

Applause

The background of the cover is a vibrant, abstract painting. It features thick, expressive brushstrokes in a variety of colors including bright yellow, deep red, cool blue, and lush green. The colors are layered and blended, creating a sense of movement and depth. The overall effect is a rich, textured composition that serves as a dynamic backdrop for the text.

Volume 20, Number 7

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

April 2019

DIAMOND

**Ben Traywick
Law Firm**

EMERALD

**The Abedons
School of the Arts
PTSA**

RUBY

David & Judith Anderson
Dr. Shannon Cook
John & Anna Cusatis
Susanne Drennan
Harold & Katie Johnson
Katy Richardson & David Bundy
Chris & Kristen Salisbury

AMETHYST

River Abedon
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
F. Rutledge Hammes
Andrew Greer
Elizabeth Hart
Henry Hipp
Brett Johnsen
Marion E. Johnson
Larry Krasnoff
Ms. Lasley
The Lee Family
Ed and Linda Lee
Brandon Lyons
Jennifer Mathis
Alea McKinley
Amanda Miller
John Morrin
Logan Murray
Heath Orvin
Woody & Regi Rennie
Mark Ruppel
Kevin Short
SOA Deaf Program
Meg Voelker
Aaron Voelker
The Washingtons
Alfonso White

**GARNET**

Maria Augustine
Natasha Fields
Baraba George
Bill Hipp
Amber Honeycutt
Ms. Horschell
Ms. Mahoney
Ms. Orchard
Susan Pace
Cindy Phillips
John Paul Schuster
Dean Walters
Melanie Wise

TURQUOISE

Ms. Bednarczyk
Kimberly Davis
Rhetta Foster
Tristan Hill
Brian Johnson
Kathy Jones
Kathleen Kelley
Stacey LeBrun
Mark
Ms. Mitchum
Mr. Naas
Colleen Rodenberg
Laura Smith
Kindall Smith
Mr. Southwick
Ms. Sullivan
Ms. Traylor
Bethany Weeks
Mr. Wells

PEARL

Danyelle Altman
Alan Bi
Leigh Bolten
Anne Cimballa
Lou Collins
Connor Denny-Lybbert
Katie Dorn
Dylan Enriquez
Ciara Greco
Diane Hoagland
Kaitlynn Ishler
K. Lyle
Mr. Morelli
Ms. Penneti
Jack Rigsbee
Luke Shaw
Caitlin Shelor
R. Stalmsmith
Maddie Thomas
Cass Wauben

Letter From the Editors

Dear Readers,

Spring has sprung (minus all the intermittent cold weather), and with it comes *Applause's* April issue!

While April Fool's Day has come and gone, *Applause* still commemorates the jester in all of us with a very special miniature paper, *Applesauce!* Finally, a newspaper for all your comedic wants and desires! *Applesauce* editor **Maya Cline** made sure to include only the best-of-the-best, high-tier journalism in what we're sure will be the funniest pieces you've ever read. Flip to page 5 to start your trip to Funnytown.

If you still are craving *Applause's* regular features, never fear! We still made sure to include plenty of exciting stories and columns for your reading pleasure. This month's "Where Are They Now?" features 2013 graduate **Matt Watson**, SOA visual artist turned video editor and YouTuber extraordinaire (page 13). On page 4, the Senior Dance majors give us a taste of their Spring Senior Thesis performances, alongside a recap of this month's Masterworks concert. And, as always, staples like "Student Works" and "Sign of the Month" make their monthly debut (on pages 4 and 15, respectively).

As always, a big thank you to our diligent staff, generous patrons, and incredible readers for their continued support. Thank you so much for reading! Make sure to check back in next month for an extra special graduation issue!

Love,

Your Editors

Maya Cline, M. B. McConnell, and Tes Smoak



Chilling out with Barack.

Applause

since 1999, the official student publication of

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Founded in 1995 by Rose Maree Myers

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Cook's Corner

April and May provide opportunities for us to recognize and appreciate some of the groups who provide instruction and support in our schools. One of those groups is referred to as administrative professionals, and on our campus, includes a number of hardworking, caring staff members who take on all kinds of challenging tasks to help our school run smoothly. During the week of April 22-26, I hope you'll express gratitude for behind-the-scenes work of these unsung heroes:

Ms. Meltzer, Campus Receptionist
 Ms. Altman, Attendance Clerk
 Ms. Edwards, Admissions and Communications Coordinator
 Ms. Felder, Bookkeeper
 Ms. Phillips, Media Center Clerk
 Ms. Dover, Student Support Specialist
 Mr. Cosgrove, Student Support Specialist
 Mr. Christensen, Theater Manager
 Ms. King, Arts Support Coordinator

In May we celebrate Teacher Appreciation Week! SOA is fortunate to have caring, supportive teachers who are experts in their fields of study. Although May 7 is Teacher Appreciation Day, nationwide schools will honor and show appreciation for teachers throughout the week of May 6-10.

I often ask SOA's student-artists to consider using art to make a difference. I'd like to challenge our students to apply the gifts and skills they've developed to help us celebrate our administrative professionals and teachers. Be creative and make a difference!



Senior Dancers Collaborate with Other Majors for a Spectacular Show

by Galen Berger

The Senior Dance majors have been working on their second Senior Thesis show since the start of the new year. Their focus for this show was either artist collaborations or working with constraints. Each choreographer chose one of these options on which to base their thesis. For artistic collaboration, dancers chose which art major they would collaborate with by randomly selecting a piece of paper from a box. The same process was followed to ensure random distribution for selecting the constraints. Next, dancers chose one to three dancers for their piece. As a result, each senior was both a dancer and a choreographer for this show. The show took place on April 9 at 6:30 in the Rose Maree Myers Theater.

Galen Berger's senior thesis was based on an artistic collaboration with the vocal department. She had senior Lucas Clare sing Louis Armstrong's rendition of "La Vie En Rose." For this second cycle of thesis, she wanted to make a dance which reflected her personality and summed up her experiences in life and dance thus far.

For her piece, **Jessann Gentile** collaborated with theatre. She chose **Molly Hunsinger** and **Isabelle Chewy** to work with her to showcase the meaning of dance as she interprets it. Jessann wanted to base her



piece on the universal language of movement. This is important to her as dance is a huge part of her life, and she feels that it can help a lot of people express their emotions.

Anna Lipke used work from various visual artists to create her second thesis. The use of projected videos of art being created allowed her to showcase the relationship between visual art and dance. She experimented with combining the two art forms throughout the process and attempted to focus on the process of what goes into making art in both the dance and visual art sectors. She is inspired by the different human aspects that artists put into their work and the defining quality that makes art unique to the individual artist. She hopes to connect to the audience by seamlessly merging the two separate forms of art.

Kailyn Evans collaborated with strings for her second thesis. Her piece addressed the ups and downs of falling in love. She incorporated movements that reflect a variety of emotions and aimed to convey what it's like to truly love someone no matter what you go through together. She collaborated with strings majors **Peyton Smalls, Lillian Kozlowski, Allie Larkin, and Ross Ugur**, who played live on stage at the performance.

In her dance, **Jai'Lyn Jones** selected the choreographic constraint option. For this, she had to use 10 props. She chose to use Horton style modern and African movement to create an energetic piece with various props including weights, scarves, and stools to accentuate her movement.

Maddie Robertson's dance incorporated the artistic constraint of breaking the fourth wall. Most of her piece takes place off the stage and in the audience. This allows the audience to get involved rather than just watching it.

The senior's second dance thesis allowed the students to both dance in and choreograph the show. The seniors performed brilliantly with a great emphasis on collaboration and set design. If you missed thesis, you have a chance to see the seniors two more times before they graduate. The dance departmental show is on May 4. In addition, they will be performing a group choreographed piece at graduation.

SOA Vocal and Orchestra Combine for a Breathtaking Concert

by Katie-Jo Gelasco and John White

The SOA Vocal Department in conjunction with the SOA Symphony performed a masterworks concert on April 11 and 12. The first half of the concert featured Dan Forrest's *Requiem for the Living*, a five movement modern interpretation of a traditional requiem mass. The violins open the piece with long, sustained notes, that swell as the rest of the orchestra joins. The choir comes in with a long, melancholic phrase that builds to the climax of the movement. This is immediately followed by the relentless marching of the horns and basses marking the start of the second movement "Vanitas Vanitatum." This is followed by three more movements.

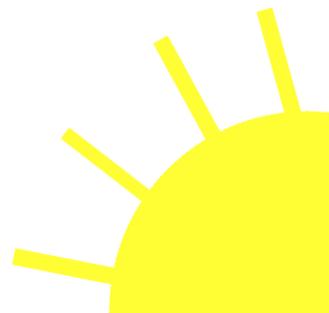
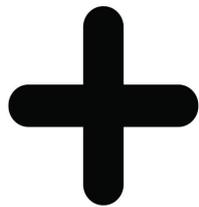
The second half of the concert, in true SOA fashion, featured four of the most well-loved show tunes. These include "Do Re Mi" from the *Sound of Music*, "Circle of Life" from *The Lion King*, "Masquerade" from *The Phantom of the Opera*, and closing with the magnificent "One Day More" from *Les Misérables*. Since this marks the vocal department's last concert of the year, senior awards followed the concert, resulting in more than a few tears from both the departing class and the underclassmen.

Applesauce

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Nebruary 100BC



Letter from the Editor

Thank you for stopping by, it's me Maya. In this volume's issue of Applesauce, we have all the classics you love, like hot tips on the best boat sales in Charleston, relationship "Dos and Don'ts" with Dr. Doofenshmirtz, dog obituaries, and more. We dispatched all our best reporters to bring our lovely readers the most pressing news of the month. Check out page 310 for a sit down with Steve Jobs' lovely mom, Patricia, and see page 420 for a tutorial on how to properly administer eye drops. Be sure to visit soa-applesauce.net to watch our new live-stream tracking the riveting progress of the paint on my shed drying. Oh, and do you want to know who's beautiful? Hahaha, just look at the eighth word in this letter (-; Much love!

Editorial: There's something seriously wrong with the restaurant industry

by Maya Cline

It's taken me years to realize this, but two weeks ago, it hit me. I was sitting with my mom and dad in a sticky booth at Buffalo Wings and Rings deep in the mystical land of Kentucky. I was scouring the five page long menu in search of something that would not make me throw up. I gazed at the dozens of TVs above our table, waiting for the beautiful faces of the Michigan basketball team to appear in full HD. That's when an Arby's commercial popped up, and suddenly everything made sense. I checked the menu once again to confirm my suspicions. I was right, obviously. There were no sliders on the menu. I'll let that sink in. Every sandwich and burger option was entirely full sized with no smaller option in sight. The tragedy might not seem apparent to you, but for me it was years in the making. It was years of questioning and indecisiveness and bad decisions that would have been solved by one or two perfectly sized sliders.

I remember the first time I had a slider. February 13th, 2011. My dad and I had just left K-Mart and we desperately needed something to lift our spirits. So, I suggested a milkshake. I never thought he would go for it, we're quite a healthy family. But he took the bait like a starving rainbow fish. Perfect, right? Wrong. Where could we get a milkshake from immediately? I was struck with a crazy idea, but I had gotten my way once, I might as well try again. "What about Arby's?" I hesitantly inquired. My father looked at me curiously. "Arby's?" He puzzled. I might just be able to pull this off. "They have the meats." I responded. "And also milkshakes." He nodded, confused, as if a fog had settled around him. "Show me the way." He said, confident yet reserved. I pointed straight ahead, as the Arby's was a block away (that's what made me suggest it). Seconds later, we pulled into the drive-thru. I panicked due to a number of reasons, one being that our family does not frequent drive-thrus so I am shockingly inexperienced, and the second being that I am horribly indecisive. I chose a chocolate milkshake and the first food item I saw, a chicken slider. I sat there in our car, Jane Honda, curious and excited to try what would become the most exciting meal of my life. With the first bite, my world was spinning. Colors seemed brighter, music seemed louder, and I could finally see the individual leaves perched on the branches of trees.

The beautiful thing about sliders is how easy they are, in every sense of the word. Easy to choose, because they're not a big commitment. Easy on the eyes, because they're just so cute. Easy to eat, because they're perfectly proportioned and just filling enough. Easy on the wallet, because they're only \$1 each (at Arby's from 2-5 pm for a limited time). All this and more is what finally clicked on that strange Saturday night in Kentucky. The moment I took a cold hard look at the restaurant industry in America and realized how horribly it was failing its people. So this is a call to action, a request to form a militia, a desperate plea, because we can not let our children grow up in a world so lacking in sliders. I am begging every person who glances upon this article, take a second from your busy day and help this cause. Call a senator, patron an Arby's, indoctrinate the ones you love, march down the streets of Charleston with a burning pitchfork. Whatever it takes.



Maya and her dad bonding over their Arby's meal in 2011.

Rioting in the Academic Magnet hallways after their vending machines were switched with ours

by Carson Stehling

As I'm certain you are all aware, SOA's vending machines are garbage. Both the selection of snacks and the reliability of our vending machines are far inferior to Magnet's and have been for quite some time. There isn't a single SOA student who cannot recall a time that the machine in the corner ate their dollar or the drink machine failed to deliver on a sticky afternoon in late April. The lack of adequate snacking facilities has been a consistent disappointment but we soldier on because we have never known anything different. Until now.

Over the weekend our vending machines were wheeled down the breezeway to the lobby of the Academic Magnet gym and theirs were wheeled to a small brick alcove near the Rose Maree Myers theater labeled: VENDING MACHINES. If you

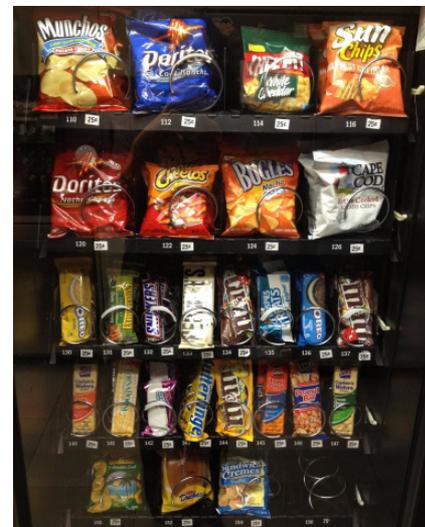
found the time to stroll down to that alcove during lunch you may have been pleasantly surprised to find white cheddar Cheez-its or Welch's fruit snacks and you may have been downright shocked when the machine accepted your money and gave you your snack in return but you probably just took your snack and went about your business, right? Who are you to look a gift horse in the mouth?

Rest assured I'm just as happy as you are but, while you eat your Cheez-its, allow me to issue you a warning: Magnet will not take this lying down. Already the rioting in the quad near the bus loop has injured two teachers

and five students. Sophomores on the basketball team (Go Raptors!) picket the admin building as students enter in the mornings with signs that call for justice and Sun Chips. Yesterday a single Air Force 1 fell from the rafters in the cafeteria leading to the discovery of a feral freshman girl who has been living in the vents since Monday out of confusion. It seems that AMHS students have been disoriented enough by their loss to lack the wherewithal to locate where their vending machines currently reside but I fear when the dust settles and they put two and two together we could all be in grave danger. The Academic Magnet PTA has launched a full investigation into the theft but Mrs. Zerbst is doing her best to obstruct their inquiries. She may not be able to hold them off much longer so lick the Cheez-it dust off your fingers. Relish in our victory while it lasts.



SOA's vending machine, thanks to Michelle Obama.



The mouthwatering array of scrumptious treats offered at AMHS.

Adult refrains from making a comment about road safety after a teenager gets their permit

by Maya Cline

I caught up with Mary O. Kate after 3rd block last week. I had heard the rumors, sure, but I didn't dare believe them. She got her permit one week ago, and when her teacher asked the class for good news she volunteered to share. Mary knew it was a risky thing to do, she had seen her friends fall victim to adults' quick responses. "Better be extra careful on the roads today y'all, Cara just got her license." "Try not to run anyone over Jake!" "Uh oh, everybody watch out!" The taunting phrases had haunted Mary. She had half a mind to keep the big news to herself. But there she was, telling her teacher she had passed her permit test with flying colors. But to everyone's disbelief, the teacher said "How exciting!" and moved on.

SOA receives surprise remodeling courtesy of the Property Brothers

by Diva Thin Muffin

I've been going to SOA since 2008, but I have never made it past the 10th grade. I walked out into the breezeway this morning and I knew something strange had happened. The air smelled of rosemary and lucky charms. A colorful snake slithered by my feet, its scales bright blue and pink. "Go Pegasi" it hissed. The snake winked at me and jogged past. Mrs. Señora Smith opened the door to the high school for me and whispered, "Welcome, Diva. Enjoy your day." As I entered the high school building, my Heelys became slick and unreliable. It wasn't for lack of my Heelys skills though, the floor was wet! I first attributed it to a flooding bathroom, but the real source was so much better. A cascading fountain had replaced the front stairwell. The fountain was delicately carved from marble in the shape of a towering pegasus. On the left wing of the pegasus sat a stone version of the friendly snake I had seen just moments before.

The walls of the building were painted an eggshell white, with a healthy amount of colorful backsplash above the water fountains. A group of students had gathered with me, taking in the vast remodel. My friend Roberta pointed at the hallway lights, once typical fluorescents, now stunning mid-century modern wood paneled chandelier imitations. Another student pointed to a giant sheet hanging in the corner next to the fountain, covered in pictures of squids. "But what is that?" Tyler exclaimed. As the words flew from his mouth, the squid sheet dropped to the floor. There stood HGTV's most handsome talent: Jonathan and Drew Scott. The Property Brothers posed back to back, towering over the hallways at a stunning 6' 5", Drew wearing a sharp tie, Jonathan in a t-shirt with a hammer thrown casually over his shoulder. They smiled and said, "You're welcome, SOA."



PROM

Although some claimed not to get the theme, this year's prom went off absolutely perfectly. Besides the major kitchen fire that left three freshman volunteers with mild burns, the food arrangements were wonderful. Only one person decided to touch every cupcake and chip as they perused the snack table. There was some alarm when a basketball game broke out on the lawn next to the stage, as no one brought equipment and the players were throwing one of the glass centerpieces at each others faces instead. The lights and music went off three times during the best songs, but that only contributed to the allure of the night. A slight panic erupted when the wild raccoon herd found its way onto the dance floor, but tensions were soon resolved when Mr. Clark challenged the racoons to a dance battle and won, sending them sulking back to the dumpsters in shame. Of course, spirits were brightened when Lady Gaga and Bradley Cooper finished their suprise performance, because I think we've all heard "The Shallows" one too many times. So yes, all in all, prom was a peaceful happy night filled with beautiful dresses and even beautiful people.



Hunter Garrett, Junior, enjoying prom with his date, Loulou Hranowsky.

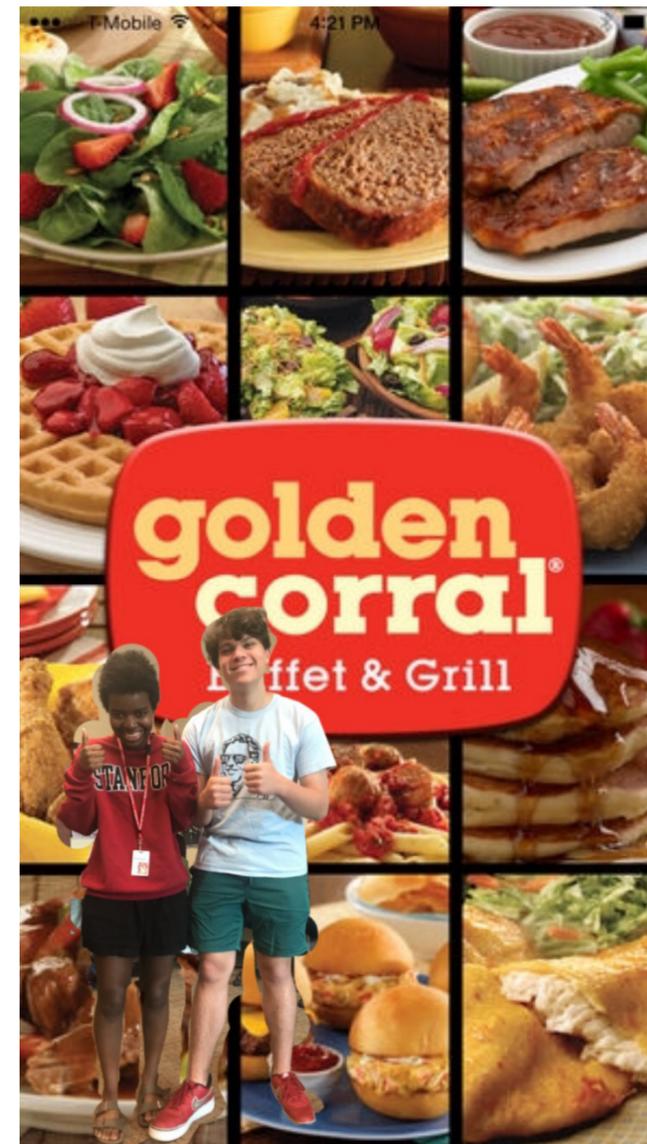
Spring Break!



Junior Skyler Warf hiked to the top of Mt. Everest and learned some life changing things about herself, including that she is not physically capable of being cold.



Sophomore Band major, Alex Jones, took a trip to a neaby black whole and snagged some pretty neat pictures.



7th grade Dance majors, Maya Green and Ocean Lake, traveled to Golden Corral where they went halvesies on an order of all-you-can eat crab legs.

The Real Truth

One student risked it all to get to find out what kids are really saying these days. Christina Lewis conducts a series of polls to discover the opinons of the SOA population.

Do you say straw or strawl?

**24% straw//70% strawl
//6% undecided**

Do you say bagel or circular muffin?

100% circular muffin

Should babybel cheese be eaten with or without the wax?

82% say humans were never meant to eat dairy products past childhood//8% confused by question

What should be done about the alarming percentage of young adults entering life after college with looming loans?

7% say no more school//18% say work hard, pay 'em off//75% say train to be an underwater welder

What is the probability of an apocolypse occuring in 1 or 2 months?

83% high probability//17% moderate to mild probability

What about 3 months?

98% could see this as a real possibility

Billy Ray or Miley?

100% afraid to answer because they've lost touch with reality

Hope you learned a lot from this social experiment! Tune in never again to watch this segment biweekly.

Clubs of SOA

by Sachary Zhirley

Diary of a Wimpy Kid Roleplay Club -

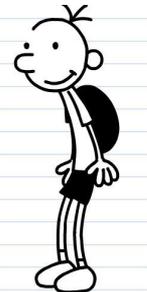
Diary of a Wimpy Kid is a saga of books written by author Jeff Kinney. As of April 1st 2019 the narrative has reached its twelve year anniversary, and to celebrate SOA is starting a brand new *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* Club! If you would like to join then you must have read all of the *Wimpy Kid* books (except book 12: *The Getaway* cause that one's lame) and you must be able to pass their eighty-question quiz on the saga. "If you're considering applying then you must be ready to join as either Rowley or Fregley because all the other spots are full and we have five Rodricks and like three Greys which doesn't make sense cause Greg is way cooler than Rodrick." said club president **James Leprettre**. They meet every lunch in Mrs. Greig's room. (1209)

Fight Club -

They said I couldn't talk about it, sorry.

The Grilled Chicken Club -

A boneless breast of chicken, marinated with a special blend of seasonings and grilled for a tender and juicy backyard-grilled taste, served on a toasted multigrain bun with Colby-Jack cheese, applewood smoked bacon, Green Leaf lettuce and tomato. (1204)



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Exclusive interview with SOA's premier TikTok curator, Carson Stehling

by Roberta N. Dakota

As some of you may know, **Carson Stehling** is a woman of many talents. She can act, fit most of her fist in her mouth, and of course, effortlessly curate TikToks her fans want to see. Over the past few months, she has built a significant following for herself by displaying videos from the hit social media/musical experience app, formerly known as Musical.ly, on her Instagram story. I sat down with the rising star to discuss her life of fame, fortune, and excess.

RND: Ms. Stehling, it is so nice to finally meet you.

CS: Please, call me ma'am.

RND: Of course. I'm so sorry ma'am.

CS: Continue.

RND: When were you first exposed to TikTok,

CS: My first exposure to TikTok was when "Hit or Miss" video popped up on my

RND: For those who don't know, explain what

CS: I'm not a content creator, as many people involved so much more than that. I am like a museum curator. Compared to that of Quentin Bajac or Massimiliano Gioni, you know, the big names in museum curation. Regardless, the process is simple. I see the pieces that speak to me and hold an important message that I

RND: I know you don't like to talk about it, TikTok you have participated in?

CS: I suppose. The first TikTok I created was based on a trend at that time, where a person character while the song "Pretty Boy Swag" by that I share the same chaotic energy and good looks of consideration, me and my colleagues found a picture I

RND: Can you tell me about your favorite trend right

CS: A personal favorite of mine are the pieces featuring like I'm goin for a swim." The TikTok artists create a clever decide they suddenly have to go for a swim. It is a very direction.

RND: Your compositions are only available now to a select Have you considered going public with your curated Tik

CS: Don't get me wrong Roberta, I have thought about it. I'd with the world. Sadly, I think the reality is that a large part of A force as powerful as this app could make or break Earth's be up to me.



ma'am?

"Miss" really blew up. But this was before I had the app Instagram feed, and suddenly, I was hooked.

you do.

with TikTok are. I am merely an appreciator, but really The things I do and pieces I orchestrate could only be Gioni, you know, the big names in museum curation. that speak to me and hold an important message that I

but would you be willing to address the one and only

made around the same time I first discovered the app. It would compare themselves to a celebrity or a cartoon Soulja Boy plays in the background. Now, I have been told Emma Chamberlain, a popular YouTuber. Taking this into could imitate and the rest was history.

now in the TikTok community?

Nicki Minaj's track "Chun-Li," specifically the lyric "looks situation, like the Titanic sinking, where people might avant -garde trend; it pushes modern art in a refreshing

few who follow your Instagram account. Tok collections, ma'am?

love to share what I've been discovering the population just isn't ready for TikTok. future, and I really don't think that should



The Best Playlist You'll Ever Hear

Visit [@soaapplause](#) on Spotify for a listen to this playlist entirely based on Christina Lewis' taste in music.



"All I Want For Christmas" by Big Time Rush, Miranda Cosgrove

"Sweet Caroline (Glee Cast Version)" by Glee Cast

"Cups (When I'm Gone Cover)" by Anna Kendrick

"Chateau" by Blackbear

"Bingo" by Jacob Sartorius

"Cursum Perficio" by Enya

"Ai Se Eu Te Pego" by Michel Teló

"Airplanes (feat. Hayley Williams)" by B.o.B, Hayley Williams

"The Real Slim Shady" by Eminem

"We Are Family" by Alvin and the Chipmunks, The Chipettes

"Breathe (2 AM)" by Anna Nalick

"679" by Fetty Wap

"Red Solo Cup" by Toby Keith

"Beggin' On Your Knees" by Victorious Cast, Victoria Justice

"Star of the County Down" by The High Kings

"Gucci On My Body" by Baby Ariel



“Billie Eilish”

-Emma Ladd, 6th grade
Vocal



“7”

-Diver Abeon, homeless



“Doc McStuffins”

-Carson Smith, 8th grade
Theatre



“Trippie Redd”

-Dylan Enriquez, 12th grade
Vocal

On a scale of 1-10, how strict are your grandparents?

by Diver Abeon and
Cathy Joe

Photos by Diver Abeon and Cathy Joe



“Avan Jogia”

-Ms. Rink, High School
English Teacher



“Señora Aponte”

-Sophia Sinore, 9th grade
Theatre



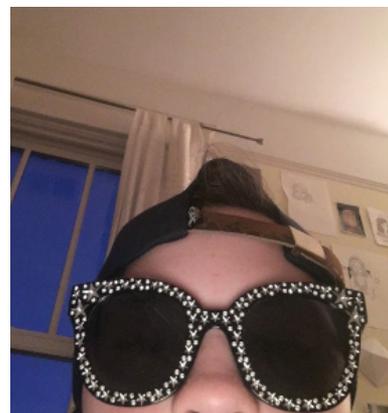
“Kylie Jenner’s dog”

-Evelyn Howe, 11th grade
Vocal



“pewdiepie”

-James, Justin, Christian, &
Parker, 7th grade



“3”

-anonymous



“Ginger Spice”

-Margaret Carter, 10th
grade Strings

Where Are They Now?

Applause's **M. B. McConnell** sat down with 2013 graduate **Matt Watson** to talk about his career as a YouTube content creator and video editor.

M. B. McConnell: Since Applause last spoke with you, you were editing for Markiplier and making your own content on the Kids With Problems YouTube channel. What have you been up to since then?

Matt Watson: I was working for Mark with two of my friends, Ryan McGee and Daniel Kyre, who I also worked with on the YouTube channel Cyndago. Unfortunately, Daniel passed away towards the end of 2015. After that, Ryan and I decided to move on from the situation, on good terms, to start something new. So, we started SuperMega, which was a YouTube channel that was collectively 50-50 between the two of us. Around that time, we became really good friends with the YouTube channel Game Grumps, and they needed video editors. We were looking for some extra work at the time, so we picked that up, and ever since then, we've been editing their videos while we continue to grow SuperMega on the side.

MBM: Could you walk me through your typical creative process when you sit down to make your content? What are your sources of inspiration?

MW: With a more creative type of video, like live-action comedy, Ryan and I will just be hanging out, and we'll just be joking around and we'll be like, "Oh, that's funny, that would make a good video!" Honestly, it'll just be a stupid idea one of us will just have that we both think is funny, and we'll develop it from there. We'll think about what we'll need to do to make it, and the hardest part is getting out of bed and figuring out a time we can just make it and not be lazy. Once we shoot it, we throw it into the computer, edit it, throw it back and forth and add our own little sparkles to it, and then, we throw it online and watch all the comments flood in.

MBM: How do you feel about the work (major-related and otherwise) you created while SOA?

MW: I learned a lot through all the classes. In the work I made, I was able to experiment with lots of vibrant

colors and styles. For my independent projects, I find myself reaching back to a lot of the things I've learned regarding color theory and line work. It's cool that what I learned at SOA is still able to help influence me now with new projects that I'm working on today.

MBM: How did SOA's non-traditional approach to education help influence your career path?

MW: SOA is a very different school. I had a lot of friends who went to other schools, and I always saw all the work they had to do and knew that there was absolutely no way I could manage that load. Being at SOA is really special because I was able to express myself artistically and be freer to do what I want to do. Seeing other high schools where the curriculum was focused on just a huge workload, I just knew that wasn't what I wanted to do.

MBM: Even though you don't use your visual arts background directly in what you do, how did your time as a visual arts major help influence you later on in life?

MW: It for sure solidified in my mind that I definitely want to choose a career involving the arts. My second choice for a major was theatre, and in the end, I went with visual arts. I always wonder what it would've been like if I went in for theatre, but it's cool now because I get to do a mix of the two. I think the more I was able to work in visual arts and express creativity in my art class, the more I thought, "This is really cool. I don't want to work at a desk job where I have to type numbers into a computer. I want to be able to do something cool that I can be fulfilled with." I took that sentiment



Matt (left) and Ryan (right), clad in matching turtlenecks, strike a contemplative pose in the SuperMega end card.

from visual arts and I was able to apply it to making videos in a way. There are two sides when it comes to making art: the side where you're making it for yourself, and the other side where you're making it to show people. I've always liked showing people art and seeing reactions to what I make, but I also like the feeling I get out of making art, so I kind of just took that on a bigger scale with what I do now.

MBM: How do you react when someone from SOA finds your current work now?

MW: It's always a surprise. It shows the reach that internet entertainment has, that it can reach every little crack and crevice of even my personal life, where people I don't even know who live in the same hometown as me or go to the same school I went to are able to find this thing and are able to share it with the internet.

MBM: Any words of advice to those at SOA looking to pursue less-traditional, more performance-based careers?

MW: This is less of a traditional answer, but I think that there's a stigma in America that if you don't go to college, you won't be successful, and to be successful, you have to go to a good college and spend a lot of money to get a degree, otherwise you are going to be unsuccessful. I don't think that that's true. I think that's almost jumping through hoops. I have so many friends that have paid so much money to get a degree, and they don't have jobs or an idea of what they even want to do. I think that you can be successful going to college, but I also think that depending on your talents and what you want to do in life, you don't need to go to college to be successful. If college is something important to you and your career, then you should go. College can be helpful depending on your field, but I don't think it's a necessity to be successful. I think I'm an example of that in a way. I started going to college and I liked it, but I realized that what I want to do doesn't require a college education, and that's worked out for me. I think I got lucky a lot, so it wouldn't work out the same in every universe. I don't think that you should drop out of college and become a YouTuber; I don't think that's the best idea, even though I did it. I do think, though, that you should follow your passions, and if your passion doesn't require you to drop \$100,000 to go to college and put yourself in debt for the next twelve years, you shouldn't.



An Applause cover Matt designed and drew.



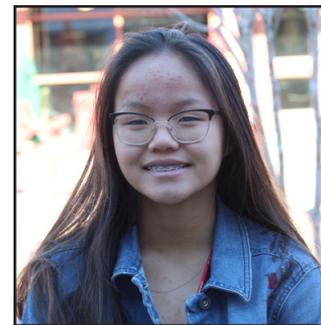
Matt on a recent trip to Kyoto, Japan.



"En Pointe"

Connor Smith (left)
Ninth Grade Visual Artist

Student Artwork

Olivia Jones (below)
Tenth Grade Visual Artist

"Birds of a Feather"

Strings Struggles

by Natalie Blakeslee, 6th grade guest writer

If you had asked me before I got into SOA if I thought I was good at playing violin, or if I could read all the notes of a song clearly, I would have said yes. But my entire music world collapsed when I got here. Honestly, to give some perspective, I could not even read music fluently and most of the time I just memorized the notes to avoid the work of trying to read it. I don't know how I was accepted—maybe I had potential? Now if you ask me the same question today I can say, confidently, that I know how to fluently read music and understand my violin. SOA has given such an amazing experience that I never would have dreamed of and I am so grateful to be here. With all that said, there are some struggles to being a strings major and I have listed five of them below. I can relate to all of them.

1. Rosin...EVERYWHERE

I used to use rosin so infrequently that I did not even keep any in my violin case. Now that I do, I have discovered that all my black clothing has white, sticky rosin all over!

2. Silence

We all love peace and quiet after a long day at school but sometimes silence betrays us. For example, at my last concert we were working with a side by side with fourth and fifth grade students. During one song, my part came in after a few measures of rest, but my mind was in other places



thinking on upcoming tests, etc, and when I heard the first bass play, I immediately started too. As you can imagine, I noticed that nobody else was playing and they all were staring at me! I was so mortified and to make matters worse, the fourth grader next to me had noticed me playing and had falsely assumed her part had started! Beware silence.

3. The Heat

I love my performances and love the feeling of playing my violin onstage, but it gets really heated in the theatre (no pun intended). One of my past performances was side-by-side with EVERY STRINGS STUDENT in the school (and a few band majors) and we were packed so tightly on stage that I could practically feel the sweat pouring down my back.

4. Changing Techniques

I had a pretty basic technique before I came to SOA but once I got here I realized my bow grip, posture, position, even my violin size was all wrong! It has taken me such a long time to fix it and get adjusted.

5. Tuning Issues

I was never the best tuner...and I still am. For some odd reason, it is hard for me to concentrate at the sound coming out of my own instrument, yet I can pick out the sounds from each individual violin around me. So, I often find myself the subject in the embarrassing situation when my teacher calls me out, in front of everyone, to re-tune.

But I am just an annoying little sixth grader with stupid strings problems, a tiny bug waiting to be squashed. So go ahead and continue living your wonderful life here at SOA.

**Sign of the Month:
Happy Easter!**
Demonstrated by Everett Ladson



1. Pat your chest with both hands in an upward motion.



2. Make an "E" handshape with your right hand.



3. Gently wave the "E" handshape from side to side.

Photos by Kyliah Catalan



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American Pie

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

Thursday, May 23, 2019, 6:30 PM

Rose Maree Myers Theater

A Free Event



“When I auditioned for Theatre, they told me to ‘find a lightbulb as an animal,’ and I pretended to be British...”

-Loulou Hranowsky, 11th grade Creative Writing



“Mr. Younts’ stern facial expression.”

-Lucas Fancher, 12th grade Theatre, demonstrating Younts’ scowl



“All I was thinking about was my girlfriend who had just broken up with me.”

-Tristan Hill, High School Spanish Teacher



“It was really stressful. I was put in a room with a bunch of writers, and we were all like... writing...”

-Henry Monteith, 7th grade Creative Writing

What do you remember most about your audition/job interview at SOA?

by Zachary Shirley and Adam Krasnoff

Photos by Zachary Shirley and Adam Krasnoff



“It was in the school kitchen.”

-Kevin, Cafeteria Staff



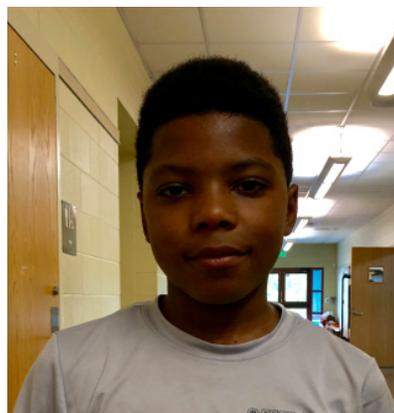
“I remember Mr. Younts was really scary looking.”

-Alexa Smith, 10th grade Theatre



“I was very sick and I was interviewed by Mr. Hammes, who had no idea what I was saying.”

-Olivia Sission, 9th grade Creative Writing



“The part where I was scared out of my mind.”

-Bryan Peeler, 6th grade Vocal



“My answer’s kind of pessimistic. It took forever and was *really* delayed.”

-Ashleigh Smith, 8th grade Vocal



“A student told me the only reason they were auditioning was because their father made them.”

-Beth Hart, Creative Writing Teacher