

Applause

Volume 20, Number 8

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

June 2019



DIAMOND

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Law Firm**

EMERALD

The Abedons

**School of the Arts
PTSA**

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John & Anna Cusatis
Susanne Drennan
Harold & Katie Johnson
Katy Richardson & David Bundy
Chris & Kristen Salisbury

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The Baker Family
Bud and Kay Hipp
Tina Shaw
Lowcountry Shellfish Inc.
The Varnado Family
Linda West

TOPAZ

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

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Bill Hipp
Amber Honeycutt
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Ms. Mahoney
Ms. Orchard
Susan Pace
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Dean Walters
Melanie Wise

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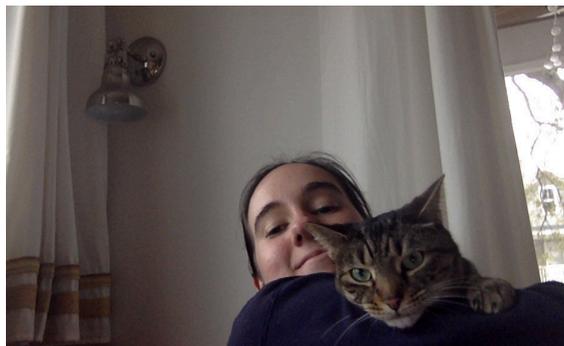
PEARL

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Leigh Bolten
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Dylan Enriquez
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R. Stalmsmith
Maddie Thomas
Cass Wauben

Letter From the Editor

Dear Readers,

Congratulations! We made it to the end of the year! The days are finally getting hotter and the beaches more welcoming. This issue of *Applause* is filled to the brim with graduation fun. On pages 4-11 you can find senior essays, where the class of 2019 reflects on their time at SOA. Look to pages 35-45 to see the senior surveys. Learn about the seniors' future plans, memories, advice and more. If you're reading this while waiting for the graduation ceremony to begin, flip to page 46 for a sudoku, word scramble, and more to pass the time.



Family portrait of Maya Cline and her phenomenal cat, Lovebug.

This spring has brought tough times to SOA. We have lost two of our own within the past few months, first, senior **Alex Kuffel-Barbanel**, followed by our attendance clerk, **Ms. Danyelle Altman**. SOA students, teachers, and parents have been greatly affected by these tragedies. The community has come together to grieve and to give support to Alex and Ms. Altman's loved ones. On pages 12-13, we honor them by sharing some words about the long-lasting impact they had on others' lives.

To the seniors: congratulations to you especially, and good luck! You have probably been dreaming of your graduation day for years now. I hope it's everything you want it to be. May the next stage of your life be filled with amazing new people and experiences! We'll miss you!

I'm looking forward to returning as *Applause* editor next fall during our 20th anniversary year!

Love,
Your Editor
Maya Cline

Applause

since 1999, the official student publication of

School of the Arts

Founded in 1995 by Rose Maree Myers

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Senior Essays

Applause asked the graduating class of 2019 to reflect on their experiences and time at SOA through a short essay responding to one of the following prompts: What would you do differently if you were entering sixth grade again? What do you hope to be doing in 2029? Which teacher has impacted you the most? Reflect on any aspect of your years at SOA. Reflect on the value of an SOA education.

Madison Adams

Coming to SOA as a sixth grader is very intimidating. Not only are you at the bottom of the food chain, you have to navigate a quick-paced class schedule and multiple classes, unlike anything in elementary school. If I were a sixth grader entering SOA again, I would do many things differently than I had the first time around, such as study harder, be less self-conscious and accept failure. Over the past seven years, the one teacher who made the tears and stress all worth it is Dr. Selby. I have learned so many important life lesson and work ethic strategies from him. His orchestras have so much respect for him and he treats us as professionals, respects our opinions and values the students as individuals. Sometimes in situations I find myself asking “what would Dr. Selby do?” Dr. Selby is someone who will never be forgotten and who has made an impact on our lives forever. In my upcoming years in and after college, I hope to make an impact on others as well. I’m not sure exactly what I want to be doing in these following years, because I want to do everything! I want to get my pilots license, serve in the Peace Core, backpack through Spain, study aerospace engineering, earn a degree in education, get a Burmese Mountain dog, give a Ted Talk, meet Lauren Pierce and so many more things... Anyways, SOA is a school full of lively and passionate people and I hope the best for the upcoming generations.



Piper Arnold

High school has taught me some very important things about myself. These are a few of my notes to self: I need to sleep for more than four hours a night; positive thinking can help most things; hydration is very important to properly function; baking sweets is good for stress relief; definitely do not skip breakfast; I am a procrastinator; sometimes it’s good to sleep for twelve+ hours, hug all the people. Not everyone works the same, and it is important to find things that work for you to relieve stress and make happy moments in otherwise hectic situations.



Galen Berger

For me, the value of an SOA education is not only the artistic emphasis, but the strength that can be created from the union of creativity and traditional learning. I had always believed in both of these learning methods before the start of my SOA journey. However, it wasn’t until I had grown acclimated to the school and new learning environment that I realized just how impactful the fusion of arts and education based learning really is. Although SOA can have its drawbacks, such as the lack of a “traditional” high school experience or the rather

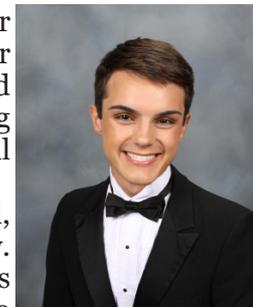
inconvenient commute for most students, I feel that the benefits strongly outweigh these. SOA prepares you for the real world by holding you accountable for multitasking and balancing your arts career with your schoolwork as well as with the many extracurriculars that most students take part in. In addition, most universities see the value of an SOA education and realize the maturity and responsibility that are required to complete such a demanding curriculum. As a result, SOA consistently has a very interesting and successful array of student outcomes. Overall, I feel that SOA has a multitude of distinct opportunities that promote students and help them to thrive in their future endeavors.



Trevor Bierdz

In 2029, I hope to be an artist working for another artist’s brand, such as Pat McGrath or Natasha Denona. These are two incredibly talented artists who have unleashed the artist in me, showing me that there’s more to makeup than a neutral smokey eye.

Throughout the last two years of high school, I have found a love and passion for makeup artistry. I love experimenting with different textures, colors schemes, and formulas from various makeup lines to create artistic, different, and editorial looks. My family and I are looking into a makeup artistry school in Fort Lauderdale, FL. This school isn’t a normal beauty school, and it isn’t a cosmetology school. It’s a makeup artistry school, and there’s only eleven schools like it in the country. At this school, I would learn everything from bridal makeup to runway editorials to special effects. If all goes accordingly, I’ll go through their program and become a certified makeup artist in all aspects of makeup artistry.



Amelia Borders

The class that impacted me the most was AP Chemistry with Mrs. Godwin. I took the class in 11th grade and I really discovered my love of chemistry. My class had only eight students and we were all girls. Having such a small class really allowed me to become closer with all of my classmates and form strong friendships that will hopefully last a long time. Also I was able to learn a lot that year and taking the class almost made me change my major to chemistry for where ever I would go to college. Mrs. Godwin was such a wonderful teacher for me, and I will miss her when I go to college.



Quinn Burgin

My major has definitely impacted me the most in my time at SOA. Mrs. Baker has influenced so much of my high school career, whether it be teaching me new sewing techniques or giving me life advice. She has become the support system I needed that truly go through high school. Though we did have our ups and downs in our relationship at the end of the day there was no way I could’ve gotten to graduation without her. Mrs. Baker has helped me find my personal aesthetics and become an all around better seamstress. This major has made me realize that I’m very much so a perfectionist



when it comes to my arts and I never would've known that if it hadn't been for Mrs. Baker and Fashion Design.

Christian Carnie

In 2029, I plan to have my own luxury fashion brand. I plan to go to USC after graduation for fashion retail merchandising. While at school, I plan to work on my sewing skills along with my design skills. After graduation from USC, I'm hoping to move to New York City to work. After about a year, I will apply to Fashion Institute of Technology, receiving the in-state tuition by living there for a year to get my design degree. After that, I plan to use my knowledge to start my brand.



Kyliah Catalan

In the year 2029 I will be turning 28 years old, a graduate from Columbia College Chicago. By this time I will have already had my bachelor's degree in journalism, and become a successful journalist. I will have had many internships and also will have studied abroad. I will be traveling the world and writing about people's cultures and how it affects who they are as a person. I will be writing about different fashion styles from each country and how it came to be, how their culture affected that style. I would write the controversial things that go on in each country. I would write things like: mixed black and Korean boy who is always mistaken for someone who was born in Africa and knows English, but he doesn't know English at all, he was born in Korea and he only speaks Korean. Or I would write something like; The Japanese culture, that still keeps to their old ways in a moral sense, being ashamed of a mental illness and how the young people took that and made their mental illness known through fashion. In the year 2029 I will be a successful journalist traveling the world and writing about people so their stories can be heard.



Isabelle Chuy

The next ten years of my life will be spent in the Rockies of Colorado. I am attending Colorado Christian University and plan to major in Outdoor Leadership. I either plan to pair that with business, psychology, ministry, or education. Whatever I end up doing, I want to be outside enjoying the earth's creation while serving a population of people. I hope to become a certified yoga instructor at some point and be able to do that on the side of my work. I am currently a certified first responder and plan on hopefully becoming an EMT or paramedic in Denver. I don't know what the next ten years has to offer, but I know the outdoors are in my future. I'll be doing dope hood rat ish; if you are in CO give me a holler.



Ethan Crank

The "teacher" that had the greatest impact on me was Mr. Christensen. Working under his direction in the tech crew since 8th grade has given me discipline and structure in work and has shaped what I want to do with my life. It's made me love a fast paced work environment where you know you



can't mess up. Working with lights and sound in the theatre has become a second home to me and I can't wait to do the same work in other theaters.

Lucy Davis

In 2029 I will be almost 30 years old. I hope to be married and have kids or about to have kids. My idea for my job in the future right now is to teach theatre and music to children, but who knows where I'll end up? I hope to live in Charleston, where I would love for my kids to grow up. I loved having my childhood here and really want my kids to do the same.



Nathalie Delson

Ms. McKinley by far has impacted me more than any words can describe. Senior year has been extremely rough on my self-esteem and mental health and taking theatre class with such an amazing teacher makes everything worthwhile. Her kind soul and heart along with her wise spirituality allowed me to connect with her; she is a natural born healer. I'm not sure how she tackles her work and her mental health, but I am very inspired by her relaxed demeanor (with a hint of rose water). I enjoy talking to her about film and music- we both have very similar taste in film. I remember having a mental breakdown before my senior thesis, and I didn't think it was going to meet audience criteria or strike anyone as interesting at all. I was so close to giving up...but McKinley (also very stressed and upset) encouraged me that everything was going to be okay. "Deep breaths- you got this!" Those words have helped me SO MUCH, not just in thesis, but in life. McKinley, I want to let you know that you are invited to my wedding. I hope that we can be better friends later in life. Much love to you!



Connor Denny-Lybbert

If you didn't attend SOA in middle school, then you'll be aware that the experience one has here is far from typical. I, for one, am thankful that I was able to attend a "normal" high school my first two years and then transfer here for my junior and senior years, as it allowed me to look at my experience from an outsider's perspective. We, as students of SOA, tend to forget how privileged we are to be able to go to the second-best school in the state, and how (typically) amazing our education is. Our major classes are every single-day, intensive, and vastly superior to any "normal" high-schools. It's hard to imagine a school without a community as wonderful as ours. I'd say that if you love your major and possibly want to pursue it as a career, to stick at it. SOA is one of the best high schools that you could go to, even if it doesn't always seem like it.



Bennett Dickison

The teacher that has had the most impact on me during my time at SOA is Ms. Mahoney. I have had the privilege of being in her class for Pre-Calc last year and Calculus this year. Mahoney is someone who truly cares about her students by making sure they learn and by taking interest in other aspects of their lives. I know senior year was very stressful for me and I know it was the same for many of my peers because of course

loads and just the stress surrounding our final year. Despite this, every single time I was stressed before school, it went away during 1B Calc (Even if Calculus was the root of my stress). Ms. Mahoney just creates an environment with her room and her attitude that lets you know math class isn't the be all end all. Even as I am writing this, I haven't finished my final project for her that is due tomorrow, but it is going to be all good. Tomorrow I'm gonna write on her good news board that graduation is in less than a month.



Arden Dodge

The value of an SOA education is one that is more familial than anything. With such a small campus, it's difficult not learning every face you see. Teachers are more willing to spend one-on-one time with such a small student population, too. If I was a sixth grader, I would say do your best to stay out of drama, because middle school is crappy enough already. Just do your best to surround yourself with non-toxic people, because those are the ones who will make your high school experience brilliant. I'd hands-down say either Mrs. Fairchild as my eighth grade teacher or Hammes as my Creative Writing teacher since sixth grade are the two most influential teachers I've had. They both practiced virtues of fairness, patience, and taught me more than just the subject they were paid to teach. This coming year is one where I plan on figuring out what exactly I want to do. This is hard, especially because I want to do almost everything. SOA is definitely not for everyone, but that's okay, because we weed out the weak ones in the transition between eighth grade to freshman year.



Jordan Douglas

In my time at SOA, if there was one teacher I felt that had the largest impact on my character, it would unquestionably be Mrs. Fairchild. By the end of my eighth grade year, I had learned so much from her, not only about Algebra, but about myself. Her kindness and patience will always inspire me to be a better person. She has always been an encouragement to me and one of my absolute favorite teachers I have had to this date. Even five years later, I can sincerely say it was pleasure to have learned from her, and I will take her words with me in the next phase of my life.



Kailyn Evans

SOA has a special group of teachers but the one that has made the greatest impact on my high school career and my future is Mr. Short. I had Mr. Short my freshman year for Biology Honors and he was unlike any other teacher I'd had before. He never let me fall behind because he gave ample class time for assignments and made an effort to teach the material in a timely and organized manner. Coming into high school I was confused about what I wanted to do with my life but I decided my senior year I wanted to take AP Biology with Mr. Short, a lot of my friends enjoyed the class and it sparked my interest. I can confidently say no other class in my entire high school career has taught me more than his class has, this



class helped me decide what to major in in college and helped me realize how much I really do love biology. Thank you Mr. Short, for being the best teacher out there. College biology is going to be interesting and most likely very difficult, but I know I'll be prepared for anything they throw at me with your class under my belt.

Jessica Fisher

In 2029, I imagine myself working for some top-secret military installation somewhere on the coast. I'm there because I design craft that can leave the atmosphere, and while I normally work alone, I'm a very respected member in my scientific community. I think I have already set myself up very well to be able to succeed in higher education and attain this future. I currently plan to go to the University of South Carolina to study aerospace engineering and astronomy/astrophysics, and hope that in the future I might attend grad school in Embry-Riddle in Daytona, FL. I intend to work hard and take advantage of every opportunity in order to attain this goal, and I hope that I can be successful by doing so!



Gray Forsberg

Spending the last seven years at SOA has been an experience like no other. I couldn't imagine attending any other high school, especially after all of the amazing opportunities I have been granted. Being able to express my love for singing every day has truly been a gift and I couldn't have wished to spend every day with a better group of people. Going into SOA in 6th grade set me up with a lifelong family of vocal majors that I will never forget. I have made so many connections and relationships with students and teachers that I will always cherish and I will carry all of the memories I made here with me to college. Thank you SOA for a great seven years!



Maya Gardner

Creative writing has had the strongest impact on my growth through SOA. I have formed and kept strong relationships with every person in our small class. Ms. Detiberus, Mr. Hammes and Ms. Hart have been so kind and caring that they have demanded my respect and adoration. The ability to see this class every day has always been a huge comfort to me, even through stressful times of thesis and other assignments through middle and high school. It is amazing to have grown up with these people. To begin with toxic jealousy and anxiety induced isolation and end with the knowledge that everyone is similar and different to me in equally significant ways.



Jessann Gentile

In 2029, I hope to have graduated from Elon University with a biology and business degree and experience in dance choreography. At this point I will be twenty nine years old and hopefully enjoying life. I also intend to be graduated from medical school and be currently working at a hospital completing my residency. My is goal to be a couple steps forward in my path to becoming a dermatologist. I intend to make this happen

by carrying my drive from high school into college and challenging myself in life after high school. I also hope to have traveled to more countries that I have yet to discover and use my SOA education to help guide me through these countries. These include Thailand, Bora Bora, Amsterdam, and Australia. My long term goals include to use my business degree to eventually open up my own practice.



Frances Hart

Over my seven years at SOA, I have had the opportunity to be both a creative writer and then a theatre major. This was truly a blessing to me, as I learned how to articulate and compose my feelings and thoughts in creative writing, and I gained confidence on and off stage through my theatre classes. Both of the majors have taught me the overwhelming, intrinsic value of art, and I have been strongly influenced by the teachers and students in both. I am hoping to pursue human rights law after studying political science in college. I am excited to incorporate skills from both majors in my career.



honesty and some good friendships. It's where I was taught practical and unbelievably boring lessons, like millennia of art history and color theory, but also much more important lessons, like how to judge myself, learn from others and take pride in my work. She taught me there's not such a deep divide between teachers and students, and we all have our own wild and dramatic lives playing out around us. Her life reads like a sitcom, and hearing her bizarre stories and observations through her Cleveland, Ohio tinged world view has given me incomparable and priceless entertainment and life lessons. I've learned so much and am excited to carry her teachings with me through life. Her impact as teacher, friend and basically family is unquestionable.



Isabel Hubbard

In 2029, I plan to be performing on stage and saving the oceans. I hope to get a degree in environmental science and use that as a starting point to work with an organization dedicated to finding solutions to reduce pollutants in our oceans or creating better ways to deal with pollutants so they do not find their way into the oceans. I have been singing since the third grade, and I started musical theater towards the end of middle school and I fell in love with performing. I plan on keeping this passion of mine in my life as well as trying hard to save the oceans.



Riley Hill

I plan on working in the film industry as a properties designer (prop guy) and making the cool things that make the worlds in peoples heads seem a little more real. I can always be an artist, but sometimes interpreting the world into a more fantastical, bizarre place is what people respond to. Escapism is just turning your head sideways, looking around, and then straightening your view to realize the world looks essentially the same and is what you want it to be with just a little help.



Elle Hueske

Mr. Short and his AP Biology, Biology Honors, and AP Environmental Science courses have been most significant in shaping my academic and career goals. Science has been an integral component of my life since I was young, however the arts were also an essential part of my character. Mr. Short has fostered my dedication to science and medicine while simultaneously encouraging the integration of creating writing and other art subjects in STEM fields. Mr. Short's classes have not only influenced me in my future decisions, but they have also provided me with the vital knowledge to make critical decisions based on logic and reason. This characteristic is invaluable, and for this, I am thankful.



Ansley Holcombe

I remember coming to SOA, shortly after moving to Charleston from a small, rural town in SC where no one goes on to do anything that is not average. Not that there's anything wrong with average, but I always knew that was something that I didn't want to be. One of my first memories at SOA was in the art department, looking at the upperclassman work and thinking: "if this school will teach me to do that, this is where I want to be." At the time I knew I had some talent and a lot of drive, but I believe that it was teachers like Ms. Nichols, Ms. Cimballa, and Ms. Richardson that came along to push me the extra way. Although I always dreamed of having the type of opportunities and accomplishments I've had, I don't know that I would've truly believed what my life would become. I am so thankful for all of the people here that have opened so many doors for me along the way and led me to my next chapter of life.



Molly Hunsinger

Having attended SOA since 6th grade, I can easily say that it's the students that make the school as great as it is. I feel so lucky that when the senior class would come together, I could look around and recognize every face and know everyone's name. As for advice for those entering High School or SOA in general, it would be to take the opportunity to get to know everyone in your class the best you can. Don't confine yourself to just one group of friends. Explore friendships outside of your major. You learn more from those you differ the most from. Also, it's so important to have good relationships with your teachers. If they know they can trust you and that you are a genuine student, they will be more apt to listen to your suggestions and concerns. Lastly, if you want to see change in SOA or in



Leo Horton

I've got to hand it to the amazing Anne Cimballa for being the best teacher of my high school years and for granting me the confidence to create. Sure, her room is rife with scandalous drama and sick days and occasional negligence but it's also a place of wild expression, cynical

the greater community, it's up to you to be your own advocate, no one else will do it for you as well as you can.

Tanner Kirk

In 2029, I want to produce my own music, and perform it around the country and the world. I want to tour the United States, and play festivals like Coachella and Tomorrowland. In order to do that, I plan to begin producing my own music, and to start learning how to DJ. I have a collection of people I know who can show me the ropes of production and performance, as well as work opportunities where I can learn the ins and outs of the music industry. In terms of promotion, I plan to use the digital resources I have at my disposal. I want to mainly use Instagram (@high_vibr), and YouTube to get my work out there, and of course, I have Soundcloud, iTunes, and Spotify to put my actual music on. Aside from that, it's going to be a lot of grinding, but I'm more than ready for it. I know it's what I'm meant to be doing with my life.



John Knobeloch

Although I only had her for half of my seventh year here at SOA, Ms. McKinley has by far had the strongest impact on me; and I'm sure many of my classmates feel the same way. Ms. McKinley brought the best out of every one of us through her encouragement and cooperative teaching style. Thanks to her, our senior theses were about as good as they could have been, and personally I couldn't have been happier with how my piece turned out thanks to her liberty towards our creative freedom, and the help she gave me along the way.



Writing this, I recall how one day, after class, it was Ms. McKinley that had told me to do a solo piece, and I thought: "Of course!" It was the obvious decision for me. I had been struggling to think of a topic, but with a solo piece I could somewhat treat the writing process like standup. Once I actually figured out a character and a situation, the whole scene rolled together very nicely, and I was quite proud of how funny it was.

Not to forget how well Ms McKinley cast every student in her class for the *Night of Scenes* at the beginning of the year, without ever having met them. Everyone's roles were right up their respective alley, just as well as everyone's boundaries were being pushed and supported by Ms. McKinley at the same time.

Ms. McKinley truly did bring out the best in everyone's abilities this year, and at the same time she brought the senior theatre class closer together. I'm quite thankful for the love and support she has given us, as well as I am grateful for the confidence she's instilled in me through her own.

Thank you, Ms. McKinley

Adam Krasnoff

My time at SOA would honestly have sucked were it not for creative writing, and, more specifically, for Ms. Hart's classes on creative nonfiction. Hart's classes taught me to love the style of writing which I would go on to utilize in my thesis, and the essays and works we read are some of my favorites, and have had a profound impact on the way I write. Above all else, though, her class was taught with a deep sense



of empathy and caring, as the space she creates allows for personal, vulnerable writing to be done without intimidation or anxiety. She is one of the reasons why I think I will write for the rest of my life.

Benjamin Kremer

My strings classes with Dr. Selby have been without a doubt the most impactful classes on me. As I've planned on for as long as I can remember, I am following in both my parents' footsteps pursuing a musical career. Away from school, I've learned how to play the violin, but it was in my SOA strings classes that I learned about ensemble and leadership. Thank you so much Dr. Selby for working non-stop in the office, on the podium, and everywhere in between to create a strings program that we're all proud to present here at home and across the nation.



Allie Larkin

In 2029, I hope to be a forensic scientist. But, like, also live in New York City and see Broadway shows every night and you know, be best friends with Jeremy Jordan. Or Derek Klena or Corey Cott or whatever. But I really love criminal cases and being able to study evidence for them sounds like exactly what I want to do with my life. I am majoring in biology (or maybe biochemistry) at Clemson and then I plan on getting a masters in forensic science. My end goal career wise is working for the FBI. The steps that I would have to take to get a job in the FBI would be fish Cuba, and burn the canoe.



James Leprettre

SOA gives a unique education experience, I have had some of the most memorable teachers that really challenged and engaged me with the learning. I feel as though SOA is a school where people can voice their opinions and though sometimes we have contention or drama it all settles down by the time we are all eating together at lunch. I would give three pieces of advice: turn in your homework, get some sleep, and don't be too afraid to talk to people, pretty much everyone likes making friends. I would say it is a tie between Mrs. Zerst, Mr. Short, Dr. Cusatis, and Dr. Tesenair because their classes truly challenged me, not teaching me *what* to think but *how* to think. I know that is a lot of teachers to name but it is really hard to choose between them. In 2029, I hope I am not strung out in a ditch somewhere and am still pursuing and possibly succeeding at my dreams to be a touring musician. Creativity thrives at SOA, being surrounded by artistic people all of the time has really inspired me to write songs, books and really approach the world in an open-minded fashion questioning everything and wondering loudly.

Anna Lipke

Knowing what I know now, I would honestly change so many things about how I approached middle and high school. I wish I had been more open minded in how I approached social situations, and academic work. I think that I wasted a lot of time not being as happy as I could be because I didn't know how to be comfortable with myself and be confident.



I would take a smarter, healthier approach to balancing my extracurriculars and academic classes and develop better time management techniques earlier on. I think each of my experiences, whether negative or positive, were part of me finding myself and learning, so I am thankful for all of them. I wouldn't have rather spent my middle and high school years at any other school.

Daniella Mallari

In 2029... I'll be 29! I would want to be working on nanotechnology or something cool and science-y. Though hopefully I won't be working under an evil government who weaponize my research and I die a horrible death like in all of the sci-fi movies. That's probably one of my biggest fears for the future. Anyways, I intend to study really hard to get to that moment! Other than that, I would also like to be playing video games... it seems a bit childish but it's something I really want to continue doing, the friends I have made and the community I hang out with are very important to me. If I wasn't so interested in the medical/science field, I would want to work with video game technology. Maybe I'll find a way to combine them. After all, Surgeon Simulator exists...



Naomi Marchant

Throughout my many years here at SOA, I have had many influential teachers such as, Mrs. Fairchild, Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Crawford, and Mrs. Lasley. But I would have to say my all-time favorite would be Mr. Orvin. I had Global Studies 3B during my freshman year, and at first, he was very scary and intimidating to me, probably because I had to do the "walk of shame" many times for yelling out stupid answers. But over the past four years, he has always been willing to listen to my problems with school or life in general and offer the best advice I could ask for. His way of teaching went far beyond your typical classroom learning setting, because to him, it was more than just taking notes all day and filling out worksheets. He taught life lessons just as often as he taught the ancient life of Romans, and for that I am very grateful for my time spent in his classroom. Thank you for everything, Mr. Orvin!



Grace Oenbrink

If I could redo high school all over again I would care less about school and more about my experience with friends. I know that education is important and very beneficial to life but when you look back on high school it's not the notes and the quizzes that you remember. You remember all of the things you experienced with friends and in the community. Don't stress about the small things. As long as you graduate in one piece and befriend some good people along the way that's all that matters.



Chassee' Palmer

In 2029, I want to be working for a big publication as one of the top journalists while also having my own business on the side. I'm not very picky about which publication because any at the moment is a win for me. I don't know what that business will be yet but it will be something

that gives me a good steady income. To make sure that these dreams come true, I am going to work very hard in college and also in grad school. My college in Atlanta and that has become one of the top places to network and get your name out there. Also joining clubs and organizations throughout college will boost my chances. Dedication, prayers, and hardwork is the main things that is going to shoot me to that top spot.



Mackenzie Percy

In my time at SOA, I have had Ms. Cimballa as my visual arts teacher from eighth grade to eleventh grade, which has been the most impactful class I have taken. While I have always had a love for all things art, being in Ms. Cimballa's class heightened my capacity for it. Middle school visual art classes primarily focus on perspective, detail oriented pieces, and all the other fundamentals. However, Ms. Cimballa's personal artistic style is not detail oriented, but rather abstract at times and focusing more on color and emotion. She helped me to stray away from details at times such as in pallet knife painting, which is a technique I would have never tried without her along with other more abstract mediums. She inspired me to combine stippling (pointillism) and pallet knife painting to create more personable works while still holding onto my detailed focus. Had it not been for watching her paint and plaster emotions onto canvases, many of my pieces would be lacking in serious ways. She helped to grow my love for art in ways I didn't think was possible, which allowed me to push myself to pursue a career in interior design. In short, I am beyond grateful for the years I have had her as my teacher as she has not only taught me lessons within the art room but lessons in life as well.



John Peterseim

At SOA your major is your life. My career at SOA has allowed me to experiment with a ton of artistic styles and as a senior I have finally found my own, just in time for AP Drawing when I needed it most. When you get in to this school, obviously you must have a great interest for the topic. Here's some advice I wish I had: Don't be afraid to change majors if you have a notable change of heart; Don't force yourself to do something you hate. Don't get me wrong, I thoroughly enjoyed my six years in Visual Arts, I just think it should be known that switching majors is not too hard, and a great way to diversify your experience at SOA. One of my favorite teachers was Mrs. Mahoney. She was my teacher for Pre-Calculus and AB Calculus. Mahoney along with Lindgren cultivated my interest in both Calculus and Physics leading me to pursue a major in Mechanical Engineering.



Stephen Polite

I believe that an education at SOA is very much needed for people who have a desire to go into the arts as a career. The education also prepares you for the college life, because we are a magnet school, we are treated almost like a college meaning that the work is just a tad more difficult. If I started SOA as a sixth grader, I don't think I'd do anything different but my study habits. As a matter of fact I think that being at SOA in the sixth grade would have helped me to become more acclimated to

how things go at SOA. I have two teachers who have had the greatest impact: Mr. Brandon Lyons and Mrs. Alisha Martini. Both of them have made it their business to make sure that I pass their class because they want me to succeed. By 2029 I plan on being married, with four kids Sekani, Sarabi, Stephen Jr., and Sariah. I also plan on being a Pastor and having my own church doing full time ministry. I intend to make it happen by continuing to keep God first in my life and letting him lead, guide and direct me. If I could reflect on any aspect of my four years at SOA it would be the teachers I've had. There have been some teachers who really wanted me to succeed and believed in me and then there are some teachers who didn't even think I'd pass 9th grade. It would also be my friends I have a good bit but not a lot of friends but the friends that I do have they have been loyal and they have been there for me since 9th grade. It's bittersweet to be leaving SOA but the future holds great things for me.



Liv Provosty

I have been at School of the Arts since I was eleven years old. I remember being so nervous but the creative writing room quickly became my safe place where I was able to meet so many people and form amazing friendships. I remember meeting some of my best friends and it is so strange to think of everything that has changed over these seven years. When I was a freshman so much was changing and I was so grounded by the new friendships I had made during a time where everything else just felt so strange. The friends I made the first day of sixth grade and the kids I sat with at the lunch table freshman year when nothing else seemed to make sense are the same friends that I am graduating with this year. They are the same people that have loved me always and they are the people that made this all absolutely worth it.



Madison Robertson

In 2029, I want to be working for the Walt Disney Company as a dancer or a character. I intend to make this happen by continuing to improve my dance career through college and working on my acting skills. I plan on applying to the Disney College Program my junior or senior year as a way to get my foot in the door with the company. This will allow me to get a backstage view of the magic before I commit to moving to Orlando and working full time for Disney.



Zachary Shirley

Throughout my years at this school I've been exposed to so much. To narrow this experience down to one favorite moment would be impossible, there's just been too many. I know that it's very cliché, but favorite moment was all of them, good or bad, this was my life for seven years and I appreciate every moment.



Megan Slowey

Hopefully by 2029, I will be employed and making enough

money to be living not solely on peanut butter and jelly sandwiches. Ideally, I would be living and working somewhere overseas, anywhere that is not the United States really, in the field of my intended major of mechanical engineering. With that degree, I would like to be in the field of aeronautics or marine working on designing aspects of planes, boats, or spaceships. At night, I would like to come home to a loving dog, who will always be watch bad comedies with me. In order to make my not so far fetched goal a reality, I need to graduate college and have a contract with and overseas company, and enjoy the process.



Maggie Smith

This year, before even starting college, I've switched what I want to major in about five times. Regardless of the specifics, I know I want to work in research eventually. Ten years from now, I intend to be working in a lab and not in customer service, so I can easily avoid talking to people. I'll probably end up going to more years of school than normal people can afford, but it will be fine if I get to play with microscopes. And while I won't get a cool hat for getting a doctorate like they do in Sweden (unless I decide to move to Sweden, which is a distinct possibility), I'll be able to do other cool science-y things.



Igor Statsenko

I see myself being 3 things: professional musician, professional audio engineer, and also an influencer, but not the cliché, I-post-pictures-and-get-a-bunch-of-likes influencer. I want to be a motivational figure in this world and change it for the better. I want to be in a place where I'm financially stable doing music and studio work so I can begin inspiring others to follow their path. I have a simple plan to make all of this happen and the formula goes as follows: "Self Belief + Hard Work + Passion = Dream Life." The society we live in today is very broken; most can't think for themselves, are lost, mentally unstable, spoiled, and blind to the opportunities available to them in the amazing country of the U.S. The reason my mother moved here in 2008 from Uzbekistan is because she wanted me to have an opportunity to be successful, and my plan is to not let her down. My mom made too many sacrifices for me to waste this life. I also believe that you have to be the change you want to see in the world. I plan on committing myself to my craft so I can lead by example. Unlike a lot of us, I am very optimistic for the human race. I believe at the core of all us is compassion, love, and a desire to feel joy. Many of us are spoiled and can't realize the life we have been blessed with, especially living in America. I see so many complain about mental health on a daily basis and 90% of that stems from a lack of gratitude and appreciation for this rare opportunity to live in such an abundant nation.



Gaia Strozier

In the year 2029, I plan to have earned my MBA. I will be part of a major business, living in the Italian countryside with a Great Dane. I will own multiple pink business suits and live in a pink cottage



I will be fluent in Mandarin, Spanish, and Italian. I hope to be married to Zen Vincion because that would be really cool. I will continue to sing, but probably in the shower or along with the little girl or boy I plan on having. I will be working very hard in the next four years at COFC, studying international business. Afterwards, I plan to go to graduate school. I hope to keep relationships thriving with many of my high school friends. I want to maintain happiness.

Jarell Summersett

If I were entering SOA in sixth grade, what I would do differently is express myself a little more. When I first came to SOA in sixth grade, I didn't know anybody and I was in a shell. Seeing other sixth graders coming in already having friends from their previous schools, I became very uncomfortable very quickly. Before I came, it was easy for me to make friends and communicate because of my cool personality. Over time I became more comfortable with being around people and showing who I am, but I still have that very quiet personality that I would try to somewhat fix if I were to do it over again. Avoiding developing a very introverted personality and opening up around different people would probably make my middle and high school experience even more memorable.



English Walpole

SOA is certainly a school like no other. I knew this when I was a fifth grader sitting in the Creative Writing classroom and auditioning for a position at this school. My father made me apply and I was angry and annoyed because I did not want to be there and absolutely did not want to go to a school as weird as this one. A couple months later, when I was accepted to the program, even though my father originally told me we would "consider our options if I were to even be accepted," I quickly learned that in our household, there would be no other option for me to go to school. So, slightly begrudgingly, I accepted my position as a Creative Writing major at SOA.

I have grown to love this school as a second home. We do all know that SOA is a school full of talent, but it is also a place with many of my favorite memories. Every day at lunch, we pile into one of the red picnic table benches outside the cafeteria, three to a seat, with strict rules about who sits where, and reminisce on our times together over the years and laugh about everything that is insignificant and small.

Leaving this school feels surreal. I've learned that it isn't the wide and spread out campus that creates so much talent and companionship, but the artists and friends who come together. At the end of the day, we are just friends, and people, who are moving away, but will never forget the times we shared as artists, as friends, as people over our seven years at SOA.

Cass Wauben

SOA has been a good place for me to grow up over the last few years. I've had a few teachers like Mr. Pezzaca and Mr. Short who had a huge impact on who I want to be as a person and my goals for the future. I genuinely have no idea what I want to be doing in 2029, I'm just gonna live my life and see how things work out. I really don't care as long as



I'm happy. SOA has been a great high school and I'm thankful for the experiences I've had here and how it's changed me as a person.

Finean Williams

Entering SOA again as a seventh grader, the one thing that I would do differently would be not going to Magnet for the first two years of high school. My two years at magnet made me really appreciate SOA despite all of its flaws. It's a place where people can more or less be themselves without fear of judgement and there are no clearly defined social castes like there were at Magnet. Although Magnet did give me insight into who I really was and made me appreciate the school I'm graduating from, it was not worth those two wasted years of high school that I spent in misery.

Ashley Worth

By 2029 hopefully I will be a successful forensic scientist living and working in Seattle, becoming financially stable before I do anything serious like marriage or kids.

How I intend to make that happen is another story. My first semester I am going to work hard in school to make sure I start off college right, then start working my second semester, and the rest of college, to save for the future and my 401k. Of course travel abroad one summer, go throughout Europe to meet family I've never met and grow as a human and a young adult in the early 2020's. I hope in my life before 2029 I make a big impact in the world and in people's lives that come my way.



French 3 students donate original books to school in Haiti

by Galen Berger

Students in Ms. Bednarczyk's French 3 class recently wrote and illustrated storybooks using upper level French grammar. It's a lot of work for her and the students; however, Ms. Bednarczyk believes that it is the best way to get

students to really learn how to write in French and to pay attention to teacher corrections. "I've done this storybook project for years" she says.

But this year, her students' books have made their way to a new school library in in La Chapelle, Haiti. When a friend of Mrs. Bednarczyk's alerted her regarding the need for French books in this very poor region of Haiti and shared photos of the local school, Ms. B. felt her students could help. The photos showed a school with just a few chalkboards, tables and chairs. "The students don't even have textbooks." Her students' colorful creations were delivered to the school in late April.

Each storybook is unique and beautifully done. Mrs. Bednarczyk included a photo of each author inside the book so the kids in La Chapelle will be able to see that students here in Charleston, SC are thinking of them.



The French students pictured each produced a book that will help further the education of children in La Chapelle.

Remembering Ms. Danyelle Altman

SOA's beloved attendance clerk, Ms. Danyelle Altman and her husband Marshall tragically passed away in a car accident this spring, leaving behind their three young daughters. In light of their passing, students, parents and teachers were asked to chronicle their positive experiences with Ms. Altman. The responses will be compiled and given to the Altman girls to show them how much their amazing mother meant to the people of SOA. Below are a few entries received by Dr. Cook.



Zachary Shirley

When I hear someone mention Danyelle Altman, I immediately think of "the friendly attendance lady at SOA." She truly was a beautiful lady who was always friendly - she didn't just do her job, but she made conversation and got to know the students and parents.

Danyelle was taken from us way too early, but the memories we have of her will live forever. If she left a positive impact on the people she worked with, how much more she must have left with her family! We will always be able to see parts of her personality shining within each of her daughters.

When my day comes, I hope people remember me as "the friendly lady," as we will always remember Danyelle.

Blessings,
Denise Dannecker

I am a senior at School of the Arts. Mrs. Altman was always the kindest and most helpful person. Whenever I went to her with a concern regarding an absence, not only did she put my mind at ease, but she also genuinely connected with me as a person. After her birthday, she told me how her amazing daughters decorated her home. When I was accepted to college, she was thrilled for me. She had an incomparable radiance. She was the individual you could count on to be consistently supportive or the person to go to if you needed advice. She was a wonderful woman, and I miss her dearly.

- Elliot Blake Hueske

With the short time we have known Ms. Altman, we have become very fond of her. She has always been so very friendly and helpful. One time I was running to a meeting at the school and the train had delayed my arrival. I was worried and called the school, as I was certain I was going to be late. Ms. Altman answered and suggested an alternative route- one I didn't know of. Due to her kindness, I was luckily not late and on perfect time for the meeting. Anytime we came across Ms. Altman, she always made it easy to put a smile on our face. Ms. Altman will forever be in our hearts, and we pray for her family and friends. We love you Ms. Altman,

-The Sheffields

Dear Lydia, Baye, and Poppi,

I am a mother of a student who attended School of the Arts

and I wanted to write a few words to you girls regarding your mother... because she was truly such a special person.

She was a diligent worker who was simply amazing at her job! It was evident that she loved working at School of the Arts! She was intelligent, efficient, organized, and so much more. But her position at SOA did not define who she was as an individual. I had the privilege to know her on a personal level as a friend. Our friendship developed because we both have daughters. We would speak often about the three of you as well as my twin daughters.

She was incredibly kind and I will treasure the moments that I shared with her. My daughter spoke with her at prom, and she emailed me the next day to let me know how beautiful all the girls were and how dapper all the boys were. She took time to connect with people.

When my daughter was accepted to her dream college, your mother was as proud of her as though she was her own daughter. With all the people she dealt with daily, every relationship she had with students and parents was unique and special.

I send this to you all because I know that you have her within you, which lets me know that you will all blossom and become as amazing as she was.

With Love,
Caroline Blake

I am in 9th grade at School of the Arts. I did not go here in middle school, so I didn't really know anybody. But your mom was always a smiling face when I came through the door in the morning. I remember she was always so nice to everyone, even if they were 20 minutes late to school. She always struck up a conversation with me and with people she didn't even know. She always helped others around her. Even though I didn't know her personally, I know that your mom was a great woman with a heart of gold.

The artwork to the right was drawn by Esme Barna, 10th grade, and placed by Ms. Altman's office, where students and teachers brought flowers and candles to honor her.



In Memory of Alex Kuffel-Barbanel

by Lou Collins and Caitlin Shelor

Alexander (Alex) Kuffel-Barbanel was born on April 16, 2001, and passed away on April 4, 2019. He was just about to turn 18 and graduate high school. Though his life was cut far too short, he spent his time constantly bringing joy into the lives of those around him. Be it by taking a few minutes on a hike to figure out how to show off “CW” with his hands or goading those around him to climb up onto the tallest nearby structure, Alex knew how to use his specific flare to brighten up a situation.

He was a Creative Writing major at Charleston County School of the Arts for nearly two years. Alex started the 2017-18 school year enrolled at Academic Magnet High School, but after only a few days, he strolled over to the administration building in the middle of campus, and asked if there were any spots available in any majors at SOA. He was told there were openings in Dance and Creative Writing. He was, of course, accepted into the Creative Writing department and began attending SOA as part of the 2020 Creative Writing class (but the 2019 graduating class.) His most memorable pieces include some that look at nature in a unique way, often times discussing evolution of man and man’s impacts on the environment and society, as well as one consisting exclusively of onomatopoeias one might encounter on a highway. Alex’s sense of humor and his way with words were captivating for everyone who was lucky enough to read or hear his work.

April 5, 2019, the day everyone at school heard the tragic news, was a difficult day for everybody, especially those of us who were friends with him. Recently, the senior and junior Creative Writers, along with Alex’s friends in different majors, brainstormed ways to remember him in a more permanent, physical way on the campus. He left such a lasting impact on every single person he met, so finding an equally meaningful and heartfelt way to remember him was difficult, but in a meeting with the Creative Writing teachers, Dr. Cook, and the Creative Writing class of 2020, it was decided that a tree would be planted on the campus with a plaque dedicating the tree to Alex. The tree is set to be planted at the end of the summer or beginning of the 2019-2020 school year in a mulch area in the parking lot near the RMMT, where Alex would frequently look for rides home. The tree is specifically meaningful because Alex would climb anything that would hold him, constantly craving adventure and a good view.





Applause
presents:

American Pie

A tribute to 1950s & 60s Rock 'n' Roll





On Thursday, May 23, *Applause* presented “American Pie: A Celebration of the First Two Decades of Rock ‘n’ Roll.” *Applause* advisor **Dr. John Cusatis** was joined by SOA English teacher **Ms. Rhetta Foster**, AMHS music teacher **Mr. Ian Grimshaw**, and thirty SOA and AMHS students as they performed twenty selections from Buddy Holly, Elvis Presley, Bob Dylan, the Rolling Stones, Janice Joplin, Don McLean and others. At intermission Dr. Cusatis and English and Theater instructor **Ms. Alea McKinley** presented the Tenth Annual Rose Maree Myers Scholarship for Artistic Excellence to senior **Gahmal Keels-Bobo**.



PTSA Announcement From President Bobby Baker

I always thought of our journey together in the PTSA as one extended camping trip. We shared many camp fires together and through it all, the last four years for me have been incredible. Words can not describe it.

And so my friends the period for a new election of a parent to administer the executive of the PTSA has arrived. My term runs out on June 30th, 2019.

With so many real challenges ahead you must be assured that my decision to step away was taken with the strictest regard to every consideration. I would like to recognize the following staff for their years of outstanding service: Beth Bast (six years as corresponding secretary), Chris Temples (three years as treasure), Denise Indovina (past Vice President and two years Reflections Chair), Yancey Richmond (four years as the box top fund raiser), Monica Arevalo (three years Teacher Appreciation Chair), Meka Mikell our past Treasure and Catherine Sandifer (Secretary, Treasure), Julia Bowers (current Vice President). I would also like to thank all the parent volunteers who cooked dishes for teachers, donated food for teacher events, and helped any way they could. Some I can't recall their names but I will always remember their faces.

Moving forward its important to recognize issues the new board must address.

* Pledge funding for school wide recognition for student mental wellbeing. Work with the administration with the determination that mental wellbeing is not a support service but an academic service.

* Mandatory staff attendance at SOA student registration.

* Improve the dismal teacher participation in the PTSA. Every year for the past four years, teacher participation has averaged only 12%.

* Develop and strengthen communications with the administration by attending principal cabinet meetings.

* Be visible on campus and take every opportunity to be an advocate of higher learning among our children.

Today the PTSA is stronger than it has ever been and its leadership will take you boldly into a challenging and bright future.

I remain your most humble and obedient servant,
Bobby Baker



SOA English teacher **Dr. John Cusatis** was invited to present a lecture at the World of Bob Dylan Symposium at the University of Tulsa, May 30-June 2. The conference drew 500 Dylan scholars and fans from around the world to take part in four days of events and talks surrounding the 2016 winner of the Nobel Prize in Literature. Keynote events included an appearance by rock 'n' roll hall of famer Roger McGuinn, founder of the Byrds. McGuinn talked about joining Dylan on the Rolling Thunder Review, the subject of a new Martin Scorsese documentary to be released this month. He also played "Mr. Tambourine Man," a number one hit for the Byrds in 1965, as well as several other songs, on his legendary 12-string Rickenbacker guitar.

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SOA Orchestra Receives Prestigious Invitation

by Katie Jo Gelasco

After months of preparation for an audition to the prestigious 2019 Midwest International Band and Orchestra Clinic, the strings program is happy to announce that the SOA orchestra has been invited to perform. Dr. Selby stated that "being invited to perform is the highest honor a band or orchestra can receive, next to winning a Grammy." He also says he is extremely proud of his students. "SOA has only a fraction of the number of students of most Midwest level high school orchestra programs. But what we lack in numbers, we make up in talent and extremely hard work."

As a result, on December 18-21, the SOA orchestra will fly to Chicago to perform a number of pieces for internationally acclaimed adjudicators and educators. This will only be the second time in history that a South Carolina orchestra has been invited to attend, the last one being invited in 1983.

Sass Attack

by John White

"Sass Attack" was 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.

Being a Charleston resident for the last 17 years I have grown to learn a thing or two about brunch. For centuries Sunday brunch has been an after church staple for parishioners coming from an 11:45 worship service, but in later years it has been adopted by twenty somethings looking for cheap huevos rancheros and bottomless mimosas. As brunch varies from city to city, and because the Holy City is perhaps the brunch capital of the world, my article will focus mainly on brunch in Charleston. I think at its conception brunch was a harmless concept that served the niche of late risers still seeking breakfast into the afternoon hours but has grown into this hellacious contact sport played my men, women, and children. Anyone who believes my previous statement to be hyperbole has clearly never seen the things I have seen. I was once naïve like you but my brunch world view has become jaded from working in the food and beverage industry for nearly two years.

If I could give you only one piece of advise in regards to brunching in Charleston, it would be to make a reservation. Waitlists of upwards of two hours are not uncommon as many brunch goers are incapable of planning ahead. At the hostess stand of any one of these establishments you will find sleep deprived teenagers answering the phone only to tell the woman on the other end that, "no, unfortunately we cannot accommodate a party of 14 in half an hour." Yes thats an actual question I had to answer working a brunch. It made me laugh, not only was it a Sunday, but it was EASTER. Trying to get a brunch reservation for a party that large on any Sunday (let alone Easter) is like trying to crochet while wearing oven mitts, impossible.



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Fashion and Costume Design: A Year in Review

by Caroline Baker

This is the fifth year for the new Costume & Fashion Design Major at SOA. The Design major curriculum uses the annual Fashion Show & the costume design for an annual theatrical production as the vehicles to teach the Design Engineering Cycle in a project-based learning environment. We began the year with wonderful Art History & Visual Arts Workshops with our own founder of the major, Mrs. Nichols, and rolled out the 2019 Fashion Show Theme: Art Over 100 Years to begin our exploration of ancient art and clothing before 1919. We completed our first unit on Costume Design in September then our designers got to see their work come to life on stage for Midsummer Night's Dream in October. The students then began working in earnest on the design cycle for our fashion show and found time to win several competitions in the process.

We had THREE 10th grade design students, **Mia Lassiter**, **Katie Gorman** & **Tom Olalere**, who won second and third places against adults in The Coastal Carolina Fair with the dresses they made for their freshman Fashion Show!

We also had the grand prize winner, **Ellen Emge**, and six of the ten finalists, **Samantha Clarke**, **Caroline Colas Des Francs**, **Ellen Emge**, **Alyssa Nickles** and **Makayla Gonzalez** win spots in the "Off Runway" runway competition which took place on November 2 at Charlestowne Landing Founder's Hall.



Some designers, like Lexi Jones, 11th grade, model clothes as well.

On Friday, November 9, our major won first place in the Charleston Festival of Lights Giant Greeting Card competition. It was our major's very first entry into the contest and we were thrilled to win first place. The 9th-11th grade designers created the board (see pictures) which was seen by the 44,000 annual

attendees.

We had our first ever Scholastic Silver Key winner, 10th grader, **Simone Geathers!** Simone won this incredible honor with her Fashion Show dress from freshman year which brought attention to the epidemic of marijuana use in our teens. Scholastic is a national award and Simone competed with students all over the country for her win.

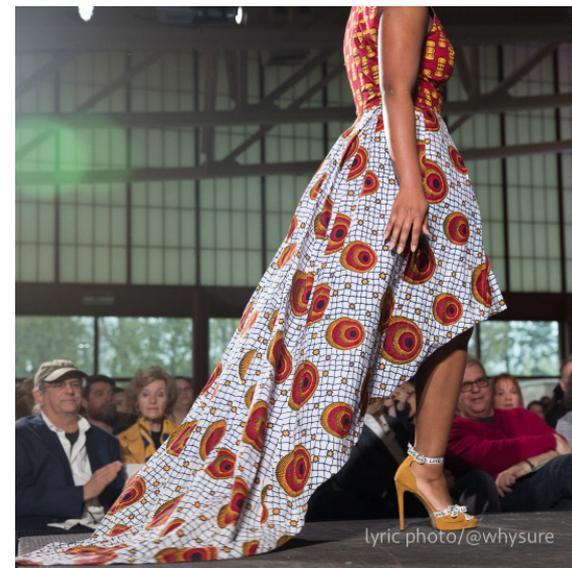
Another 10th grader, Mia Lassiter won a solo art exhibition at Saul Alexander Gallery at the downtown Charleston County Public Library in April 2019 where she occupied the entire gallery to celebrate her visual art. Mia was also named to Rising Stars for Piccolo Spoleto where she will exhibit her design work on Memorial Day next week.

Our Booster Club also celebrated a huge win by creating a fabric store from the fabric mess in our loft. It was quite an accomplishment and the entire major owes a debt of gratitude to the parents who undertook this endeavor and especially to Jane Emge & Kathi Benton who organized and oversaw the project.

Design held an incredible spring fashion show, thanks to the support of major parents and our Booster Board, to debut the major's garment collections based on themes inspired by "Art over 100 Years." We also displayed a large garment collection at the annual Spring Showcase as well. The students' visual art talents are showcased in mood boards throughout the campus for both event and several are currently on display in the front office. The 2019 Fashion Show was a wonderful success for our students with over 750 people in attendance. Freshman showed 1-2 looks, sophomores showed 2-3, juniors showed 4-6 looks and seniors showed their 8 piece Senior Thesis collections on the runway before a Senior Thesis reception in the RMMT Gallery. This was our first time combining Senior Thesis and the Fashion Show into one night and it was fun and very well-attended.

After Spring Break, students visited New York City to study living costume and fashion design, be inspired by ancient and contemporary art and enjoy time together. It was an incredible, educational event, which we do every other year.

In addition to workshops with Mrs. Nichols and semester drawing classes with Mrs. Richardson and Ms. Cimballa, the major also benefited from guest speakers such as Angel Roberts, Costume Designer for That '70s Show for over ten years, and Brandon Sheffield, who designs international fashion shows for Tommy Hilfiger. Those were amazing supplements we will expand next year!



The 2019 fashion show displayed a great variety of designs that drew a significant crowd.

We were thrilled to award both the Marie Nichols Sport Award Scholarship and the Jasiri Whipper Memorial Scholarship to our own senior, **Caroline Floyd**. Those scholarships have different selection processes and we have never had one of our seniors win both scholarships so that was very exciting! Our Fashion Show funds the scholarships, as well as our major supplies and events, so we celebrate all the cooperation that makes such wonderful gifts possible for our seniors.

I am thrilled to announce that **Nadja McGlone**, Class of 2018, was awarded the Michael Kors scholarship (from Michael himself!) which is a full ride with a semester abroad program at F.I.T. Nadja was nominated by multiple professors and won as a freshman, both of which are just unheard of for this college-wide competition.

This June we celebrate our third class of graduating seniors who will be CTE completers in addition to earning their SOA Diplomas with Thesis. Past graduates are attending the most prestigious art and design schools in the world such as RISD, Central St. Martins in London, the University of North Carolina School of the Arts and F.I.T. in New York City and our current graduates will be attending Clemson for architecture and veterinary science, hospitality at USC, and Colorado State's fashion design program. We are so proud of our graduates!

In the Design major, our students learn the foundations of design in this multidisciplinary major as they practice their gifts of sketching, construction, draping and working with flat pattern design. The students conclude the year by planning our next year, brainstorming on community outreach and creating a digital portfolio project for their work.

Theatre: A Year in Review

by George Younts

Very busy year for the theater department for 2018-19! Over 20 different types of shows were produced this academic year with a list of titles as such: *The Revolutionists*, *Cage Match*, *Backpack*, *A Midsummer's Night's Dream*, *You Can't Take It With You*, *Seuss Odyssey*, *Holiday Table*, *Why Avoid What Is Inside of You?*, Fighting Gnomes Improv Outreaches, MS Theatre Showcases, *Fairy Tales Go To Court*, *30 Reasons Not To Be In A Play*, *Cabaret Night*, *Like I Am*, *Hourglass Tales*, *Hello My Baby*, *Circus* and *Bard in A Box* which resulted in lots of student getting stage time in over 80 plus performances.

Also, at the county, state and regional level, SOA made outstanding showings at both High School and Junior Thespian Conferences and SOA earned Third Place in the State One Act Play Contest along with picking up awards for best costumes and best sound. Also, there was the annual trip to the Southeastern Theater Conference in Knoxville, TN this year, where juniors received several college audition callbacks.

A very good year indeed, and thanks to all of our students and parents for their support this year!

Middle School Visual Arts: A Year in Review

by Damond Howard

Middle School Visual Arts enjoyed an outstanding year. In the 2018-19 Coastal Carolina Fair Youth Art Contest, the following Visual Arts majors received awards: **Evelyn Bueschgen** (8th) Second Place Ribbon, and **Abigail Short** (8th) Third Place Ribbon.

In the 2018-19 Scholastic Art & Writing Awards competition, Region-at-Large, SOA Middle School Visual Arts was awarded: **Connelly Sexton** (7th) Gold Key, Evelyn Bueschgen (8th) two Silver Keys, **Grace Nelson** (8th) Silver Key, Abigail Short (8th) Silver Key, **Moyu Yamaguchi** (8th) Honorable Mention, **Emily Apostolico** (8th) Honorable Mention, and **Savanna Jones** (8th) Honorable Mention.

In the 2018-19 PTA Reflections Contest, the following Visual Arts students received an award: Savanna Jones (8th) 1st Place in Visual Arts, and **Rowan Ruppel** (6th) 1st place in Photography. In the 2018-19, Trident Technical College's, Quest art competition, the following Visual Arts major received an awarded: Rowan Ruppel (6th) Second Place ribbon. In the 2018-19 Holocaust Creative Arts Competition, the following Visual Arts students received awards: **Julia Boyer** (7th) Second Place ribbon, **Gracie VanWaganen** (6th) Honorable Mention, and **Luka Hoffmann** (6th) Honorable Mention.

In the 2018-19 North Charleston Arts Festival Youth Art Contest, the following Visual Arts students received awards: **Eric Feng** (7th) Second Place Ribbon, and **Jessica Yu** (7th) Honorable Mention.

In addition to creating award-winning artworks while at school, Middle School Visuals gained experiences out on the field. Sixth Grade Visual Arts traveled with Sixth Grade Creative Writing to create art and poetry at Bulls Island (SC), Seventh Grade Visual Arts saw historic portraits at the Heyward-Washington House and viewed art at the Charleston Museum, and Eighth Grade Visual Arts toured the Art Department at the University of South Carolina.

High School Visual Arts: A Year in Review

by Anne Cimballa

Transitions and transformations sum up the 2018-2019 school year in High School Visual Arts.

A brand new Booster Club to support us, a new teacher, new students, new traditions, new friends and a lot of memories peppered the program. We painted, printed, drew, sculpted, sewed, created works of art with clay, spray paint, ink, seashells, recycled materials, fabric and found objects.

Our students dominated several competitions this year and earned recognition in every show we submitted work to.

We bid a fond farewell to our seniors as they embark on the path they've set before them. We look forward to the summer months (weeks) ahead to recharge and to be even more inspired as we leave our marks on this world.

Dance: A Year in Review

by Linda Cline

The dance at SOA has had a wonderful and energetic year! It all started with middle school dance night, where middle school dancers do fun activities and bond with each other, they learn dance combinations, and they eat great food. The middle school was involved in several convocations, where they performed dances they had been working on. 6th graders are currently collaborating with creative writing on an African Dance and Storytelling unit. The 7th grade dance majors choreographed their own poetry dances and learned social dance including the Philippine Tinikling and Carolina Shag. The 7th graders 8th Grade dance and visual arts collaborated on a project where the dancer choreographed a solo and a visual artist created an artwork, both based on an original masterpiece. For dance field trips, the 6th and 7th Graders attended the Myrtle Beach Opry Theatre in October and the 8th graders took an aerial dance class and a hip hop dance class! **Natalie Benton** and **Sophia Katsibas**, both 8th graders, won the Reflections award for the State and are moving on to the next level of the competition.

High School dance majors went to Disney in October where they performed original Disney choreography and attended a workshop on auditioning. While they were there, they saw Disney parades, shows, and had a wonderful time! The Regional High School Dance Festival was held in Norfolk Virginia. Students performed their work, saw numerous performances, took master classes, and auditioned for scholarships. The NHSDA hosted an audition workshop for rising 6th graders to learn how to audition for dance placement at a school dance program.

The Dance departmental is a culmination of all the hard work done over the year, from building technique, to connecting to cultural dance forms, to preparing costumes and choreography. The performance was a huge event that showcased the best of our department. The dance awards were held afterwards and students were awarded most improved, highest achievement, creativity, and a special senior award for adjudication. Scholarships were also awarded to deserving students for summer study.



Middle School Visual Artists enjoyed their time at the Heyward-Washington House downtown.

High School Band: A Tumultuous Year in Review

by Tes Smoak, Olivia Lopez

The 2018-2019 school year was a challenging one for the High School Band Majors. **Mr. Kerr** had retired and **Mrs. Smith** became the new High School Band Director. Band Camp was a time of changes, as Mrs. Smith implemented new ideas and plans for the band. She redesigned the band's rehearsal space, making it more organized and efficient. The warm-up routine and rehearsal organization was changed, with new ideas and routines. At first these were difficult changes for the students, who had been used to Mr. Kerr's routine, but everyone adapted to the new situation.

A new Leadership Team for the band, made up of students recommended by Mr. Kerr, was organized by Mrs. Smith to assist her as she started her first year at SOA. These students worked hard to help her adjust to the very different environment of our school. Little did they know how important they would become as the year progressed.

Of course, the biggest event of the fall (some say the whole school year!) is "Jump, Jive and Wail." Again it was a big success, with a huge crowd at the Charleston Visitor Center. As always, it's a big celebration, with food, fun and great jazz!

As the fall semester progressed, it became obvious that Mrs. Smith was having some health issues. This became more apparent as the holiday break approached. Then, in a sudden, shocking development, Mrs. Smith resigned in January, citing poor health. Her sudden departure left the High School Band Majors without a teacher or leader. Mrs. Reed stepped in to help hold things together, assisted by the student leadership team and the seniors. Together, they worked to get students ready to go to the All-State and All-State Jazz auditions the weekend after Mrs. Smith resigned. Even though this helped, Mrs. Reed was stretched thin, and the entire band department could not function with a single teacher for over 200 students. It was obvious this would not work for long.

Mrs. Reed and Dr. Cook turned to the only person they felt could step in and set things back on course. Mr. Kerr was

enjoying a well-deserved retirement, and was heavily involved with the Charleston Concert Band (the adult band for the Charleston area) and the Charleston Jazz Academy. He had been chosen to chair the Education Committee for Charleston Jazz, and was working on many projects with both of these organizations. He had no idea what was going on at SOA, as he had promised Mrs. Smith he would give her a year without him hanging around. Both Mrs. Reed and Dr. Cook called him within minutes of each other and asked him if he could come and finish the semester with the students. He hesitated, but a third phone call from his old friend Mr. McCloud at Burke High School sealed the deal. (McCloud to Kerr: "If you love the children, you know what you have to do.") With the support of his old principal, his old friend, and especially Mrs. Reed, Mr. Kerr came back in February.

After Kerr's return, the semester became a blur of events that had an even greater sense of importance and urgency. Rumors had begun among other local schools that the band at the School of the Arts was in trouble. In fact, the students themselves were upset and frustrated by the sudden upheaval caused by the situation with Mrs. Smith. Mr. Kerr's appearance on the podium at SOA calmed and reassured everyone, seeing that Mr. Kerr was there to get things back on track.

There was no time to waste. First was the State Jazz Festival, where the SOA Jazz has always been one of the dominant ensembles in the state. Held at Newberry College the first weekend in March, the SOA Jazz and the SOA Jazz Lab bands had seven rehearsals (including two after school rehearsals) to prepare music. On top of that, Mr. Kerr changed some of the music for each group, further raising the stakes. In spite of the short schedule, both groups received Superior ratings (the highest ratings) from all the adjudicators. This success served

notice that things were okay at SOA. However, there were still skeptics out there who weren't so sure.

In mid-March, the big event that would define the success or failure of the SOA High School Band Department arrived: The SCBDA Concert Performance Assessment, also known as Concert Festival. The Symphonic Band performed the first day, and earned a Superior rating! This was a happy surprise to many of the students, some of whom were still skeptical about their chances. The SOA Wind Ensemble then performed on the last day, earning the highest rating: "Superior with Distinction"! Because of this, the SOA Wind Ensemble was invited to perform at the State Concert Festival at Irmo High School in May. At that event, the Wind Ensemble received outstanding evaluations from the band directors at the University of Texas and The Ohio State University.

May was the final big month for the Jazz Band, too. Mr. Kerr contacted some of his former students and friends in the jazz community and organized a special concert, "The Giants of Jazz" held at Royal Missionary Baptist Church in Liberty Hill. The program featured the SOA Jazz Bands and guest artists Robbie Madison, Demetrius Doctor, David Carter and the legendary Lonnie Hamilton III. A large audience was treated to a great concert. The program was such a success that Royal Church has scheduled this program to be an annual event the Monday after Mother's Day. It marks the first time a major ensemble from SOA gave a performance in our neighboring community.

As all of this was happening in this semester, another search had begun for the new director. Mr. Ken Turner, the band director at River Bluff High School in Lexington, SC has since accepted the job. In addition to his conducting duties at River Bluff, he is the Principal Horn in the South Carolina Philharmonic Orchestra. His jazz ensemble also received Superior ratings at the State Festival, and his Wind Ensemble received "Superior with Distinction" at the SCBDA Concert Performance Assessment. He is a veteran teacher and an outstanding musician. Mr. Kerr has truly enjoyed his "curtain call" semester, and is very excited that an outstanding teacher like Mr. Turner will be taking his place.



Vocal: A Year in Review

by John White

Vocal directors **Heather H. Caffarel** and **Robin A. Rogers** exposed students to a wide variety of repertoire and experiences this year. In the fall the vocal department hosted Dr. Mitos Andaya, associate professor of Choral Music at Temple University, and Matthew Oltman, Associate Professor of voice at Shenandoah University and director emeritus of the Grammy Award winning male vocal ensemble Chanticleer, to conduct a clinic on campus for High School students. This experience gave students a glimpse of what choral music looks like at the college level.

In December the middle school performed their holiday concert alongside the middle school strings. In addition to traditional favorites like "Hallelujah Chorus" they performed Broadway style arrangements of "Run, Run, Rudolph" and other Christmas pop songs. The High School Vocal and Symphony students for the first time held their holiday concert at the Gaillard Center for a one night only sold out performance. The concert featured the debut of a symphonic arrangement of "O Nata Lux" by Kevin Memley, world renowned composer and friend of the Vocal Department. Students in both middle and high school did very well at their respective All State choirs. SOA always takes some of the largest groups to these clinics. High school sophomore **Eli Jennings** even earned the title #1 tenor in the state. Some students also had the opportunity to travel to Kansas City for National Choir. There students from all over the country worked with world class musicians. Back in Charleston the vocal department was fortunate enough to have Charlton Singleton and his jazz orchestra return along with talented vocalist Quiana Parlor to accompany the middle and high school students for Music Down in My Soul. This concert, a favorite of many, includes song such as "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot," "When the Saints Go Marching in," and "Total Praise." The High School Singers were invited to perform alongside the Charleston Pops Orchestra in their Broadway themed concert. Students sang arrangements like "Masquerade" from Phantom of the Opera, "Do Re Mi" from The Sound of Music, and "The Circle of Life" from Disney's *The Lion King*. Just a few weeks later many of these arrangements were sung again when vocal was joined by the SOA symphony for their joint masterworks concert. The first half of the concert was the Dan Forrest "Requiem for the Living." The second half featured many Broadway favorites

like the ones performed at the Gaillard with the Charleston Pops but also others like "One Day More" from *Les Miserables*. The finale of the vocal year was the High School Vocal trip to New York. Many students had the opportunity to spend four days in the city experiencing everything from seeing shows on Broadway, eating dinner in Little Italy, and buying dubious handbags in China Town. The highlight of the trip for most students was the center stage performance at Carnegie Hall. With an audience full of choral students, choir directors, music professors, and composers the pressure was on. Nevertheless the vocal students flawlessly executed a five song set with accuracy, precision, and professionalism in what many of them will remember as one of their best concerts ever. The middle school ended the year with their spring concert. The first half of the concert featured several choral selections some of which were perforated at national choir. After a brief intermission and some solo performances from the sixth grade, the rest of the ensemble was on stage in poodle skirts and biker jackets singing songs from the 50s. Seventh and Eighth grade boys sang an a cappella arrangement of "The Lion Sleeps Tonight" and the girls sang a medley of songs including "My Guy" and "Baby Love." The finale of the show was a large choreographed medley featuring all the vocal singers. The vocal students had an amazing year thanks to directors Robin Rogers and Heather Hammond.

Piano: A Year in Review

by Debra Benson

We began the year with a group activity by spending an afternoon at the Wild Blue Ropes course with middle school and an afternoon with high school piano majors. In the fall the middle school presented a blues concert in the cafeteria and the middle school and high school performed piano ensembles in the RMMT.



Piano majors share their art with the rest of the school at convocation performances.

In December, the high school pianists went on a field trip to New York City. We toured the Louis Armstrong House, went to several museums, the Empire State Building, saw the Broadway show *High School Rock*, went to the jazz club Swing 46, attended a piano concert at Julliard, and toured Jazz at Lincoln Center.

The middle school pianists and the high school pianists presented solo recitals in February and March and have participated in Sunday afternoon jazz concerts throughout the spring. The seniors presented their senior thesis performances in early April. **Michael Blackburn**, **Shane Deas**, and **Solomon Adams** each did a performance thesis consisting of a 25-30 minute performance.



The small group of High School Piano Majors bond in the Big Apple.

In April, the middle school students went and performed at Carowinds, participated in a jazz workshop at Winthrop University and a piano masterclass at Converse College.

During the spring piano students participated in several competitions. We had 36 students that participated in the Achievement Day competition that earned "Outstanding" ratings, 8 performed on the Honors Recital. We also had 22 students participate in the District Auditions and 14 went on to compete at the state level. **Joshua Baek** won his division for the Louis Mathis Scholarship Competition. Several students participated in the Charleston Symphony Orchestra League scholarship auditions. **Angela Mei** (8th grade) and **Kimberly Do** (6th grade) both won scholarships. Angela Mei also won her division in the South Carolina MTNA Competition as well as participated in the Governor School and Steinway Competitions. She and **Lucy Richmond** (10th grade) won scholarships from the Charleston Music Group. Lucy and **Henry Schrecker** (10th grade) have both been selected to attend the Brevard Music Camp this summer.

Creative Writing: A Year in Review

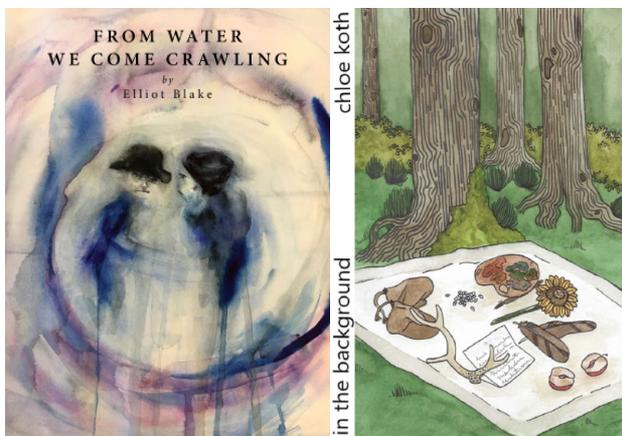
by Beth Webb Hart, Rutledge Hammes, and Danielle DeTiberus

This year the Creative Writing Majors at SOA have continued to cultivate their voices, hone their skills, and garner recognition on the national stage, earning hundreds of awards in some of the country's most prestigious writing competitions including the Princeton University High School Poetry Prize, the Skylark Prize, the Carl Sandburg Prize, and the Youth Playwrights Festival Competition at Blank Theater in Los Angeles. In addition, student work was selected for publication in the competitive Interlochen Review, and our creative writing students in grades 7-12 received a remarkable 246 regional and 26 national Scholastic Writing Awards (the nation's oldest and most prestigious contest for teenage writers), which is more than any other school in the country. Our National Scholastic Medals, including a Best in Grade (9th grade poetry), will be accepted at the world-famous Carnegie Hall in June. That night, the top of the Empire State Building will be lit in gold, in honor of their achievements. The program was proud to host widely published and nationally recognized writers this year such as Chen Chen, Meg Day, and Richard Garcia through our visiting authors series. Meg Day is a deaf poet, and her visit was especially meaningful as the writing majors collaborated with the Deaf Ed/Hard of Hearing Program at SOA to share stories and craft poems together.

The 6th grade began their year with poetry. Each student wrote several imagist poems as they explored the importance of concrete imagery, metaphor, simile, and symbol, and they also wrote nature poetry inspired by their collaborative trip to Bulls Island with the 6th Grade Visual Artists. In the spring, students were introduced to fiction and scriptwriting. They wrote two short stories, several vignettes, and collaborated with the Dance majors to study several West African dance and storytelling techniques and then wrote and produced their own original performances.

The 7th graders focused on fiction during the first semester. They studied plot structure, pacing, conflict, dialogue, point of view, flashback, and characterization within a short story and crafted four extensive pieces that explored these techniques. In the spring, they studied poetry, creating works that employed sensory imagery, allusion, pop culture, and persona. They researched the work of a selected contemporary poet, engaging in critical analysis

as well as writing a poem in their chosen poet's style. They sent letters to the poets, conveying what they admired about their work and what they learned through close analysis of it. Each student boldly shared their final poem for their inspiration to read, and we were all thrilled that many of the poets responded with gratitude and encouragement. Finally, the class gave a literary reading in the Media Center, honing their performance skills in front of a captive audience.



The 2019 senior class got creative with their thesis covers.

The 8th graders began their year studying fiction and wrote two full-length short stories, centered around experience and perspective, narrative voice, folklore and magical realism, as well as ways in which writers plant their endings early on in a story. The second half of the year they studied poetry and experimented with various forms: an epistolary poem, a found poem, a pantoum, a prose poem, and finally, a sequence poem. They analyzed a wide range of examples and the different ways to approach each of these forms, finding their own avenues of expression and creativity through the restrictions and long traditions that these forms offer. Finally, they shared their works with parents and friends at a literary reading in the Media Center.

The 9th graders began the year with Advanced Poetry Workshop, studying a range of canonical and contemporary poets. They wrote poems that employed extended metaphors and drew on inspiration from Robert Bly's method of Leaping Poetry as well as from science and scientific metaphor. As a part of our community outreach, they took a trip to The Palms of Mount Pleasant, a senior living center, where they heard history come to life and wrote narrative poems that told their partners' stories. Lastly, they each researched a selected poetic movement, which culminated in a poem written in that style. In Advanced Fiction Workshop, they wrote two short stories and several vignettes for Mr.

Hammes, and studied a number of advanced fiction techniques like minimalism, crisis of faith, human prejudice, narrative uncertainty and the role of the objective correlative. During the 2nd semester, both 9th and 10th graders traveled to St. Helena and Fripp Island for a writer's retreat, which focused on the literature and culture of the Civil Rights Movement and Gullah traditions, featuring an incredible tour with Queen Quet.

The 10th graders learned to craft a script for the stage and the screen as well as how to write and perform slam poetry and, in the process, produced a film script, a play script and a solo slam poem. One of these plays ("Interlude" by **Clara Collins**) won the Blank Theatre's Youth Playwright Festival competition and will be produced in Los Angeles at the end of June. In Nonfiction Workshop, students wrote essays exploring their personal flaws and prejudices as well as a braided essay about both a talent and a struggle and an extensive essay about the role of time and memory in their lives.

The 11th graders studied thematic obsessions, form and style in Finding Your Voice, learning to identify their own voice through a thematic series of poems, lyric essays, and flash fiction. They were also introduced to the Senior Thesis process at the Creative Writing Retreat in Lake Logan, North Carolina. Finally, each student analyzed their own work and wrote an artist's statement in order to solidify their creativity achievements and goals. In the Place and Gender course, 11th graders took an in-depth look at what role both locus and gender play in the alchemy of creating a work of literature. Students wrote three linked episodic stories based on a fictional place as well as a personal essays and stories about the culture in which they find themselves and some aspect of nature in their unique locale. In addition, students wrote a story from the point of view of the opposite gender, challenging themselves to see from another perspective.

The intensive yearlong Senior Thesis course afforded 12 students the enviable opportunity to learn the ins and outs of the writing profession. They each worked one-on-one with a renowned writer to write, revise and publish an original 100 page book, now available for purchase at Amazon.com. The year culminated in a record number of state, regional and national awards, along with a well-attended Senior Thesis Reading, themed Goodbye To All That.

For all their hard work and dedication to their craft and for all their countless awards and recognitions this year, the Creative Writers truly deserve a big round of applause.

Strings: A Year in Review

by Katie Jo Gelasco

This year marked an extremely busy and exciting year for high school Strings. In October, the symphony orchestra had the opportunity to collaborate with the Charleston Symphony Orchestra. The two ensembles joined to perform a side-by-side concert playing Brahms Symphony No. 4 conducted by Ken Lam.

In November, Region students traveled to Myrtle Beach to play in the Region Orchestra. Forty-four high school strings students were accepted after an audition in October.

In December, strings carried on the annual tradition of accompanying Carolfest at Franke at Seaside using volunteers from all orchestras in the department. Later that month, combined with the High School Vocal department, the Strings department performed for a crowd of over 1800 people in the Gaillard Center in a one-night-only event. Since this year also marked the 200th anniversary of the first performance of "Silent Night," the combined ensemble was joined by the Hearing Impaired students to sign the verses to the classic.

In January, the senior thesis recital displayed the proficiency of the graduating class through an evening of solos and ensembles. The annual oyster roast fundraiser was a huge success. Later that month, high schoolers played side by side with their middle school counterparts as an early introduction to high school playing, a concert that is enjoyed by both ages.

In February, 23 high school strings students traveled to Columbia to perform in the All-State Orchestra.

The spring was defined by preparation for application to the Midwest Clinic, with the Symphony Strings preparing two pieces: the Finale to the Dvorak String Serenade and the Elegie from the Tchaikovsky String Serenade. In March, the Symphony strings won top prizes at the Lowcountry Orchestra Festival, with the Chamber Orchestra and the former both earning superior ratings.

In April, the strings and the vocal department joined again to perform a masterworks concert featuring the "Requiem for the Living" by Dan Forrest with some additional Broadway favorites.

In May, the department held a final concert of the year that also served as a final goodbye to the seniors. Winners of the concerto competition performed their solos with full orchestral accompaniment, with standing ovations to both **Ben Kremer** and **Manuel Mendes-Escobar**. We'll miss you, seniors!



The High School Strings Majors had a blast on their New York City adventure.



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Senior Awards Night



Amelia Borders - French Department Award



Jarrell Summersett - Terry Graves Memorial Award/Scholarship



Roey Leonardi - English Department Award & Valedictorian



Elle Hueske - Science Department Award & Salutatorian



Frances Hart - Rivers Award



John Peterseim - Math Department Award



Maya Gardner - Humanitarian Award



Molly Hunsinger - Spanish Department Award



Caroline Grey Forsberg - Vera Smyth Memorial Award



Caroline Floyd - Jasiri Whipper Memorial Scholarship & Nichols Spirit Scholarship

Malcolm J. Palmer

Malcolm.....
 No matter where life leads you,
 no matter what you do,
 we'll always be your biggest fans,
 we'll always be here for YOU!!
 The Palmer Family



Piper Arnold

Congratulations, Piper!!!
 We couldn't be more proud of you. Good luck on
 your next adventure!

Love, Mom, Dad and Juna



Kailyn Evans

Congratulations! You made it!!
 We are so proud of you and cannot wait
 to see what you accomplish in your
 future. Good luck at Furman University
 this fall...they are lucky to have you!

Love you to pieces-Mom, Dad and Anden



Isabel Hubbard



Isabel - Go forth
 and do good!
 More love and
 congratulations.
 Mom, Dad, and
 Brent

Margaret Alice Smith

Congratulations, Maggie!
May you always have your joy
and your caring, compassionate spirit.
We love you so very much.
Love, Mom, Dad, Wesley, & Thomas



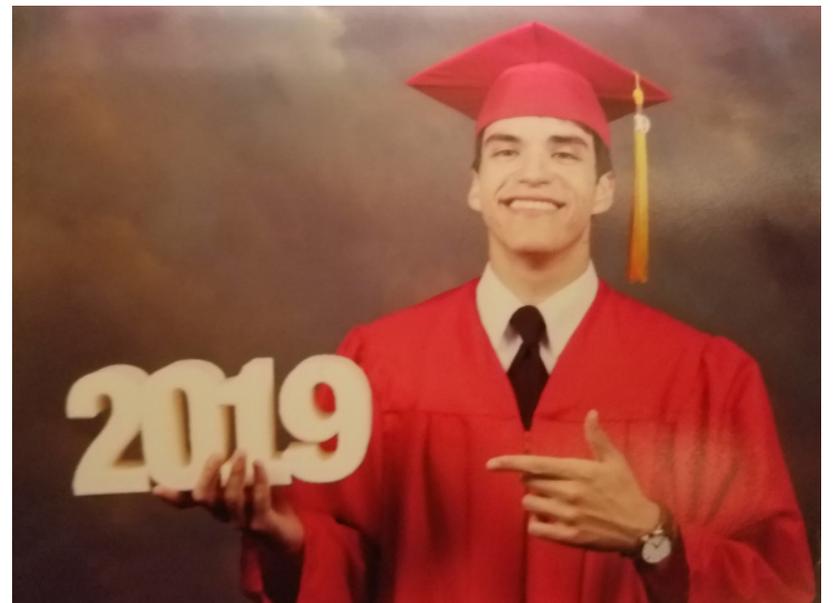
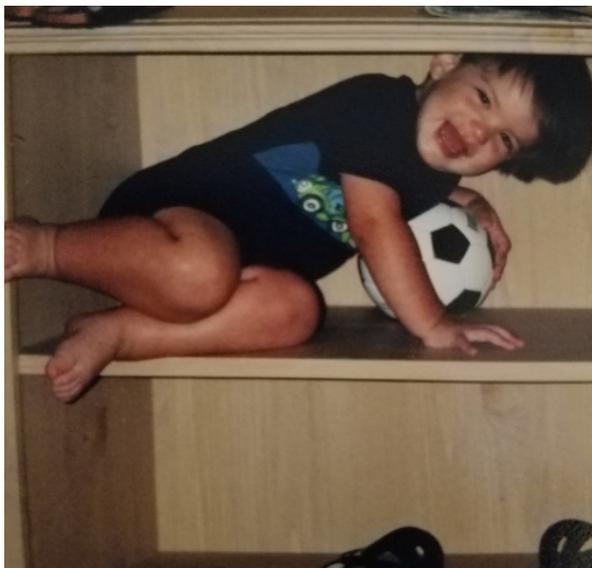
Tanner Kirk

We're so proud of the man
you've become and we can't
wait to see where your path
takes you! Live out loud,
Tanner!



Michael Moskos

Congratulations, Michael!
Never lose your joyful and adventurous spirit!
We are so proud of you and hope all of your dreams come true!
We love you, Mom and Dad



Lucas Fancher

Congratulations, Lucas!
We are honored and humbled
to call you son and brother.

Love,
Mom, Dad, Grace, Matt,
Ben, Foopa, and Nar-nar



Galen Berger

Gaga, we are so proud of you!
We know you will love college
in California and we can't wait to visit!

Love,
Mom, Dad, Ella, Pippa, Prana, Annie, and Tata



Molly Hunsinger

We are so proud of you, Molly. May you
always find happiness in whatever you
choose to do in life. We love you!

Love,
Mom, Dad, Rachel, and Eve



Caroline Floyd

Caroline - you are amazing. We
couldn't be more proud of you. We
are so thankful for SOA and the
opportunity you've had to grow
your talents here.

We love you! Mom, Dad and
Cameron





Grace Oenbrink

Thanks for bringing such joy and chaos into our lives 18 years ago! We can't imagine a life without your optimism, beautiful face and kind heart! You make the world a wonderful place! Closing the door to this part of your life means opening the door to a new one!



Adam Krasnoff

Charge into the future!
All the love, Mom and Dad



Amelia Borders

Congratulations, Amelia!
What a wonderful experience over the last seven years and what wonderful friends you have made! Can't wait to see how your next chapter of success will unfold. Love you so much! Mom & Dad



Diane Hoagland

We have enjoyed watching you grow into a smart, talented and beautiful young lady. Congratulations on your acceptance to Winthrop.

We are so proud of you!

We love you,
Mom and Granny



Shane Deas

Awesome job, Shane!
Love, your grandparents, uncles, aunts and cousins



Amber and Ashley Worth



Amber and Ashley. From two beautiful babies to two beautiful young ladies, we are so proud of both of you. We are excited for the next chapter of your life. Amber is going to Denver and Ashley to Providence and we know both of you will thrive in college. We would very much like to thank all teachers and Dr. Cook for their time and effort in preparing all our talented children for their futures.

Also, a very special thank you goes to Officer Thornburg for always being there for all of us.

Love, Dad

Caitlin Brennan

Photos can not capture all of the changes in your seven years at SOA. Words can not capture how proud we are of you.

Love,
Mom, Dad, Declan, and Erin



Shane Deas

Congrats Shane!!! From your co-workers at Station 17 Local Grill



Frances Hart



“Satisfy your demand for reason but always remember that charity is beyond reason, and God can be known through charity.”

- Flannery O’Connor

We couldn’t be more proud of you, Frances, and we love you beyond measure!

- Mom, Dad, and Edward

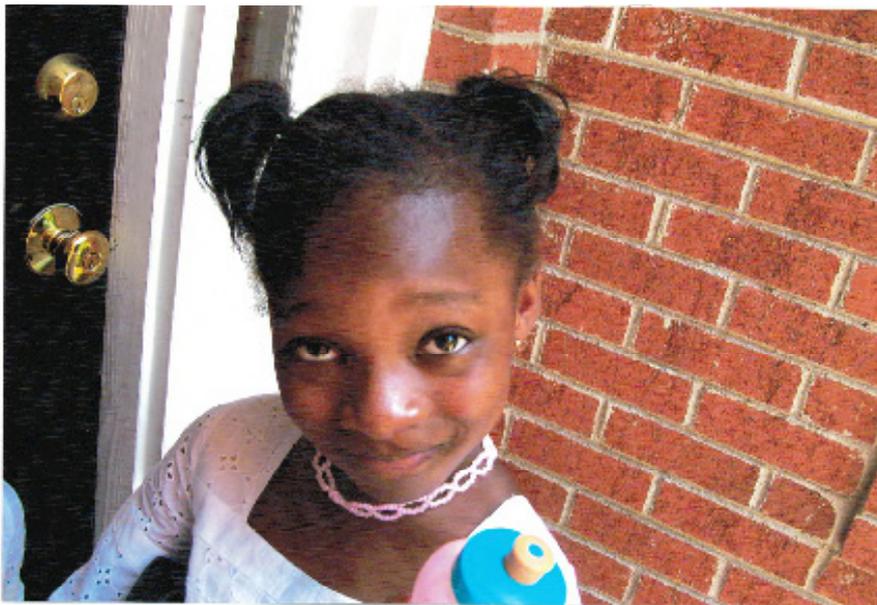
Steven Tanner



Steven,
 You have been a joy to watch grow up.
 Your wit, humor, and kindhearted nature make you a friend to all. Keep being
 a leader in the right direction, your priorities straight, and God in your heart.
 Good luck at USC!

Your family loves you!

Beryl Ayiku



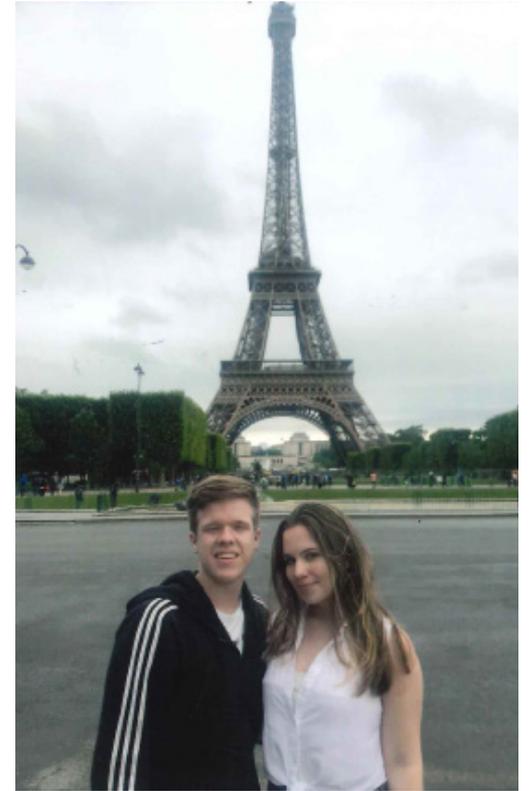
Dearest Beryl,
 Congratulations!
 The Lord Bless You and Keep You;
 The Lord make His face shine upon
 You;
 May He be gracious to You,
 show You favor and give You His
 peace.
 May You walk into Your destiny,
 today and forever.
 Dad, Mom, Pearl and Kofi.



Diane Hoagland

Diane, congratulations on your wonderful accomplishments. We are so very proud of you and look forward to your future achievements.

Grandmama and Pop-pop



James Leprettre

We are so proud of you and what you have accomplished. Keep chasing your dreams and live BIG!

Your integrity, work ethic and creativity are inspirational and we know you will do great things.

Love, Mom, Dad, Christian and Ava



Shane Deas

Congrats to Shane!!! We are proud of you!!
Love, Dad, Mom and Tevin





Briashmel Bell

Briashmel, there are no words that can explain how proud your whole family is of you. You are such an amazing young lady, and we are very excited to be a part of all your future accomplishments.

Congratulations, Baby Girl.



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

Madison Adams: The most important thing I have learned at SOA is to love your craft, be respectful and that you don't have to study hard to make good grades.

Piper Arnold: I should not try to survive on four hours of sleep for more than three consecutive days.

Beryl Ayiku: Be careful who you call your friend and also do not force friendships.

Galen Berger: The most important thing I learned at SOA was to stay true to myself.

Trevor Bierdz: The most important thing I've learned at SOA is that accepting other people for who they are and letting their inner artist shine not only sparks creativity, but it also can be applied to academic classes. Art is everywhere!

Jaden Brown: Here at SOA I'd say the most important lesson I've learned is that you're never alone. Somebody at the school will always have your back whether it is to push you forward or support you through hard times.

Kali Brown: To be myself.

Quinn Burgin: Making schedules and lists is the most important thing to maintain good grades.

Emma Butterworth: How to fit a tree in a car.

Christian Carnie: How to get by.

Kyliah Catalan: Not to care about what other people think and to be yourself.

Isabel Chuy: Don't switch schools. You will end up back at SOA and your friends, family and teachers will give you crap for the next seven years.

Nat Delson: I learned that I have a zero percent chance of a talking black cat finding me and telling me I am a magical sailor guardian of some obscure planet and I have to defend the world from the forces of evil.

Connor Denny-Lybbert: The most important thing I've learned at SOA is how important it is to find an activity that you

enjoy doing with other people. The orchestra program has introduced me to so many people that I believe I will know and love for many years to come.

Arden Dodge: I've learned how important it is to make an impression on your teachers and show them you care about your grade. They are much more willing to help you when you put forth effort and show up to extra help.

Maurin Duffy: The most important thing that I've learned at SOA is to try things outside of your comfort zone, especially in your major because everything, whether it works in the end or doesn't, will benefit you in some way.



Dylan Enriquez: I learned to be yourself always, and screw anyone that thinks otherwise

Kailyn Evans: This place is nothing like High School musical.

Jessica Fisher: I learned that I can like myself without having to rely on outside validation.

Gray Forsberg: The most important thing I've learned at SOA is how to find my voice and not be afraid to voice my opinion and stand up for myself.

Maya Gardner: To be resourceful.

Jessann Gentile: The most important thing I've learned at SOA is to have fun with your close friends and know that grades are just numbers. You will succeed in whatever you want to do and everything will be okay.

Frances Hart: I learned the value of cultivating friendships with those who have different perspectives and views of the world.

Peter Hertel: The most important thing I've learned at SOA is to love myself before I can try to truly love someone else.

Riley Hill: I think I learned to let things roll off my back. Too much happens to get hung up on anything but what you want.

Ansley Holcomb: I've learned that my art means more than just the pretty, perfect picture I can create, but how I go about creating and the journey I take getting there. As cheesy as this sounds this relates to many similar life situations and has taken me seven years to even start to understand that life or art will never be perfect but you can have fun being perfectly imperfect.

Leo Horton: The most important thing I've learned is probably how to think creatively and use my skills to approach and understand problems from all aspects of life. Also, how to entertain myself through doodling for a full hour and a half.

Isabel Hubbard: How to balance my time between arts, academics, and extracurricular activities.

Elle Hueske: "If you seek truth you will not seek victory by dishonorable means, and if you find truth you will become invincible." - Epictetus

Molly Hunsinger: The most important thing I've learned at SOA is that truly great art can be made when it is motivated by true passion.

Zoë Hyman: The most important that I have learned is how to express yourself in every possible way.

Tanner Kirk: How to perform in front of a large audience.

John Knobeloch: How to and how not to treat other people.

Adam Krasnoff: "Don't egg your own house," via Francis Hammes

Benjamin Kremer: I found a balance between doing homework and not doing homework.

Allie Larkin: I would have to say the most important thing I learned at SOA is that it's okay to ask for help because people want to see you succeed.

Roey Leonardi: You don't egg your own house.

James Leprettre: SOA taught me to keep my head low, turn in my homework, and block out the haters.

Anna Lipke: The most important thing I have learned at SOA is to be authentic and surround yourself with people you love and people who make you happy.

Daniella Mallari: The new brown pears at the cafeteria are really good.

Naomi Marchant: The most important thing I've learned is to always be myself and to never allow anyone make me feel like I'm not good enough.

Molly McConnell: Don't set yourself on fire to keep other people warm.

Alex Mendez: I have learned a lot about balancing major and academics.

Virginia Merrill: Nobody will remember something you did a week ago so don't worry about what people think.

Jennifer Morales: The most important thing I've learned at SOA is better time management. Between the hard school work load and work, I've had to learn how to better manage my time.

Michael Moskos: I learned what to value in my friends.

Chassee' Palmer: The most important thing I've learned at SOA has been to stand up for what you believe in. This environment has taught me that believing in yourself and practicing your first right is one of the most important things that you can do as a human being.

Maitri Patel: The most important thing I have learned from this school has been the importance of independence and happiness.

Patricia Pena: The most important thing that I've learned at SOA would be that being different is the key to your most authentic identity.

John Peterseim: I've realized that your choice of friends is crucial to your success as a student. Surround yourself with positive, smart, motivated people and who knows, maybe you'll win a math award.

Stephen Polite: I've learned that the techniques that I have used in Vocal for choral and classical music I can use in church.

Liv Provosty: The most important thing I learned at the School of the Arts was how to make friends.

Frances Renken: The most important thing I have learned at SOA is how important being a community is. This year has been full of hardships



and loss in this community and the nation as a whole. It was nice seeing everyone come together and support each other.

Madison Robertson: The most important thing I've learned at SOA is to follow my dreams and hard work pays off.

Zachary Shirley: To embrace my creativity.

Olivia Shorter: The most important thing I've learned is to make a quote list with all the random stuff your friends say.

Megan Slowey: When in a group project, start about a week in advance so, it forces your partners to do some of the work.

Maggie Smith: Make friends with smart people.

Igor Statsenko: Individuality.

Gaia Strozier: Not to be fearful of being creative or being yourself. Those who judge you are just jealous.

Jarell Summersett: Always stay true to yourself because this is a very diverse community and you will be accepted for being you rather than acting different for other people's approval.

English Calhoun Walpole: Stay out of drama because it's too small of a school for everyone to hate each other.

Cass Wauben: That I define my own worth.

Ashley Worth: People will almost always help you with homework.



What quote do you want to be remembered by?

Madison Adams: My favorite quote is “One of the most bittersweet feelings has to be when you realize how much you are going to miss a moment while you are still living in it.” -unknown

Piper Arnold: “It always seems impossible until it’s done.” -Nelson Mandela

Galen Berger: My senior quote “anyone can cook” from Ratatouille.

Trevor Bierdz: “Whether it be a bolder lip, a dewier cheek, a more lush lash, or an exceptionally extravagant eye, no time is better than the present for unleashing your cosmetic creativity.” -Pat McGrath

Jaden Brown: I’d want to be remembered by the quote “She was the type known to over water her plants because she never knew when to stop giving.”

Kali Brown: “What?”

Emma Butterworth: “It’s a mistake to think you can’t solve any major problems with potatoes.” -Douglas Adams

Kyiah Catalan: “Always reach for the stars, if you fall, then the moon will catch you and you will still be higher than people ever dreamed of.” -anonymous

Christian Carnie: My senior quote

Isabel Chuy: “Uhhh...” -Patrick Star

Nat Delson: “Listen to Ghost NOW!!!”

Connor Denny-Lybbert: What’s rule number one? -Dr. Selby

Arden Dodge: “I want people to be afraid of how much they love me.” -Michael Scott

Dylan Enriquez: “This right here is astronomical, I see you picked all my ways I feel responsible.” -Travis Scott

Kailyn Evans: “Is that due today?”

Jessica Fisher: “Death is the Great Equalizer. Everyone gets to die one day.” -My Mom

Gray Forsberg: My senior quote, “they

misunderestimated me.”

Maya Gardner: On relationships: “Through our dreams and daydreams we transform the people around us— friends, family, coworkers, strangers— into a product of our own mind, influenced by our own knowledge and experiences of the best and worst ways a human may behave.”

Frances Hart: “Thirst was made for water; inquiry for truth” -C.S. Lewis



Peter Hertel: The quote I want to be remembered by is, “Ride the raft! Ride the raft!” -Nate Mancini

Riley Hill: “If I can get away with setting up a siege engine on the soccer field you can do what you want.” Also, “be your child-self’s hero, you can’t let little you down.”

Ansley Holcomb: “Ever tried. Ever failed. No matter. Try again. Fail again. Fail better.” -Beckett

Leo Horton: “I don’t know, this one?”

Isabel Hubbard: “Talk less, smile more.”

Elle Hueske: “There is a special place in Hell for women who don’t help other women.” -Madeleine Albright

Molly Hunsinger: “I’m sturdy and purdy.”

Zoë Hyman: “One person’s craziness is another person’s reality.”

Tanner Kirk: I don’t think there’s a quote I can be remembered by.

John Knobeloch: “I absolutley want to have a creer where you make ‘em laugh and make ‘em cry. It’s all theatre.” -Jim Carrey

Adam Krasnoff: “Life is a box of rocks being thrown at you,” via Chassee’ Palmer.

Benjamin Kremer: “What doesn’t kill you makes you stronger. Except bears, bears will kill you.”

Allie Larkin: “Am I a magic princesssss... yes” -Emma Butterworth

Roey Leonardi: “God made a chicken to be eaten” -Adam Krasnoff

James Leprettre: Here are some of my most recognized quotes: “Dogs don’t have knees” “When I worked at Hubees D’s” “So I was watching this Documentary”

Anna Lipke: “Bruh” -Katie Canfield

Daniella Mallari: “Cello section is the best section.”

Naomi Marchant: “Don’t be afraid to be different, dare to be unique.”

Molly McConnell: “Can you hear the moon laughing at us?” -Marcus Amaker

Alex Mendez: “Work hard no matter how much recognition you get” -Sophia Amoruso

Virginia Merrill: “Ravioli ravioli, give me the formuoli” -Spongebob

Jennifer Morales: I want to be remembered by the quote, “Don’t be afraid to fall. It makes you stronger if you can get back up.”

Michael Moskos: “Oh god, this again?”

Chassee’ Palmer: “I wish there was a way to know you were in the good old days before you actually left them.” -Andy Bernard

Maitri Patel: I want to be remembered by my senior quote along with this: "I live for the funk, I'll die for the funk" -The Notorious B.I.G

Patricia Pena: I'd want to be remembered by "Dream as if you will live forever, live as if you will die today."

John Peterseim: "I guess trebuchets aren't cool anymore. Must've just been a 4th century BC thing." -Me

Stephen Polite: "Life is like a plane ride, some people are a carry-on bag and some people you have pick up after the ride at baggage claim."

Liv Provosty: "It's easier to be kind to people than rude."

Frances Renken: I'd like to be remembered by the quote, "If you're going to buy something expensive, make it weird" -Alea/Stacy McKinley

Madison Robertson: "All our dreams can come true, if we have the courage to pursue them." -Walt Disney

Zachary Shirley: "I wish this packet was online."

Olivia Shorter: "This is giving my eyes a headache" -Allie Larkin on SOA

Megan Slowey: "Any Pizza is a personal pizza if you believe in yourself."

Maggie Smith: "When you get louder, get louder." -Dr. Selby

Igor Statsenko: "I'm not what I think I am, I'm not what you think I am, I am what I think you think I am." -Charles Horton Cooley

Gaia Strozier: "We are not written for one instrument alone; I am not, neither are you."

Jarell Summersett: "Be truthful with yourself and other people, and try your best to make decisions outside of your ego" -Nipsey Hussle

English Calhoun Walpole: "Am I a hero? I really can't say, but yes." -Michael Scott

Cass Wauben: "Yikes."

Ashley Worth: "If you're in my way, I will destroy you." -That '70s Show S3E3

What will you miss most about SOA?

Madison Adams: The things I will miss most about SOA are my friends and my major teacher.

Piper Arnold: I will miss all of you crazy, talented people.

Beryl Ayiku: High school orchestra.

Galen Berger: I will miss the appreciation of creativity in a traditional learning environment.

Trevor Bierdz: I'll definitely miss the creativity of SOA. Whether it was in my major or in one of my academic classes, I always felt inspired and encouraged to put forth both creativity and hard work into anything I do.

Jaden Brown: I miss how I've grown through these halls and all of the memories they hold for me. From awkward freshman year to me now knowing who I am and what I stand for. SOA's culture really helped give me a safe space to experiment with who I am and not be judged for any part of it.

Kali Brown: My friends.

Quinn Burgin: My friends.

Emma Butterworth: Eating lunch in the garden everyday with my wonderful friends.

Kyliah Catalan: The people.

Christian Carnie: Some of the people.

Isabel Chuy: Alea McKinley, probably.

Arden Dodge: I'm going to miss my friends, of course. No matter how tired I got of the campus or the academia, I was always thankful to be there instead of big schools like Wando.

Maurin Duffy: I will definitely miss seeing my friends and all the fashion majors every day.

Dylan Enriquez: My friends.

Kailyn Evans: Soap.

Jessica Fisher: I'm definitely going to miss the color and vibrancy I find here.

Gray Forsberg: I will miss the crazy experiences that SOA has given me and the uniqueness of the school itself.

Maya Gardner: The teachers and friends I've made.

Jessann Gentile: I will probably miss being with the students who made SOA what it is was.

Frances Hart: I will miss the unique, inclusive, and friendly environment.

Peter Hertel: What I will you miss most about SOA are the kind teachers who don't get paid enough to put up with us.



Nat Delson: Probably my best friends...I love you, Emma, Cassy, Lucas, Caitlin, Susie, Charles, Dani, Frankie, and Asher.

Connor Denny-Lybbert: The orchestra program for sure. There are so many amazing people that I have met, and some of my best memories from high school are from our trips, rehearsals, and events. I love them all, and I will miss them dearly.

Riley Hill: I'll miss the people. There are very few people I dislike, and anywhere else I'm not sure I could have found so many excellent friends.

Ansley Holcomb: I'll miss my major teachers and the support and bond I have with them. Even though I know I'll carry their support with me after I graduate, there's nothing like having someone right there for you at the end of the day to lift you up.

Leo Horton: Without a doubt my homies Max, McHenry and Trammell. Those are my bros until the end.

Isabel Hubbard: I will miss my friends and teachers of course!! But I will also miss the campus and the vocal room because that is where my best memories were made.

Elle Hueske: All of my amazing teachers who came to understand as well as appreciate and respect my anxious curiosity and constant questioning as a genuine part of my nature. I am especially grateful for my creative writing teachers and creative writing family.

Molly Hunsinger: I will miss every student in my class and the family we've created together.

Zoë Hyman: The people I have met and the relationships I created had here.

Tanner Kirk: The amazing opportunities that came with being in it.

John Knobeloch: The intimacy between teachers and classmates.

Adam Krasnoff: The creative writing rooms and the people.

Benjamin Kremer: I'll miss the fun and decorative classrooms.

Allie Larkin: I will miss sitting out in the pegasus garden every day and having lunch with some of the most amazing people in the whole world.

Roey Leonardi: My lunch table (but not school lunch).

James Leprettre: I will miss being surrounded by such creative people, even though creative people are the most dramatic.

Anna Lipke: I will miss the close relationships I have found here in this amazing environment where I find that people are so open and accepting. I wouldn't have wanted to go to high school anywhere else.

Daniella Mallari: The community, my friends.

Naomi Marchant: I will miss my friends and the close relationships with the teachers.

Molly McConnell: All the wonderful friends and teachers I've had the chance to grow close to over the years.

Alex Mendez: The atmosphere and all the friends I've made since 6th grade.



Virginia Merrill: Band and my friends.

Jennifer Morales: I've made friends with such a diverse group of people, and I'm going to miss all the great moments I've shared with them.

Michael Moskos: My friends.

Chassee' Palmer: My friends and favorite teachers. That's all.

Maitri Patel: The only thing I will miss is seeing my friends daily.

Patricia Pena: I will miss my friends the most at SOA and the community of friendships I have had.

John Peterseim: I will miss the the convocations. Spending fourth block watching each major perform, especially the theatre kids and the improv skits.

Mackenzie Percy: I will miss my visual art teachers, Ms. Cimballa and Mrs. Richardson the most.

Stephen Polite: I'm going to miss hanging out with my friends, and singing and acting crazy, I'm going to miss all of my senior friends, and I'm going to miss all of the people who have affected me in a positive way.

Liv Provosty: I will miss my friends, my hilarious lunch table squad and my creative writing family.

Frances Renken: I will miss my peers the most.

Madison Robertson: I will miss the family we have become in our dance class.

Zachary Shirley: The safety net of it all and my friends.

Olivia Shorter: My friends and nothing else.

Megan Slowey: My friends.

Maggie Smith: That one bench in the garden that's really broken but people sit on it anyways.

Igor Statsenko: The people.

Gaia Strozier: I will miss all of my friends and most of my teachers.

Jarell Summersett: I'm going to miss band the most, especially Mr. Kerr's interesting stories.

English Calhoun Walpole: My friends. We've been family since we were twelve years old. Everyday I know I will see them at lunch squeezed into the red picnic tables outside the cafeteria and we will talk about everything that is unimportant and laugh about stupid insignificant things in our lives!

Cass Wauben: The baby geese.

Ashley Worth: My thesis performance and my senior class.

Do you have any advice for underclassmen?

Piper Arnold: Take every opportunity to hug your friends!

Beryl Ayiku: Plan things ahead, avoid procrastination.

Galen Berger: Don't take yourself or school too seriously just do your best.

Trevor Bierdz: In case of a mental breakdown, always wear waterproof mascara.

Jaden Brown: To all the underclassmen: listen to your teachers, do the work, go out with your friends, and most importantly don't forget that it's ok to ask for help.

Kali Brown: Don't be stupid.

Quinn Burgin: Keep up with your work as much as you can.

Emma Butterworth: Don't procrastinate on your AP Portfolio.

Kylihah Catalan: Don't procrastinate, do your work and turn it in on time, make the most of highschool because it will past by you in the blink of an eye. And don't do anything stupid.

Christian Carnie: If you're going to do something dumb, don't do it at school.

Isabel Chuy: Don't take AP. You'll probably get 2s on all of them.

Nat Delson: Stop trying so hard to be friends with people who won't give you the time of day. Also, stop living in fear of being judged, because at the end of the day, all people really care about is their own image, so just dress how you want, listen to the music you enjoy, and advocate for causes you feel passionate about (only if you do it PEACEFULLY)!

Connor Denny-Lybbert: Finish college apps and scholarships early! Senior year is stressful enough without having to worry about a bunch of college applications and essays.

Arden Dodge: Do your homework. It will keep you passing, at least, for most classes.

Jordan Taylor Douglas: The best advice I could give to the underclassmen is to not be

so hard on yourself and make the most of your time in high school.

Maurin Duffy: My advice to underclassmen is to make sure that you put yourself first. Highschool gets tough but make sure that you're taking care of yourself.

Dylan Enriquez: Don't do drugs. Get good grades. Stay in school. Have Fun.

Kailyn Evans: Don't date seniors, period.



Jessica Fisher: Sure you can make plans, but don't ever expect to be able to follow them. Things change.

Gray Forsberg: You'll be graduating soon haha.

Maya Gardner: Don't care so much about what people may or may not think of you.

Jessann Gentile: Don't ever let your phone go off in Mr. Short's class unless you have bad character.

Frances Hart: Enjoy SOA; it is truly a one-of-a-kind high school experience.

Peter Hertel: My advice for underclassmen is to save your absences for days you know you won't miss much or anything at all.

Riley Hill: Be nice to your teachers, they give you more freedom to do questionable things with power tools.

Ansley Holcomb: Be kind to one another. Lift one another up and make the most out of your time here.

Leo Horton: Don't take school too seriously, in the end the tests and quizzes kind of merge into one forgettable blob, but the good times are clear as day and that's what matters I guess.

Isabel Hubbard: Be kind to everyone.

Elle Hueske: "Trust Nobody."
-Snoop Dogg

Molly Hunsinger: My advice to underclassmen is to remember that what you put into something is what you get out of it. If you want to do great work, regardless of what it is, you have to put in the necessary time and effort.

Zoë Hyman: If you are in visual arts, good luck and please find a outside source to help you with art.

Tanner Kirk: Don't worry about what others think of you. You'll make yourself sick obsessing over it.

John Knobloch: Skipping is easy, just be aware of the consequences.

Adam Krasnoff: Enjoy your time as much as possible. Spend as much time as you can with the people that you love. It all goes by so fast.

Benjamin Kremer: Early out > late in.

Allie Larkin: Make friends with your starbucks barista and they'll give you free drinks.

Roey Leonardi: Do NOT take AP math.

James Leprettre: Turn in your homework and makeup tests are most likely harder.

Anna Lipke: My advice is to find a balance in your life with school and everything else. Enjoy and appreciate this time with these amazing people and don't stress yourself out over little things that won't drastically affect your future, it's not worth it.

Daniella Mallari: If you have no friends, join a club! To the music majors: practice/learn your music before the playing tests, it will save you a lot of stress, and if all else fails, play confidently.

Naomi Marchant: Don't be annoying, it will get you nowhere.

Molly McConnell: Don't lose sleep over the little things. Live in the moment.

Alex Mendez: Challenge yourself but don't forget to enjoy high school at the same time.

Virginia Merrill: The world doesn't revolve around you so don't be little brats. Be respectful of the adults and kids around you.

Jennifer Morales: My advice to upperclassmen is to not let "senioritis" get to you too badly. Just push through so you can successfully graduate.

Michael Moskos: Don't be dumb. Just get through high school.

Chassee' Palmer: Do your work on time. Stay focused on you and not the drama around you. Don't get wrapped up in all the talk around relationships because they really aren't that good. Spread love all the time because it's needed 24/7.

Maitri Patel: Underclassmen focus on yourself. That's the only thing that matters. Realize your self-worth and don't invest time with those who don't deserve it.

Patricia Pena: The advice that I would leave for the underclassmen would be to surround yourself with positive energy because feeding your doubts will wreck your confidence in yourself.

John Peterseim: Take as much math with Mahoney as possible, do as much extra credit as possible. Delta Math saved my life.

Mackenzie Percy: Make your senior year easy, as you will already have senioritis come August.

Stephen Polite: Don't think that the higher you go in your grade that things get easier, you will have to continue to put in more and more work.

Liv Provosty: Be loyal to the people you care about; every petty drama from earlier years seems so small when you are actually saying goodbye to everyone.

Frances Renken: My advice for underclassmen is DO THE WORK! Turn it in on time. Don't procrastinate. It's not worth all the stress in the end. Just get it over with and turn it in. I know that it sounds stupid and it makes you roll your eyes but honestly. It's worth the work in the end.

Madison Robertson: Make the most of your time, you may want high school to be over, but it just means becoming an adult and as a senior your last year really flies by.

Zachary Shirley: Don't be like me!!



Olivia Shorter: Get an early out and take Mahoney for math.

Megan Slowey: Turn in your homework on time or within the week because if you don't, you will never do it.

Maggie Smith: Learn as much as you can about finances and cooking.

Igor Statsenko: Stop getting involved with drama and start grinding away at your dreams. Realize you are blessed to be living under a roof that's paid for. Use your free time wisely and if you don't have any dreams yet...do some soul searching instead of texting who said what about who.

Gaia Strozier: Check on your friends. Make sure they really and truly are happy. If they are not, do what you can to help them. SOA is lovely, but stressful, and we only have each other to rely on. Don't go out of your way to be rude. Spread as much positivity as you can.

Jarell Summersett: Don't be fake and don't get into unnecessary drama.

English Calhoun Walpole: I advise underclassmen to stick to the people that are close to them. I was lucky enough to not lose friends throughout high school, but I know that if I had, there would be a good bit of happy memories that never would've happened.

Cass Wauben: Get some sleep...drink some tea...enjoy life and stuff.

Ashley Worth: Chill out, don't take everything so seriously and be nice to everyone, you have no idea what someone is going through in their private life.



What are your plans after graduation?

Madison Adams: I don't have any plans after graduation, except that I want to do everything!

Beryl Ayiku: Getting read for freshman year at College of Charleston.

Galen Berger: I will be attending Loyola Marymount University as a film studies major in hopes to work in the industry after graduation.

Trevor Bierdz: Pursuing my dreams of becoming an editorial makeup artist!

Quinn Burgin: I plan on attending Clemson in the fall.

Jaden Brown: After I graduate I will be going to a four year college and pursuing my degree as a Fine Arts of Studio Arts Major with a minor in business. I will be paving the foundation to my future and focusing on myself more than ever.

Kali Brown: I will be attending Valdosta State University majoring in communication disorders.

Emma Butterworth: My plan for next year is to go to UNCG and major in social work.

Kyiah Catalan: I am going to Columbia College Chicago to study journalism.

Christian Carnie: Study fashion retail merchandising at USC.

Isabel Chuy: I am attending Colorado Christian University right outside of Denver. I plan to major in outdoor leadership and do who knows what with my life in the outdoors!

Nat Delson: To be happy. Life is too short to be stressed about silly things. I plan on deepening my spirituality to gain peace with my environment and with myself. I also plan on living a life with my soulmate, Atticus. A life with love is a life worth living! <3

Connor Denny-Lybbert: I plan on attending Coastal Carolina and obtaining a degree in finance. After that, we'll see!

Arden Dodge: I will be going to C of C and then transferring to American University either sophomore or junior year! Possibly

travelling back and forth from NYC to model!

Jordan Taylor Douglas: After graduation, I plan to attend Winthrop University's Honors Program and study as a computer science major.

Maurin Duffy: After graduation I will be attending Trident Technical College apart of the USC non-residential bridge program and I will be getting a degree in hospitality



management for a career in event planning.

Dylan Enriquez: Trident Tech for liberal arts credits then I will attend Berklee School of Music.

Kailyn Evans: I think I'm going to get a fish; I feel ready for that kind of responsibility.

Jessica Fisher: After graduation I'm going to college and grad school, finding myself a nice job as an aerospace engineer at NASA (or something along those lines), and I will retire to start a little bakery somewhere.

Gray Forsberg: I'm going to USC Honors

and plan on having a medical career!

Maya Gardner: Clemson!

Jessann Gentile: I plan to attend Elon University with a double major in biology and business and a minor in dance. Before then I plan to sleep and eat lots of Taco Bell.

Frances Hart: I will be studying political science at Bates College in Lewiston, Maine.

Peter Hertel: My plans after graduation are going to Trident to get my necessary credentials out of the way and figure out what I want to go to college for.

Riley Hill: I plan on being an industrial designer and focus on fabrication so I can make cool stuff until my hands stop working and they have to put me down like a lame race horse.

Ansley Holcomb: I plan to go to Maryland Institute College of Art and major in Product Design. I hope to be the owner of my own corporation some day.

Leo Horton: Heading up north to Rhode Island School of Design, hopefully to become an art maestro and be taught in art history one day. That's the end goal.

Isabel Hubbard: College.

Elle Hueske: I will be attending Columbia University in New York City where I plan to major in biology with a pre-medicine track. I will be pursuing a career in cardiothoracic surgery specializing in pediatric congenital heart conditions.

Molly Hunsinger: After graduation I will be studying psychology at Wesleyan University in Middletown, Connecticut.

Zoë Hyman: I want to excel in special effects makeup and work on movie sets.

Tanner Kirk: I want to begin producing my own music and performing it for people.

John Knobeloch: Pursuing a career in entertainment.

Adam Krasnoff: I will be attending Tufts University.

Benjamin Kremer: After graduation I might go straight home unless my friends are down to hang out for a couple hours. Might play some league of legends before I finally go to sleep.



Allie Larkin: I'm going to Clemson and majoring in biology.

Roey Leonardi: Take a fat nap.

James Leprettre: I am going to Belmont University in Nashville to study songwriting and music business.

Anna Lipke: After graduation I plan to enjoy the last summer I have with my friends before going to Clemson to study international language and health.

Daniella Mallari: Get a cat. Maybe two. And to finally meet my friends around the world.

Naomi Marchant: I'm going to University of South Carolina to major in vocal performance and hopefully minor in pre-law.

Molly McConnell: Getting some rest for once.

Alex Mendez: I am going to the Darla Moore School at USC to study business management.

Virginia Merrill: I plan to attend Gardner-Webb University with a major in chemistry so I can become a cosmetic chemist.

Michael Moskos: I'm attending the Honors College at the College of Charleston, and am

majoring in arts management.

Chassee' Palmer: My plans are to attend Clark Atlanta University in Atlanta, GA as a double major Mass Media Arts Major with a concentration in journalism and business administration and I will also probably minor in something as well. I hope to work for some of my favorite publications such as The Sun Journals or Complex.

Maitri Patel: After graduation I plan on working and going to Columbia to study at USC!

Patricia Pena: My plans for after graduating are to go to College of Charleston for public health to then have a career pertaining to naturopathic medicine.

John Peterseim: I am committed to the Clemson Engineering program where I will major in mechanical engineering or biomedical engineering and either pursue a pre-med track or an engineering research track.

Mackenzie Percy: I plan to attend Valdosta State University for a bachelor's degree in interior design.

Stephen Polite: I'm going to be attending Trident Technical College for 2 years then I'm going to transfer to either NC A&T, Winthrop or USC Columbia I'm going to major in Journalism and minor in Business.

Liv Provosty: I am attending Clemson University in the fall. I plan on studying communications and hopefully making lots of friends.

Frances Renken: My plans for after graduation are to get the heck out of here and travel. I want to go back to Jackson Hole, Wyoming and see all my friends. Then I plan on going on a road trip with them just to get away from here.

Madison Robertson: After graduation I plan on attending College of Charleston in the fall as a dance major with a business minor.

Zachary Shirley: I'm moving to Florida to attend Full Sail University with my girlfriend to major in music production!

Olivia Shorter: Doctorate for anthropology and archeology, than moving to another

country and digging up old stuff and figuring out where it came from.

Megan Slowey: Swimming for Colorado School of Mines and majoring in mechanical engineering.

Maggie Smith: I am going to get some coffee.

Igor Statsenko: Working hard to get that bread.

Gaia Strozier: I am attending College of Charleston and majoring in international business.

Jarell Summersett: Go to USC for computer engineering and eventually make money.



English Calhoun Walpole: I will be attending Clemson University in the fall as an English major. I hope to eventually double major in education and become a second-grade teacher.

Cass Wauben: I'm going to the Boston University Tanglewood Institute young artists vocal program up in Massachusetts and then heading to American University in DC.

Ashley Worth: I will attend Johnson and Wales in Providence Rhode Island for criminal justice.

What was your most memorable moment at SOA?

Madison Adams: My most memorable moment at SOA was in ninth grade at the spring showcase. I was surrounded by all of my best friends in the breezeway watching each other perform and eating delicious food from the many food trucks. Most of these friends are no longer at SOA and it is the last memory I have of all of us together.

Piper Arnold: Closing out junior and senior prom dancing to a seven minute long version of "Cotton-eyed Joe."

Beryl Ayiku: Playing with the Charleston Symphony Orchestra.

Galen Berger: My most memorable moment at SOA was the senior dance trip to Disney this year.



Trevor Bierdz: Burping every morning in first period from drinking a La Croix for breakfast.

Jaden Brown: My most memorable moment at SOA would be my first day of Visual Arts in freshman

year. Being welcomed immediately by my new family who I've grown to love faithfully through these last four years together.

Kali Brown: There are too many to list.

Emma Butterworth: Getting to throw pots in the pottery room.

Kyliah Catalan: My senior year.

Christian Carnie: The day Mr Kerr retired.

Isabel Chuy: Jessann Gentile.

Nat Delson: I believe every moment with my senior theatre class is a beautiful one. We are like family, and I wouldn't have it any other way

Connor Denny-Lybbert: Winning

Nationals and getting into the Midwest Conference with the orchestra.

Arden Dodge: Definitely the whole day leading up to our Creative Writing senior thesis.

Jordan Taylor Douglas: My most memorable moment at SOA was definitely last year's prom and being around all of my friends, especially some of the seniors from last year's graduating class.

Maurin Duffy: My most memorable moment as SOA would probably be my senior thesis. It was just so nice to be alongside the other fashion design seniors receiving so much love and support from our friends, families, and classmates as we showed our final highschool collections.

Dylan Enriquez: Senior Year/Grease/Vocal Retreat

Kailyn Evans: Last dance departmental, I cried a ton.

Jessica Fisher: The last day of sixth grade, it was raining, and my mom picked me up from school, which she only ever did on the last day. We'd had bagels in the classroom, but I hadn't eaten mine and ran outside to the car with it. The bagel got soaked but my mom had brought me a snack. I love her so much.

Gray Forsberg: There are too many to choose from, but one of my favorite memories was the dress code rebellion.

Maya Gardner: Eighth grade graduation when I fell up the stairs in front of everyone.

Jessann Gentile: Isabelle Chuy.

Frances Hart: The most memorable moment of my time at SOA occurred my sophomore year in PE class during 4th block on a B day. It was on that humid afternoon in mid-April that I correctly did a jumping jack for the first time in my life.

Peter Hertel: My most memorable moment at SOA is when I chugged a shaken bottle of Coke Zero at lunch and threw up.

Riley Hill: My strongest memory from my years here is being walked in on, alone, in the visual arts room, after school, by a school

resource officer, while sharpening an axe. It remains one of the most unintentionally threatening things I've ever done.

Ansley Holcomb: I have so many, but any OG visual artist would remember the code red drill in 7th grade when Ms. Nichols hid us in the supply closet and taught us how to defend ourselves with art supplies and tools. We were



all so transfixed on "Mama Nichols" telling us to "get the intruder" that when admin knocked on our door it scared everyone and someone

knocked down a statue off one of the stockroom shelves. Low and behold as I was sitting there a nude, one-armed statue of Christ himself knocked me in the head and fell into my lap.

Leo Horton: Seventh grade mountain trip was a wild time. Also having to take my pre-calculus proofs quiz in the hallway across from my brother Fred while we both struggled to make 55's back in Sophomore year. I'll never forget that moment.

Isabel Hubbard: Being a pepper shaker in "Beauty and the Beast," thanks Ms. Hammond!

Elle Hueske: My most memorable SOA moment was more of an experience. My time as President of Honor Council working with Mrs. Drennan and other teachers and students allowed me to ensure that academic integrity was maintained in our school. Because this is an essential part of my character, I am fortunate that I was able to advocate for it.

Molly Hunsinger: My most memorable moment was at a convocation where "Purple Rain" was performed by students in honor of Prince. Everyone standing up and singing along, all supporting the musicians onstage and their performance exemplified the unity of SOA students.

Zoë Hyman: SOA itself is a giant blob memory.

Tanner Kirk: The band senior thesis concert. It was my first time performing like how I want to perform in the future, and it felt amazing!

John Knobeloch: Lunches in tenth and eleventh grade.

Adam Krasnoff: Climbing the roof of the theater with Christensen and Hammes.

Benjamin Kremer: My most memorable moment at SOA was performing my concerto with the high school orchestra at our final concert this year. Performing a concerto with a full orchestra is a priceless experience no musician can expect to do and one I don't expect to have again anytime soon.

Allie Larkin: I saw my brother do a front tuck at a powderpuff game and I have honestly never been the same.

Roey Leonardi: The Creative Writing trip to Beaufort sophomore year.

James Leprettre: My most memorable moment was when Mrs. Hammond was asking everyone their shirt sizes and some kid said "Magnum."

Anna Lipke: My most memorable moment at SOA was completing my dance senior thesis. This was such a fulfilling moment for me to see my ideas performed onstage and to have the freedom to exercise my creative ability.

Daniella Mallari: Realizing I can play music well enough to perform with all of these super talented people.

Naomi Marchant: My most memorable moment with SOA would be participating in the school production of Grease and getting to play the role of Sandy.

Molly McConnell: The charter bus drives during our Creative Writing trip to Beaufort sophomore year, most notably when we sang "Iris" by the Goo Goo Dolls at the tops of our lungs.

Alex Mendez: Egypt day back in middle school was pretty cool.

Virginia Merrill: When I went to Chicago to participate in Midwest my junior year.

Jennifer Morales: My most memorable moment at SOA was my very last "Music Down in My Soul" concert with vocal.

Michael Moskos: The fire alarm going off during our Christmas concert because there was too much fog on the stage.

Chassee' Palmer: My most memorable moment was when in ninth grade I watched Liv Provosty drink a mixture of foods and drinks after losing to Max Martineau in a game of 'What are the Odds.' It was probably the grossest and funniest thing I've seen in all of my years here at SOA.

Maitri Patel: One thing I do remember is when our theatre class did the hunger games. Most of the memorable moments I've made have been with the people I have encountered at SOA out of school and I am forever grateful for them.

Patricia Pena: My most memorable moment in SOA would be the last dance departmental with my amazing dance major.

John Peterseim: My most memorable moment at SOA was performing in the powderpuff cheerleading dance led by some dang fantastic coaches. Shoutout to the Senior PowderPuff Crew!

Mackenzie Percy: One of my most memorable events is the junior ring ceremony with the best of friends and my favorite teacher!

Stephen Polite: What is your most memorable moment at SOA? When my friend Daikell ran into the vending machine and broke it.

Liv Provosty: My most memorable moment at SOA has been the bus rides with my Creative Writing friends on our way to trips.

Frances Renken: My most memorable moment at SOA was my first time performing with my theater class. It was our night of scenes and my scene partner Trevor Bierdz was being so supportive along with Mrs. McKinley. I couldn't have made it through the year without her and that class.

Madison Robertson: My most memorable moments at SOA are the big dance trips we have gone on. We went to Disney twice and took classes from the cast members. We also went to the Regional High School Dance

Festival in Norfolk, VA, we took many different classes and received some scholarships to different colleges.

Zachary Shirley: There's so many but my absolute favorite is probably the first day of 6th Grade.

Olivia Shorter: God so many, Drennan saying the two most iconic quotes in one day might make it to the top: "I would leave my husband for Denzel Washington" and "As long as you look more miserable leaving calculus than my classthan I'm happy." 4A Junior year was a wild class.

Megan Slowey: My most memorable moment is when my friend group may or may not have broken one of the Lingren/Short lab windoww playing soccer in the Pegasus Garden.

Maggie Smith: The first time I celebrated Christmas during lunch with my friends.

Igor Statsenko: Too many to choose from... probably when Mark Corder threw a laxative into Chisolm's salad.

Gaia Strozier: When I blew up the vocal room vacuum, my mic dropping during my first vocal solo, or being called a shrimp on my first day of high school.

Jarell Summersett: Daikell running into the vending machine in 9th grade.

English Calhoun Walpole: My most memorable moment was when I wiped out in front of the entire cafeteria freshman year. McHenry Jackson knocked into me after not looking where he was going and running down the breezeway and I fell straight on the concrete. My elbow bled everywhere and Liv Provosty and Roey Leonardi laughed at me as they gave me a piggyback ride to the nurse. I almost fainted when I saw how much blood was on my clothes but thinking about it always gives me a good laugh.

Cass Wauben: Falling out of the kayak last Friday.

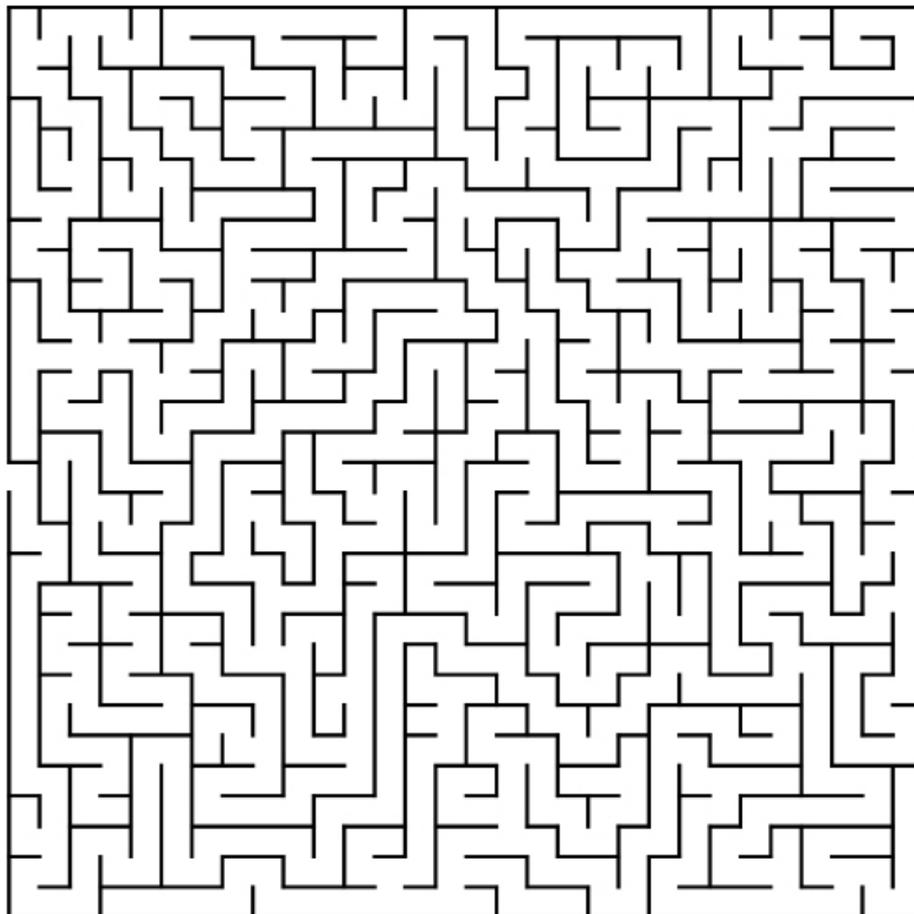
Ashley Worth: When I was in 6th grade I tried to get a snack from the vending machine, it took my dollar and didn't work, my brother's beautiful friend (a senior at the time) saw it and got so mad, he called other seniors around to shake the machine to get me a snack, what a kids dream.

Word Scramble: Graduation Special

aipodlm	-----
aesluevprits	-----
livdainatreoc	-----
pcsishhralo	-----
xteemticen	-----
arpty	-----

SOA Sudoku

3								
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	7	9	5		6		8	
	6							
4	2					7		
			1	9		2		



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“Parker Thompson because he’s always himself and goes after what he believes in.”

-Mr. Johnsen, Middle School Science Teacher



“SauceTaydo because he’s on that rap grind.”

-Hunter Garrett, 11th grade Vocal



“Elle Hueske because she is perpetually hard working, generous, wise and kind.”

-Ms. Drennan, High School English Teacher



“Patricia Peña”

-Addie Pridemore, 8th grade Dance



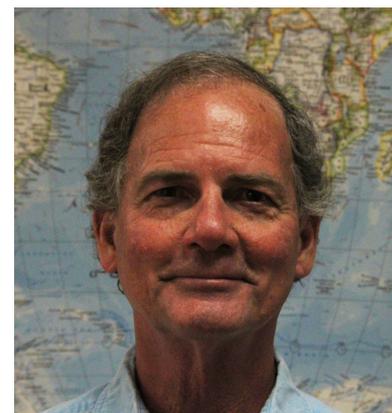
“Ethan Dotta because his reckless abandon is so excellent. It really keeps me going.”

-Anna Temples, 10th grade Creative Writing

Which senior inspires you?

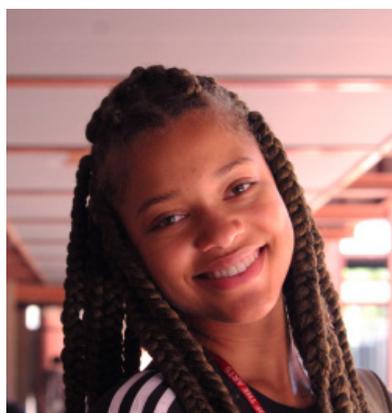
by River Abedon and Maya Cline

Photos by River Abedon and Maya Cline



“Parker Thompson. He reminds me of a Renaissance man and possesses the qualities of a good human, especially with his ability to help others.”

-Mr. Orvin, High School History Teacher



“Mahogany Christopher because of her drive and her art.”

-Lexi Jones, 11th grade Fashion



“Elle Hueske because she always exceeds expectations.”

-Ms. Miller, High School Math Teacher



“James Leprettre because he is very sympathetic towards others.”

-Tripp Carrington, 9th grade Vocal



“All of Blind Budapest because they force me to be the best version of myself.”

-Alex Jones, 10th grade Band

SOA GRADUATING CLASS OF 2019

