 in G Major, Op. 111

Francisco Fullana *violin*
Jiayi Shi *piano*
Frances Hsieh *violin*
Ben Weiss *viola*
Jenny Weiss *viola*
Timothy O'Malley *cello*

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2019 AT 7:30PM

RAVEL Tzigane, Rhapsody for Violin and Piano
FRANCK Piano Quintet in F minor

Andrew Armstrong *piano*
Jennifer Frautschi *violin*
Jenny Weiss *violin*
Ben Weiss *viola*
Timothy O'Malley *cello*

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“Good lunch food.”

-Charlie Hastings, 10th grade Creative Writing



“Kids are really nice this year.”

-Noah Kenmur, 7th grade Vocal



“The fake fox at the pond.”

-Lilly Kozlowski, 11th grade Strings



“It’s a great new start.”

-Ms. Mahoney, High School Math Teacher



“That it’s a new school year.”

-Ms. Cimballa, Visual Arts Teacher

What do you like most about the new school year?

by River Abedon and Lou Collins

Photos by River Abedon and Lou Collins



“The updated cafeteria food.”

-Reese Marcoon, 12th grade Creative Writing



“My teachers.”

-Raymond Berryhill, 8th grade Theatre



“SOA 101”

-Cassidy Lewis, 9th grade Creative Writing



“I get to start at zero.”

-Ms. Altman, Attendance



“Majors.”

-Nelli Sundara, 6th grade Piano