

Applause

Volume 21, Number 1

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

October 2019



EMERALD

The Thompson
Family

Julia Welch

RUBY

David Bundy

SAPPHIRE

Mr. and Mrs.
William Baker

AMETHYST

The Baker Family
The Cusatis Family
Lori Dickerson
Susanne Drennan
Sylvia Edwards
Kristen Jacksa
Jennifer Mathis
David and Brenda
Waldron

TOPAZ

Caroline Baker
Lynn Baker
Karl Clark
John Cusatis
Andrea Derrickson
Thomas Doran
Natasha Fields
Sarah Fitzgerald
Robin Grieg
Matt Hastings
Brett Johnsen
Brandon Lyons
Alea McKinley
Amanda Miller
Joseph Naas
Nancy O'Donoghue
Heath Orvin
Derek Pickens
The Poulnot Family
John Schuster
Kevin Short
Laura Smith
Jill Swing
David Thornburg
J. Tim Tipton
Kenneth Turner
Jen Waldron

P

A

T

R

O

N

S

GARNET

Christine Bednarczyk
Debbie Benson
Cynthia Branscome
David Cosgrove
Michelle Gorenstein
Elizabeth Hart
Meg Orchard
Barbara Richardson

TURQUOISE

Charlene Felder
Brian Johnson
Katherine Johnson
Manuel Laguna
Karen Lyle
Benjamin McCauley
Jennifer Mitchum
Mike Morelli
Suzanne Reed
Stephanie Smalls
Rachael Stallsmith
Kathy Sullivan
Pricilla Svendsen
Kyle Wells
Melanie Wise

PEARL

AJ Bednarczyk
Chris Barnwell
Linda Cline
Tristan Hill
Maria Mackenzie
John White

Letter From the Editor

Dear Readers,

Welcome back to school, SOA, and welcome to the first *Applause* issue of the year! Hopefully you've settled in to the new year and everything is going swimmingly. This year is an exciting one for *Applause*, as we are celebrating a huge milestone. The very first issue of this newspaper was released in December of 1999, so stay tuned for the celebratory 20th anniversary issue in a few short months.

While a new school year is always exciting, this one has had its bittersweet edge, as the familiar campus has forced many to confront the untimely passings of two SOA students, **Solomon Adams** and **Quinyah McCoy**. The pair are commemorated on page 15.

This month's paper is otherwise chock full of entertaining content. Curious about who writes all this content? Check out pages 12-14 to meet the 2019-2020 *Applause* staff. While you're on the topic of learning about new people, hop on over to pages 17-19 to meet SOA's new faculty and staff. You can also get to know the high school's new Assistant Principal, **Ms. Derrickson** on page 7. Test your Halloween knowledge on page 31, and learn how to sign "Happy Halloween" while you're at it. If you're wondering what's in store for the weeks ahead, you can find your horoscope on page 30, as told by **Carson Stehling**. Hopefully it's blue skies ahead!

Love,
Your Editor-in-Chief
Maya Cline



Applause

since 1999, the official student publication of
School of the Arts
Founded in 1995 by Rose Maree Myers

Editor-in-Chief:
Maya Cline

Junior Editors:
Clara Collins
Logan Baker

Business Manager:
John Allen White Jr.

Staff Writers:

Chapel Barker	Sophia Leonardi
Chris Barnwell	Luke Shaw
Ethan Butler	Peyton Smalls
Leo Cantrell	Lilly Stevens
Sam Clarke	Aliza Reynolds
Avea Diamond	Raime Thompson
Makayla Gonzalez	Lilly Tipton
Charlie Hastings	Ella Waldron-Noren
	Toni Walker

John Cusatis, Ph.D., Adviser
Charleston County School of the Arts
5109-B West Enterprise St.
North Charleston, SC 29405
soa-applause.com

FREE QUOTES • CALL US TODAY AT 571-5060

PROGRESSIVE

A & A
INSURANCE

AUTO • HOME • MOTORCYCLE • BOAT • COMMERCIAL • FLOOD



BRADLEY ADAMS



1525 SAM RITTENBERG BLVD.
WWW.AASCINSURANCE.COM

Applause

presents

Free My Soul

A celebration of Early 1970s Rock 'n' Roll

Thursday, May 21, 2020, 6:30 PM
Rose Maree Myers Theater

NOVEMBER 8-9 2019

UPPER KING ST.

YALLFEST

CHARLESTON YOUNG ADULT BOOK FESTIVAL

PRESENTED BY UNDERLINED



SOA Students Attend Climate Change Rally

by Maya Cline

Friday, September 20th, 2019 holds the record for the most climate action passed by governments worldwide in any one day. Communities across the globe held climate change action rallies, inspired by the 16 year old Swedish environmental activist, Greta Thunberg. Greta recently sailed across the Atlantic ocean in a zero carbon emissions sailboat to attend the UN Climate Action Summit. The issue of climate change is incredibly pressing and dangerous, but hopefully Greta is right when she claims “the world is waking up, and change is coming.”

Change is evident in Charleston. On Friday, our city joined the ranks of thousands holding climate rallies to bring awareness and demand change. Organized by a

College of Charleston student, the downtown rally drew a crowd of a few hundred engaged spectators. The event hosted several speakers, including Queen Quet, Chieftess of the Gullah/Geechee Nation, Mayor Tecklenburg, Dr. Norman Levine, a College of Charleston science professor, and SOA’s own **Kiran Narula** and **Sophia Turansky**. The speakers discussed many aspects of climate change, such as the clear science that supports it, the disproportionate effect it has on disadvantages communities, and ways individuals can do their part to curb it.



A few hundred people participated in the rally, a respectable turnout for a city in such a conservative region.

Emerson argued that, “We don’t need one person being perfectly sustainable, we need millions of people doing it imperfectly every day... we have to stop doing nothing because we can’t do everything.”

Following the speakers, concerned citizens walked through the streets of downtown Charleston, chanting and waving signs. They received mostly positive responses, with passing cars honking in support and onlookers cheering and smiling.



SOA seniors (from left to right) Thomas Polkey, Maya Cline, John White, and Skyler Warf marched after the rally to raise awareness of climate change.

Mayor Tecklenburg shared some frightening statistics about the especially vulnerable position Charleston is in as a coastal city. Scientists have been recording the water levels of the Charleston harbor for over 100 years and have found that the rate of rising water has quadrupled in the last 20 years so that by 2050 water levels could rise another four to five feet. College of Charleston activist Rowan

Unfortunately, the climate change movement is largely in the hands of today’s teens and young adults. Although the science behind climate change has been undeniable for more than 30 years, elected officials have done little to prepare for, or mitigate the inevitable consequences this phenomenon will bring. As science professor Dr. Levine put it, “the inaction that’s led to [climate change] can only be changed by your action.”

A Letter from your Student Body President

Hey, SOA!

I am definitely one of those people who writes a list of resolutions every New Year. I like to record my goals somewhere, so I can hold myself accountable throughout the year (and even if I don’t manage to get to the gym, at least I have proof that I intended to). I’ve never done it for a new school year before, but I figure the same logic applies. I’m hoping to get a lot done this school year as Student Body President, and if I share some of what I aim to do, maybe I’m speaking (typing?) it into existence.

1. I’d like there to be at least one Student Council sponsored event every month, whether that’s a long-standing tradition like Prom (which will be amazing this year!) or something new, like a Battle of the Bands.
2. I want the representatives to be recognized faces, people you know you can go to with your ideas and concerns.
3. I want to decrease student stress, whether that’s creating more fun at school, or working with teachers and administration to best utilize our 8 hours together a day.
4. I want to create a coalition of students to help make the SOA audition process accessible for under-served elementary school students.
5. I want Student Council to meet frequently, remain active, and truly work for the people to make this the best school year ever!

Maybe these goals are optimistic, but that doesn’t mean they’re impossible. I’m looking forward to a great year! We’ve just elected a great team of representatives and I know they’ll do wonderful work. Stay tuned for information on Spirit Week and Fall Food Festival soon to come -- that and more is on the official Student Council Instagram, @SOA_stuco. Stay mighty, pegasi.

Your prez,
Maya Green



Jump Jive and Wail Returns for 2019

by Chris Barnwell

Jump Jive and Wail is going to be amazing this year! SOA's premier annual event is coming very soon! On October 26, 2019, SOA students and SOA alumni will come together and dance to live Jazz music during Jump Jive and Wail. This music will be provided by the one and only SOA Jazz Band, which consists of gifted musicians from 10th to 12th grade. The band will be playing different styles of music, consisting of Swing, Latin, and Funk selections.

Authentic smoked barbecue and beverages will be provided by Swig and Swine. Don't miss out on the next dance contest at Jump Jive and Wail. Make sure to grab a partner to dance to "In the Mood" by Jazz legend, Glenn Miller.

This year's event introduces many changes such as a new location, which is the Trident College Center on 7000 Rivers Avenue in North Charleston, unlike our previous location known as the bus shed, which is undergoing renovations. "We saw this as an opportunity to expand and find a possible better venue," said Mr. Turner, our high school band director. Our theme this year is a masquerade. So, make sure you have your masks.

The event will be held from 6:30 to 10:30 and tickets are available for purchase. They are \$45 right now and they'll be \$50 at the door. If you are looking to purchase them, contact any high school band majors. We are sounding amazing, and cannot wait to perform for everyone. We hope to see you there!



Senior Theatre Majors Present *Night of Scenes*

by Delany Faile

Senior year can often be a push to the finish line. Seniors are invested in college applications and trying to do the best they can in class, all while anxiously awaiting that walk across the stage in June to receive a diploma. While many focus on beginning the next season of their lives, sometimes students need to take a moment to reflect on the fact that they are moving on, which is what the senior Theatre majors are doing in their *Night of Scenes*. With the guidance of theatre teacher, **Ms. McKinley**, they have worked to not only perform scenes, but to step outside of acting to gain exposure to design lighting, and directing their peers' scenes. This performance will feature a selection of scenes from canonized theatre works, including *The Aliens*, *This Random World*, *Mary Page Marlowe*, and *This Is Our Youth*, all having a common theme of "moving on."

Through performing more mature scenes from plays that aren't normally done in high schools, Ms. McKinley hopes that her students are further prepared for theatre in college or a professional setting. "When you've graduated high school, it opens up a whole new world of theatre that's edgy and mature and not just for young people. Being able to do

a scene like this has given me the opportunity to get a glance of what I can do after high school" said **Mira Turkewitz**. With these scenes, the students have been pushed out of their comfort zones and challenged through portraying characters more emotionally complex and different than characters they typically play. **Molly Weaver** explained "I have really enjoyed exploring this character and every time we rehearse the scene I feel like I discover something new."

The senior Theatre majors have also been given an opportunity to explore various aspects of theatre through directing their peers. Though directing seemed intimidating at first, the students have enjoyed allowing their ideas to come to life and have learned more about being able to observe and critique performances. **Cecilia Connelly** says that directing "has caused me to become much more observant of others' performances and techniques, and learning to take multiple people's ideas and mold them into what everyone thinks would work best for the piece has been a very exhilarating experience."

Ms. McKinley wanted this show to be a growing experience for her students. **Cebastian Thompson** stated that "learning every aspect of the theatre helps an actor understand the job better so he or she can perform with a full knowledge of how that performance was created. That also gives a bigger appreciation for the hard work that often doesn't get recognized." But also, this show is to serve as a reflection on the changes that come with leaving high school, and as a love letter to their peers who are diligently working on intimate and complex scenes. **Luke Shaw** commented that "the common underlying theme of all the scenes is 'moving on,' whether it be in a relationship or a stage of life. This is a fitting theme because it's our last year in the theatre department at SOA."

Be sure not to miss the senior Theatre majors in their *Night of Scenes* at **6:30 on Thursday October 17th** and **Friday October 18th** at in the Black Box theater.

Editorial: Improving Mental Health Conditions

SOA nowadays is a pretty accommodating for those with mental health issues such as clinical depression, anxiety, and even the occasional bout of intense teeth-grinding, hair-pulling stress that we all encounter eventually. But that doesn't mean SOA and other schools across the nation can't get better, it always can, and there are loads of ways to improve.

SOA, in particular, is actually a much more healthy environment compared to other schools across the United States. I mean, come on, we've got our own school psychologist, guidance counselors on call at all times, Zen Week, and even a day where puppies show up to relieve us of our school woes. But not everybody is so lucky, with 1 in 5 kids having some kind of mental illness in American schools and only a small fraction being treated according to the National Alliance on Mental Illness. And that's not all, over 19 states don't require guidance counselors or psychologists for their students. Something we often take for granted.

While this may seem alarming. There are easy ways to eliminate any lingering stress in the student body not only at SOA, but wherever people go to school, such as flexibility. Whether it be flexibility in deadlines and due dates, or flexibility in ways students learn, we could all benefit from learning on our own while being guided by our teacher and mentors.

Along with this, students need to remember that no matter how tough school may become, there are always things you can do to alleviate stress, see a guidance counselor, meditate, pet a dog or cat, smile, and get 8 hours of sleep for once in your life. You'll be surprised at the results.

SOA Welcomes New High School Assistant Principal Ms. Derrickson

by Ethan Butler



Ethan Butler

Ethan Butler: Where did you grow up, and what attracted you to Charleston? And why SOA?

Ms. Andrea Derrickson: I grew up in a small town called Auburn, Indiana. I had spent my entire life in Indiana and was ready for a change, specifically a climate change. Honestly, I did not know much about SOA when I applied for the job, however, it is an amazing school!

EB: Where did you attend college and what degrees did

you earn?

AD: I attended Indiana University. I have earned a Bachelors of Science in Education and a Masters in Education Administration.

EB: How did you become involved in education and school administration as a career and how long have you done this?

AD: This is my 20th year in education. I was inspired by my aunt who was an elementary teacher. I have taught every grade 6-12. I decided to become an administrator because I wanted to impact students in a new way. I absolutely loved teaching but I also enjoy being an administrator.

EB: Where did you work prior to coming to SOA?

AD: I worked in Fort Wayne, Indiana. I was an Assistant Principal at a Wayne High School.

EB: What did you like or dislike about your own early education?

AD: I miss the square pizza and the apple crisp that used to be served at lunch! I didn't always feel like the students had a voice when I was growing up. That it way I make it a priority for students to be heard.

EB: What were some of your earliest jobs? What did you learn from them?

AD: I didn't have many jobs growing up because I played four sports. As with your majors, that can take up a lot of time in the evenings. In college, I worked at Finish Line and now I have a shoe obsession!

EB: Is there any moment or story you'd be willing to share that stands out to you as one of those "this is why I do what I do" moments?

AD: Every graduation ceremony.

EB: What interests do you have inside or outside the subject you teach, and to what degree are you able to pursue them?

AD: I love spending time with my friends and family. I was raised on Indiana lakes so I absolutely love being on a boat. I enjoy a day at the beach or snow skiing. I have a four year old daughter so I don't get much time to pursue my personal interests but we have a good time and are learning to share new interests.

EB: What books, movies, or musical acts have meant a lot to you? What do you like about them?

AD: I usually only have time for children's books that I read with my daughter but when I do have a chance to read, I enjoy books about becoming a better person or leader.

EB: Is there anything else you'd like SOA to know about you as this year begins?

AD: It is an honor and privilege to work here, I feel so blessed to be a part of this community. I was voted class clown when I was in high school so please talk to me and make me laugh or smile, I'll love it!

Fashion and Theatre Present *Romeo And Juliet*

by Aliza Reynolds, Ella Waldron-Noren, and Makayla Gonzalez



Makayla Gonzalez

Fashion majors are working diligently to make the costumes top notch.

Following the success of last year's junior class production of William Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, this year's junior class will be doing a production of the ever famous *Romeo and Juliet*. If you don't already know, *Romeo and Juliet* follows the tragic love story of two young star-crossed lovers who suffer at the hands of a family feud. In anticipation for this show, we interviewed **Mr. Younts**, **Ms. Baker**, and two cast members who gave us a sneak peak at what to expect.

When asked what the audience should expect from *Romeo and Juliet*, Mr. Younts explained that the show will be "clean, clear, [and] quick" with an easy to understand story. He stated that he enjoys doing Shakespeare's plays because they

present a beneficial challenge which pushes the actors to develop their skills, and he looks forward to seeing how his students progress.

We talked to Ms. Baker about her role costuming the play. Her vision focuses on the concept of "high fashion Italian mobster" combined

with the ideas of her students. She pictures the Montagues as a trendy, up-coming, wealthy family clad in blacks and reds. On the other hand, the Capulets are a more refined and classical family, wearing shades of blue. She hopes to highlight the feud between the families with their clothing and tell their stories through their wardrobe.



Makayla Gonzalez

Naja and Dixon are getting geared up for their lead roles.

Finally, we interviewed **Dixon Moss** and **Naja Aleem**, who are playing *Romeo and Juliet*. Prompted as to what they think they bring to their roles, Naja replied that she brings liveliness and independence to *Juliet*. We asked Dixon what he was most looking forward to in his role to which he answered that he enjoys the amount of effort put into the play and that he is excited to see it all come together. When asked what characters the two most relate to, Naja replied, "Friar Laurence because he's the only one who actually understands what's going on and realizes how stupid the situation is." Dixon said he most relates to Sampson because he's "sort of out of the main loop of the story."

Needless to say we are looking forward to this play. Expect our follow up and review on this production in the next issue!

Senior Visual Artist Experiences Life in Thailand

by Peyton Smalls

Wren Hoerdoerfer is a senior Visual Artist who is among the few people who experienced a once in a lifetime opportunity over the summer. Wren got to travel with an organization called Experiment in International Living where she was immersed in the culture and area of Thailand for a month. She said that she participated so could be out of her comfort zone, but ended up having an amazing experience. She and kids from around the country, as well as some semi-experienced leaders, traveled to meet in one place before their final stop in Thailand, and the journey there was as interesting as the trip itself.



Wren found a home away from home among her host family.

Wren flew out to San Francisco from North Charleston and stayed overnight in a hotel. She then caught another flight to Seoul, South Korea and then onto Chiangmai Mai in northern Thailand. Throughout the whole trip, Wren and her peers traveled in water taxis, vans, trains, and songthaews. She participated in several activities like taking language classes, visiting temples, volunteering in schools, and visiting elephants. She found herself doing a buddhist temple meditation retreat as well as a thai cooking class where she learned how to make traditional pad thai, green curry, and delicious mango sticky rice.

Wren and her traveling group did not stay in one place for

the whole month— they stayed in hotels with a mixture of homestays like airbnb. In these different village homestays, Wren volunteered in tree plantings and even had an appearance on Thai TV as well as Ceremonial Tree TV. She took part in other ceremonies where there was dancing and so much liveliness. These amazing activities were captured by Wren herself through blog posts she wrote during the trip; these posts went on to be recognized by the organization for their high quality.

Wren said that while meeting new people from different places than her, she was able to connect despite obstacles like language barriers. Wren's host family did not know English at all, yet in the process of somewhat learning Thai, she found herself creating an emotional connection with them. Often times her host mom would make jokes with her about simple things.



Wren fosters friendships with other travelers in her group.



Wren meets a real live elephant!

Whenever there were any ceremonies she would even find herself playing monkey in the middle with the kids while everyone danced. The little things that connected Wren with her host family and the villagers meant so much. The last day of the trip was so emotional for Wren to have to leave the people that she had grown so close to.

Overall, this experience has changed Wren and expanded her list of reasons why it is so important to get out of your comfort zone.

Creative Writing Takes Europe

by Charlie Hastings

With a record shattering heatwave spreading across Europe, it seemed as though the high school Creative Writers' trip was doomed before it even began. It looked like it was getting hotter and hotter as the calendar inched closer and closer to the big day. But the trip went forward as planned, and it seems that the high school Creative Writers were all the better for it.

"Heat, schmeat," I said, quoting myself for this article, "that trip was totally electric."

"I would love to go back," said junior creative writer Ramie Thompson, "I learned some amazing stuff about the culture."

The first stop for the group was Dublin, a surprisingly quaint yet bustling city full of equal amounts of happy drunks and unhappy drunks all drunk together at 11 am. Despite this, the city was a favorite among the students, as they were given the opportunity to see attractions such as St. Patrick's Cathedral and the Irish parliament building and, my personal favorite, the Spire of Dublin."

After their time in the city, the writers went forth towards Belfast on an uncomfortably long bus ride where I was mostly occupied by calming the unstable concoction forming in my bladder after five bottles of free Fiji water. Once we arrived in the city, however, my mind stopped focusing on the pain in my abdomen and instead focused on the Wall.

For those who don't know, the Wall separates the Catholic Irish nationalists, IRA sympathizers, and overall Brit-haters from the mostly protestant British sympathizers. It was an ugly wall covered in graffiti; we were handed markers to clump some message of peace or hope in with the rest. I drew a simple peace sign and went on my way.

Edinburgh and London were the last stops, both lively capitals full of invigorating energy that was unique to the region it occupied. Edinburgh was surrounded by a rocky landscape and craggy shorelines that epitomized Scotland's charm, while London occupied a bustling urban setting with a wide variety of cultures.

"Visiting all these places with complete strangers seemed awkward at first, but it was all really natural and fun." Said 11th grade Creative Writer **Ben Hudd**, who is a native of Great Britain himself. "I made more friends than I thought I would."

I can personally attest to the trip being an experience I won't forget, and an all-around awesome way to spend eight days.



Junior and senior Creative Writers wait with teacher Mrs. DeTiberus to see a performance at the historic Globe Theatre.

Local Band Ranky Tanky gains National Attention

by Ethan Butler

Rooted in South Carolina -and partially even SOA- the Gullah-Jazz quintet Ranky Tanky is rapidly gaining national and international attention for their diverse and unique sound. “We like to say it is genre blending; While Gullah rhythms and influences are in all of our material, you can hear elements of Jazz, Blues, R&B, Gospel, Folk, and Bluegrass,” says **Charlton Singleton**, former SOA middle school band teacher. The group originally started under a different name, Gradual Lean, in the 1990s.

At the time, it was a jazz quartet, with Quentin Baxter (percussionist), Kevin Hamilton (bassist), Clay Ross (guitarist and vocalist) and Charlton Singleton (trumpeter and vocalist). They met at the College of Charleston and played as Gradual Lean until after graduation, when they disbanded. Twenty years later, Clay Ross had the idea to reunite them under the name Ranky Tanky, which means “work it” or “get funky.” For the new group, they welcomed Quiana Parler as the lead vocalist.

During the time between Gradual Lean and Ranky Tanky, the members of the band each led separate lives, although they all continued making music. Clay Ross played in a World music group called Matuto, which toured internationally. Matuto combines jazz and Brazilian Forró music. Quentin Baxter toured with composer René Marie and was a commencement speaker for SOA in 2011. Kevin Hamilton was with Charleston’s OneBeat program. Charlton Singleton taught at SOA, was a co-founder of the SOA Band, and was the artistic director of the Charleston Jazz Ensemble. Prior to joining Ranky Tanky, Quiana Parler was nearly on season two of American Idol.

Ross wanted to change the group from a jazz group to a Gullah-Jazz ensemble. Some of their songs, for example, “Shoo Lie Loo,” are reimaginings of traditional songs and children’s games. “Part of what we do is interpret these kids games by adding different harmony or feels to it. Our version is just a capella,” says Singleton.

In the years since Ranky Tanky released their first album, they have become increasingly popular with many different audiences. The band’s national radio debut was on NPR’s *Fresh Air*, and in March of 2019 they starred on *The Today Show*. Singleton calls their national television debut “one of the biggest highlights of our career as a band.” Ranky Tanky has been touring nationally for the past three years as well as internationally, expanding from eastern European countries to western Europe.

When asked what performance stood out to him the most, Charlton Singleton said “We were recently in Germany and we played in front of an estimated ten-thousand people at a festival. I doubt that they knew of us beforehand, but at the end of our one hour-long show they were trying to sing along and repeat some of our lyrics. They managed to keep a song going on a good five minutes after we left the stage!”

Singleton adds, however, that their proudest achievement as a band is their lasting friendship.



Provided

Catching up with Charlton Singleton

by Ethan Butler

Ethan Butler talks with Charlton Singleton, successful musician and former SOA Band instructor.

Ethan Butler: Who were your musical influences as a child and how have they influenced your life as a musician?

Charlton Singleton: Ted Pinckney and Rodney Barrentine are two local church organists that I grew up listening to and admiring for their musicianship. If I had to choose musicians that were already famous I’d have to go with folks like Stevie Wonder, Prince, Michael Jackson, Sammy Davis, Jr., and the best of them all...Quincy Jones!

EB: How would you describe your experience at the School of the Arts?

CS: Teaching at SOA was pretty awesome. Everyday was a new and great adventure with the students, faculty, and staff. I learned so much from my time there and much of it came from students. Many of them, and their families, are still great friends of mine.

EB: What advice would you give to those pursuing a musical career after graduation?

CS: Always push forward and do not take any shortcuts in doing the work. Keep inquiring about how you can get better or get to where you want to be and never settle. Young artists hear that all of the time and dismiss it, but it is true!

EB: If Gradual Lean/ Ranky Tanky hadn’t been reunited, what direction do you think your music would be taking now?

CS: Well...right before the formation of Ranky Tanky I had just released a second recording, I was hired by the Gaillard Center as their Artist In Residence, and in addition to being the Bandleader/ Artistic Director of the Charleston Jazz Ensemble I was starting to put more ensembles together to be more of a solo artist. My style of over all entertainment is sort of a mix of a few different genres. I would definitely be chasing that more vigorously. I still have some of those projects going, but Ranky Tanky is at the top of my musical priorities.

EB: What do you like least about being a performer? What do you enjoy most?

CS: Least favorite: Airport food! Enjoy most: Being on stage and entertaining is the greatest!

EB: Were you at all hesitant about re-joining the group, and if so, why?

CS: When we first talked about it I didn’t really see the vision. However when we got into how different we would present the music and it still being in a respectable manner...that’s when I thought about it being interesting to take out on the road.

EB: What aspect of your music career do you find most satisfying? What goals remain?

CS: The interaction with the audience and seeing their reactions after the show. I have been very fortunate to be in some really great performances that left everyone with a good feeling. That is the most satisfying! As for goals...I would want everyone to know and understand a little more about the Gullah Community, how historic and important it is to American culture, and how it is still alive with its descendants.

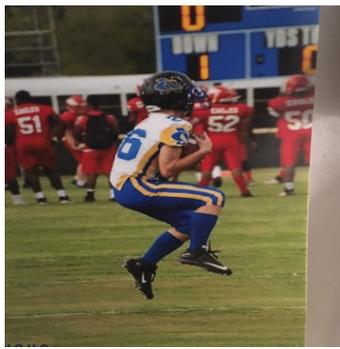


Provided

Fall Sports

coverage by Peyton Smalls and Katie Forrester

Will Bogstad is a senior Band major who plays varsity football for the North Charleston High School Cougars. He started football as an eighth grader and has continued into his high school career. Having a rigorous major on top of school work, it can be hard for student athletes like Will to manage all his responsibilities. Will says that “it can be difficult at times between balancing practice and getting homework done especially during tournament season.” He practices for football Monday through Thursday and Friday being gameday. Although this schedule may sound crazy, Will finds that he is passionate about football because it is a “team sport and if everyone doesn’t work together you aren’t going anywhere.” He loves the friendships that “come from the trust on the field.” With all of the schedules, deadlines, and work that has been thrown towards Will, he loves to have the chance to show how hard he works. Also he wants everyone to know that not all football players are dumb!



Will gives football his all.

Hannah Elledge and **Katie Oswald** are cheerleaders for James Island Charter High School (Go Trojans!), and Hannah competes with Pack Allstars. Hannah has been a cheerleader since she was very young, however, she didn’t begin competitive cheer until she was eight. Katie has been cheering competitively since age seven for Lowcountry Elite All Stars and Pack Athletics, however, this is her first year cheering for a high school.



Hannah (center) and Katie (right) experience the excitement of Friday night lights.

her schoolwork, and cheer practices and games, it can be hard to stay on top of things. However, she always tries to get ahead in her classes and be aware of due dates. Practice for Katie and Hannah’s James Island team is three times per week, with a football game every Friday. Hannah has practice twice a week for Pack Allstars, and two day long competitions in December. Hannah claims that cheer holds an important place in her life because of the connections she forms with the people she meets. Her coaches and teammates are as good as family to her. Katie states that the sense of community and family is what she’s most grateful for, and that her teammates keep her passionate. Hannah also loves the fun loving nature of cheer, saying that cheer is intended to encourage others.

Hannah and Katie both agree cheerleading gets more than its fair share of negative stereotypes, including the ideas that cheer isn’t a true sport, cheerleaders are mean-spirited, and you must have a certain appearance to participate. Hannah says that while none of these are true,

Hannah finds that maintaining a balance between social life, school, cheer, and her job is simply taking the time to learn what works, and she states that that process is different for every athlete. She took a year off of cheer to find a good balance for herself, and found that it can be boiled down to time management. She also states that staying busy also keeps her organized, as it forces her to stay on top of things. Katie finds that between taking dance classes outside of school,

she and other cheerleaders shouldn’t care, because anyone involved knows how being a good, successful cheerleader takes a substantial amount of athleticism and dedication. Katie believes that no one should believe these stereotypes without seeing all that cheerleaders do.

Senior **Carson Archie** runs cross country for his home school, Wando High School. He has been participating in the sport since he was in 6th grade. “Cross country can be a time consuming, highly competitive pursuit” Carson says, but it usually aids him in time management to write out lists of priorities and to tackle them individually. He also says that avoiding procrastination and trying to get everything done early is a big help in terms of not overloading himself. He runs cross country for Wando six out of seven days of the week. Carson states that while he can’t explain his reasoning for loving cross country, he simply loves to run and always has. There are few stereotypes about runners, Carson says, but the thing he hears the most is comparisons to Forrest Gump.



Carson takes to running naturally.



Emma tries to score a goal for her team.

Junior **Emma Weeks** plays lacrosse for East Coast Blaze. Emma has been playing the sport since fifth grade. Emma states that it can often be a challenge to get homework done because her practices tend to last late into the night. However, she believes the key to staying academically focused as an athlete is time management. She says that balancing her schedule and avoiding procrastination usually leads her to get everything done before it is due. She does have a job as well as her major and sport. However, since lacrosse is a sport which lasts during the fall, spring, and summer seasons, she rarely finds the time to work. Her passion for the sport, she states, comes from the game itself. She finds lacrosse to be a way to clear her headspace and stay active at the same time. Her teammates and coaches are like her family to her.

Senior **Abby Grace McLaughlin** swims for West Ashley High School. She started swimming competitively in seventh grade when she signed up for her neighborhood swim team. The following year she joined the West Ashley High team. She found her passion for swimming because it is “calming” and “stress free” while also being a great workout. Abby Grace has been practicing since eighth grade during swim season everyday except Sunday. Each year, this schedule is a new challenge when it comes to searching for balance. “It can be very challenging and I have to manage my time well. I make a planner of everything I have to do so I can stay organized and won’t miss anything,” she says. She has swim meets every Tuesday and Thursday and on days like these, she doesn’t get home until 10:00 pm. Since she has a study hall, she can work on assignments due the next day. But she has to “prioritize her time wisely so she can practice her violin and work on her academic classes without falling behind.”



Abby (right) poses with her swimteam friend.

Izzi Lindon is a 12th grade tennis player at West Ashley High School. She played when she was a young child through 7th grade. She took a four year break and then picked it back up in 11th grade. When asked how she balances the stresses of senior year such as college applications and performances with practices and games she said that she “does homework on the bus when she is on the way to matches.” She works on weekends so it won’t overlap with tennis at all. With her practicing every monday and one wednesday she practices on the days that she can find time around her matches and during the school days. Due to the hurricane there are a lot of athletes like Izzi who have to make up games, so for Izzi that means doubling up on the amount of games per week. With her Tuesday and Thursday games, she will now have Monday and Wednesday games, as well. Izzi’s passion for playing tennis was fostered by her dad, who played tennis at the collegiate level. With the routine of playing tennis growing up, she eventually got tired of it but in the time apart from the sport her passion actually grew even stronger. Through her years of playing, Izzi has heard all types of stereotypes and she just wants to debunk them by saying that “tennis players don’t just sit around, we work hard” and that “famous female players would stand a good chance against famous male players if they played against each other; it wouldn’t be a massacre.” Overall, tennis isn’t



Izzi feels at home on the West Ashley courts.

a boring sport if you know what to watch and look for, once you can do that, then it’s pretty enjoyable.

Abby Gardener is a junior boxer that fights for Hurricane Boxing on James Island. Although she has had a passion for boxing since she was little, she started training in eighth grade. With her training on weekend mornings as well as after school during the week, she makes a list of her priorities to know that what has to be done is getting done on time and efficiently. She said she “just tries to get everything to fit into her schedule then decides when she can box.” Even though she ideally practices about four times a week, she will often take breaks for school work. She has an at home gym that she also utilizes when the months get busy for her. Something that truly empowers Abby is that it makes her feel strong to be in a unique sport that is basically male-dominated. She draws pride from training with experienced fighters and knowing that the sport isn’t “all about hitting people.” She says the people are usually surprised to hear that a person with a small stature like her trains but boxing is all about technique, not just punching as hard as you can.



Abby Gardener punches down barriers in her male-dominated sport.



SOA Special

First visit is 20% off.
 excluding teen nights
 Show your ID to receive it.

Craft & Canvas

a make it, take it art studio
 4412 Spruill Avenue
 North Charleston, SC 29405

www.charlestoncraftandcanvas.com
 843.801.8960

French & Spanish Tutor



Anna Pietrzak: former foreign language teacher
 Available Monday through Friday from 6:30pm-9:00pm
 \$50/hour
 ania.pietrzak76@gmail.com

Meet your new Applause staff!



Makayla Gonzalez
Senior Fashion Major

Likes: the concept of drawing

Dislikes: embarrassing myself in front of the whole school



Leo Cantrell
Senior Visual Artist

Likes: my dog

Is scared of: horses in the hospital

Favorite animal: Kenyan Sand Boa because they look like sock puppets



Toni Walker
Sophomore Vocal Major

Fears: DOLLS

Can't: ride a bike

Insta/snap: toni.walker1104/
naturalgirl1234

Loves: doing the most



Logan Baker

Junior Creative Writer

Mistaken for: moon emoji

Fave tropical plant: oncidium orchids

Ask me about: my extensive knowledge of Lifetime movie plots



Sophia Leonardi

Sophomore Dance Major

Find me: a boyfriend

Place of origin: Kairos

I am: shorter than you



Aliza Reynolds

Junior Visual Arts

Likes: Garfield, cooking, my friends

Dislikes: Heathcliff, ketchup, Sigmund Freud

Neutral: everything else



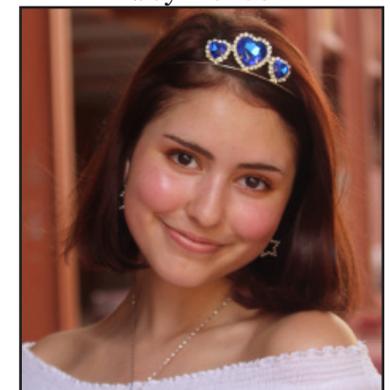
John Allen White Jr.

Senior Vocal Major

Can't: raed

Join: quizbowl

Has: more Gucci than you have ex-boyfriends



Sam Clarke

Senior Fashion Major

Astrological sign: scorpio

Style icon: Jackie Burkhardt from *That 70's Show*

A force: to be reckoned with



Clara Collins

Junior Creative Writer

Fake fave song used to impress people: "A Case of You" by Joni Mitchell

Irrational fear: Disney World at night

Dream Job: Lorne Michaels



Chapel Barker

Sophomore Fashion Major

Loves: bamboo

Has traveled: across the country in a van

Astrology sign: cancer



Peyton Smalls

Senior Strings Major

Likes: laughing when she's not supposed to

Dislikes: reading guides

Relationship status: made dinner for two but ate both



Ella Waldron-Noren

Junior Visual Artist

Likes: her funny arms

Dislikes: industrialism. It's kinda cringe

Can put: a bird on a glove



Lilly Stevens

Sophomore Vocal Major

Birthplace: Wakanda

Love language: food

Relationship status: married to the bag



Ethan Butler

Junior Strings Major

What I go by: James, Ethan or Jethan

Fave place at SOA: Mr. Orvin's room

Fave type of cookie: peanut butter



Charlie Hastings

Junior Creative Writer

Loves: being alternative, striped shirts, polaroid cameras, hydroflasks, being quirky

PSA: save the turtles



Maya Cline

Senior Creative Writer

Can't: right

Is scared of: the scene in *The Visit* where the grandma gallops under the house

Additional fears: darkness, math, Adam Sandler's comedy routines



Luke Shaw

Senior Theatre Major

Time: a construct

Is: an over thinker

Wait: was that a dumb answer?

Grilled: cheese



Ramie Thompson

Junior Creative Writer

Watches: crime shows on repeat "for the suspense"

Falls in love with: books I haven't read yet

Turns invisible at: social events



Chris Barnwell

Senior Band Major

Why: am I in this class?

What: is this about?

Codename: @drummerboy.ig



Avea Diamond

Junior Strings Major

Thinks: cantaloupe is an understatement

Dislike: lemons from life

Likes: jazz



Lilly Tipton

Junior Band Major

Listening to: Freudian by Daniel Caesar

Afraid of: desserts with hidden raisins

Guilty pleasure: Hallmark movies

Harmful Effects of Social Media

by Sophia Leonardi

Instagram, Snapchat, Twitter, and of course TikTok are just a few of the many apps we use to communicate with each other and entertain ourselves. These apps allow us to easily keep in touch with friends, share what we're doing, and express how we feel. Although social media makes communicating and keeping up with friends easy, there are also serious negative effects. *The Washington Post* states that social media is, "a mindless, productivity-sapping waste of time." I'm sure many of us spend time on social media when we should be doing other, more productive things.

When interviewing Academic Magnet and SOA students about how social media negatively affects them, I received very similar answers. The most common responses were: it leads to procrastination, creates a platform for comparison, and becomes addictive. Not only does it waste our time, it encourages us to compare ourselves to others. On apps like Instagram, we are looking at image after image of someone's "perfect" face, body, or lifestyle. This can be extremely unhealthy for teenagers, and can cause us to become unhappy with ourselves.

Ms. Angela Geddes, our school psychologist, observes these effects among our student body. She states, "Social media promotes a culture where we can compare ourselves to one another. Instead of being content with what we have and who we are, we're constantly looking at someone else's picture perfect life." Fortunately, "practicing being thankful for what you have and positively supporting each other outside of social media," can help us minimize these harmful effects. And remember, in reality, no one's life is as perfect as it may seem on social media.

I encourage you to stop scrolling when you begin to feel self-conscious or jealous. Stop watching when you realize you could be doing something far more productive. Stop posting when you should be enjoying spending time with the people around you. Stop measuring your self-worth by the number of likes you do or do not receive. What is real is what is in front of you and not what you see on a screen.



Day in the Life of a Sixth Grader

by Rachel Wheelon, Sixth grade guest writer

Sixth grade, an amazing opportunity! My name is Rachel Wheelon, and I love sixth grade. My homeroom teacher, **Mrs. Lasley**, is fantastic. She makes her classroom feel like a home. She is not really like a teacher, she is more like a comedian. I love that! So far, she has taught us Greek, Latin, and Germanic stems. We have started an interactive notebook and organized our binder. **Mrs. Hart**, my creative writing teacher is so lovable. She is sweet, kind, and overall amazing. In Creative Writing we are learning how to write poems for things that can be so simple that no one seems to care for them. **Ms. Pennetti** is extremely kind. She is my math teacher, but feels like a sister. She understands that things can happen and she always keeps that in mind. In math we have learned LCM, GCF, and ratios. **Mrs. Bourgeois** is my social studies teacher. She makes social studies fun! So far we have learned maps. **Mrs. Healy**, my science teacher is fantastic. She gives everyone lollipops, hugs, high fives, and fist bumps. My major is Creative Writing. Creative Writing is a safe place. We all trust each other. We are kind of like a family with sixteen people. We are free to be who we are and not what other people want us to be. The first day of school for me was so overwhelming. There were seventh graders and eighth graders all over. It is still like that now, but not so overwhelming.

Back to School

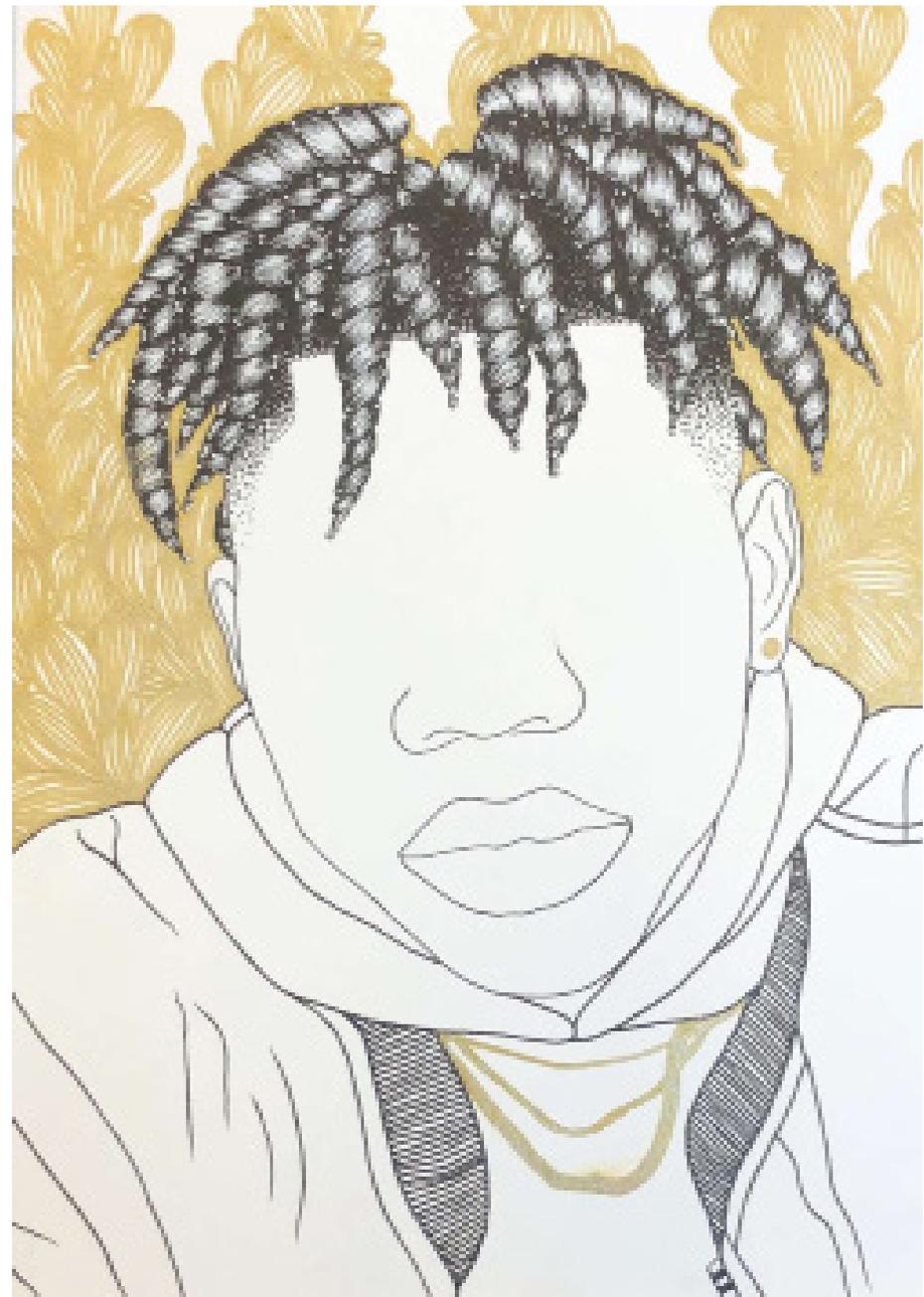
by R. Harrison Carter, Sixth grade guest writer

Every sixth grader goes through hardships, like trying to meet new friends, being called the wrong name, struggling to undo the lock on your locker for the first time, and having more freedoms than elementary school (ex. not standing in a "single file" line everywhere), also not having teachers stare a hole in you as you change classes waiting for you to do something wrong in the hallway. One survival tip I learned quickly is to write down your locker combination correctly from the start. It really helps. Some stuff I don't understand, like how teachers go from prison wardens in elementary school to friends in middle school. Though everything is different, in a way it feels the same. What I mean by that is the sense of déjà vu, the same unforgettable musty smell of old books, the classes, just the whole atmosphere. I marvel at the opportunities I have been given by being lucky enough to be at SOA. I am excited to pursue these opportunities, as soon as I learn to play my trumpet. Wish me luck!

Remembering Solomon and Quinyah

by Peyton Smalls, Toni Walker, and Lilly Stevens

Solomon Adams and **Quinyah McCoy** were two young bright souls, vibrant both in nature and talent. Solomon, a piano major, and Quinyah, a vocal major, have both left behind inspiring music that has touched the hearts of so many and served as a way to remember them. Everyone knew them as a dynamic duo attached at the hip, drawn together by the way their personalities radiated off of each other. Whether you knew Solomon as the boy who was always singing on his way down the hallway (already late to class) or Quinyah as the girl with the beautiful hair and unapologetic attitude, we all can feel their absence. Their lives should be celebrated through all of their accomplishments and achievements. Even though they don't walk the earth today, we are still connected to them, either through the Charleston sunsets or the welcome surprise of a SauceTaydo song on an old SoundCloud playlist. The little things that they left behind should not be forgotten, but cherished, as they are a gift for each person who knew them to hold onto. When the days are particularly painful, we can take solace in the idea that wherever they are, they are together.



artwork by Mahogany Christopher



Susie Elliott and Ella Waldron-Noren meet an old mountain cat named Hagrid in Swannanoa, North Carolina. Hagrid provided a welcoming tour guide for the two girls as they strolled around his mountain view garden.



12th grader Peyton Smalls and 8th grader Pagelyn Smalls pose with their sister in front of the Six Flags sign.

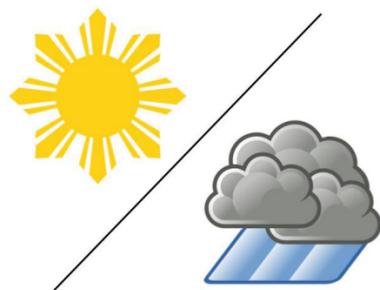


12th grader Ameline Stewart at Montreat in North Carolina posing with the mountains.



Seniors Katie Jo Gelasco, Aidan Billings, and Abby Kothera at Interlochen summer music camp.

What did SOA do....



during the hurricane



over summer



Computer teacher Mr. Naas traveled to Dollywood with his family.



Junior Lilly Tipton watched a tree fall from her front room. Thankfully nothing was damaged.



Junior Strings major Ryan Foust used his time off to work on producing his own album.

Teacher and Staff Profiles: Meet SOA's New Faces

Ms. Healy

by Logan Baker

Ms. Healy, our new sixth grade science teacher, is dedicated to inspiring confidence and a love for learning in her students. She grew up in Massapequa Park in Long Island, New York, and moved to Charleston with her family ten years ago. A woman of many interests, Ms. Healy has degrees from Molloy College for Biology, Environmental Studies, Religious Studies, and a minor in Music Performance. She also studied at Long Beach State University and Long Island University and earned a Master's Degree in Middle Grades Education at The Citadel/College of Charleston dual program.

As a national trainer and manager in medical sales, she trained physicians and nurses before realizing that she wanted to inspire a passion for science in young students. In her free time, she enjoys surfing and hanging out at the beach with her family, coaching swim for AMHS and Long Point Summer League, and exploring her family history.

Ms. Healy is also a lifelong musician and cello player, who participated in band and choir in high school. In addition to music, she also loves dance, citing Mikhail Baryshnikov's performance in *Giselle*, which made her appreciate "the way the body can express emotion through movement." Her love of both science and the arts makes her a perfect addition to SOA, and she says that helping students learn more about the world around them while being "surrounded by the arts and interacting with creative minds" makes this a dream job.

Mrs. Ladd

by Lilly Tipton

Mrs. Ladd is a new teacher in the high school science department; she will be teaching chemistry. She grew up in Lancaster, South Carolina. In her earlier education she enjoyed AP Biology and chorus. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Biology from Wofford College. This is her tenth year in education after taking education classes at Wofford and entering the PACE program to get certified to teach. She enjoys learning more about chemicals in the



Sam Clarke

brand Beautycounter Cosmetics and loves the musical *Phantom of the Opera*. Other past jobs she's had include babysitter and receptionist at Cane Creek Park and a veterinarian's office where she learned responsibility and customer service skills.

Before she came to SOA, Mrs. Ladd was a science teacher at Holly Hill Academy in Holly Hill, South Carolina. She experienced one of her proudest moments there when she was named teacher of the year for the 2016-2017 school year. When receiving a standing ovation from the senior class she thought, "In that moment, the connections that I had built with those students were reconfirmed. I knew that I had made an impact on their lives." She wants her students to learn life skills in her class, not just chemistry. Her advice to students is to have some sort of calendar to keep yourself organized which will help reduce stress. She is very happy to be here and we are excited to have her join us!

Mr. Turner

by Sam Clarke



Sam Clarke

Mr. Turner is SOA's new high school band director. His classes include Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, Jazz Band, Jazz Lab, Chamber, and Symphony Winds. Mr. Turner grew up in Sumter, SC, and has spent most of his pre-SOA career living in Columbia where he attended college. Turner graduated from the University of South Carolina with a bachelors in music in 1992, and later a masters in music education in 2000. Mr. Turner was drawn to Charleston's music scene, restaurants, and the beach. When asked what attracted him to SOA, Turner replied, "I have a passion for music education, and the idea of teaching music in a school where students audition to get here was too much to pass up. The band students here at SOA are motivated to perform at the highest level possible; they are amazing. So far, working here has been a breath of fresh air for my career!"

Prior to SOA, Turner taught band in South Carolina for 27 years. He values enthusiasm and positivity, and tries to display that to his students. Before teaching, Turner held many different jobs: grocery store food bagger, steakhouse cook, A/C business

employee, and carsalesman to name a few. He's been working in schools since 1992. He writes, "I've been in the 'people business' my whole life."

Turner believes that making an impact on his students is one of the most important parts of teaching. "I have had a few students say that they almost quit music, but it was my encouragement when they were the most challenged in music that caused them to not give up." He also shared that a few of his students ended up being valedictorian of their class and cited Turner as their biggest influence.

Outside of SOA, Turner is involved in the South Carolina Philharmonic Orchestra where he is the Principal Horn. He is also a writer for marching band drills, and is commissioned by programs in the area to write formations and visual guides. Besides music, he also enjoys cars, boats, motorcycles, and traveling.

When asked about this year's Jump Jive and Wail performance, he expresses that we are in for a treat! The new location is a 20,000 square foot ballroom located at the Student Center at Trident Technical College. Oh, by the way, it's a masquerade. Turner also shares that in addition to the jazz standards we all know and love, the Jazz Band will be adding some new fresh tunes. He writes, "You definitely do not want to miss Jump Jive and Wail this year. We are preparing to make this year the best ever!"

Mr. Miller

by Raime Thompson

Mr. Austin Miller is the new Honors and CP US History teacher. We are happy to have him join our school for his sixth year in education.

Though born in Michigan, this history teacher moved around a lot because of his father's job; he lived in Chicago, IL; Louisville, KY; Denver, CO and Georgetown, TX. He graduated from Western Michigan University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Secondary Education and a minor in History.

While his life seemed to lead him to playing football, Mr. Miller began to volunteer as a coach at a local high school after college and it showed him "the value of educating the youth of the community." This experience built on the fact that both of his grandfathers worked in the school system, leading him to his current occupation.



Provided



Sam Clarke

Even with other offers from different states, Mr. Miller says he felt an instant connection with the people and the places in the Charleston community. SOA attracted his attention while he was working at a nearby school and some research further encouraged his transfer. He said, "What I learned was that SOA has a positive culture that challenges students and staff to be better every single day of the school year. This school culture not only creates successful students academically but also creates successful citizens in the community which is something many schools in the area can not say."

Mr. Miller does find free time to coach high school football and track. Outside of teaching wherever he goes, he likes hunting with his Brittany Spaniel named Harper, fishing, and "making culinary magic" on his traeger grill. For advice, he always remembers a quote from Lou Holtz, the head football coach at Notre Dame, saying, "I follow three rules: Do the right thing, do the best you can, and always show people you care." He wishes everyone a great year and don't forget to say "hi" if you see him in the halls.

Dr. Schuster

by Charlie Hastings

While we already know **Dr. Schuster**, it's still a good time to review what makes this former geometry teacher tick as he starts his new job as a media center assistant helping students find books they may or may not actually read. Dr. Schuster is glad to be back at SOA with his new gig.

"Mrs. Kramer talked me into taking this job, and I really enjoy it," he said, "helping students with their computer access problems is one of the things I really like doing."

While it seems that he enjoys his new job, Dr. Schuster says he still misses the "logic and problem solving involved in geometry" and addressing issues verbally. Dr. Schuster's new duties, on the other hand, are to help students with their computer troubles and checking books in and out of the media center.

Dr. Schuster has a doctorate in Old Testament Theology and his favorite Bible verse is John 14 where Jesus addresses his disciples as he approaches his death. His favorite ice cream flavor is vanilla



Charlie Hastings

Mr. Pickens

by Chapel Barker

This year SOA welcomed **Mr. Derek Pickens** as a new theater teacher for 6th-10th grade. Mr. Pickens grew up in Southern Maryland in a small town called Mechanicsville and moved to Charleston in 2011 to be a Resident Actor for Charleston Stage. After his contract ended he moved to Washington, DC but he missed Charleston, so he moved back in 2013.

He received his BA in theater education from Greensboro College and his MFA in performing arts from SCAD. He fell in love with teaching after majoring in Theatre Education and has now taught for over 10 years. Growing up he disliked the lack of arts in his own schools but admired the passion his arts teachers had. He took music and visual arts, but fell in love with acting when he took a theater class in high school. He wants his students to leave his classroom knowing what a professional rehearsal is like, how to create a clear character, and most importantly how to have fun on stage.

Outside of school he is a fan of all things sci-fi or fantasy and loves Marvel and Star Wars. Growing up he loved reading the Harry Potter books and is "a proud Hufflepuff." The books had a huge impact on his life and one of the most valuable lessons he learned from them is to fight for what you think is right. Theater attracted him because he wanted to tell a story to an audience who had never heard it before. His favorite show is "A New Brain" by William Finn which is an autobiographical story about Finn and his journey with brain surgery. Mr. Pickens advice to new students is, "Make plenty of friends because you never know when you may need them, and try every food at least once - you never know if you like it until you try it."

Ms. Viscidi

by Clara Collins

Ms. Brielle Viscidi is a new seventh grade ELA teacher. Originally from Easton, Pennsylvania, she earned a Bachelor's Degree in Secondary Education English at Penn State University and will be completing a Masters this December in Learning, Design, and Technology. She followed her brother to Charleston, working at the Apple



Sam Clarke

Store on King Street and River Oaks Middle School before coming to SOA; she also makes marketing materials at The Citadel. Ms. Viscidi is happy to be at SOA, not only because her best friend Shannon Smith also works here, but because she enjoys the unique perspective a student's major gives them. She comes by teaching naturally, as both her parents were teachers and she remembers pretending to teach as a child.

In her free time, Ms. Viscidi enjoys a wide range of activities like running, watching Chinese and Korean romance dramas on Netflix, and gaming. She credits *Ender's Game* as "a book that actually got me to like reading" and cites *How to Lie with Statistics* as another favorite read. Students can take comfort in her belief that "failure is a part of the process to success," as well as her promise to "be here for you as a teacher."

Ms. Svendsen

by Sam Clarke

Ms. Pricilla Svendsen is the new receptionist for the Bonds Wilson Campus. Ms. Svendsen grew up in Iowa and lived the agrarian dream. "House on a gravel road, daisies under the willow trees, and cornfields as far as the eye could see," she describes. Growing up in the midwest, one of her earliest jobs was as a detasseler. "You get on a bus before sunrise, get dropped off in a field and you walk fields and pull tassels out of the tops of the corn."

From age fourteen up through college, Ms. Svendsen also worked bussing and serving tables. She notes that everyone should serve tables at some point in their life so that they know how to tip! Ms. Svendsen attended Winthrop University for one year on a National Student Exchange program where she met her now husband. Her husband is from Charleston which is how she was able to come here and fall in love with our great city.

Ms. Svendsen completed her higher education at the University of Northern Iowa with a degree in Liberal Arts with minors in Psychology and Leisure Services. Prior to SOA, Ms. Svendsen worked for Habitat for Humanity, and Seacoast Church. Outside of SOA, Ms. Svendsen works in real estate, and notes this as one of her favorite outlets. Her biggest hobbies include organization and design, traveling, bike riding, and surfing.

Ms. Svendsen completed her higher education at the University of Northern Iowa with a degree in Liberal Arts with minors in Psychology and Leisure Services. Prior to SOA, Ms. Svendsen worked for Habitat for Humanity, and Seacoast Church. Outside of SOA, Ms. Svendsen works in real estate, and notes this as one of her favorite outlets. Her biggest hobbies include organization and design, traveling, bike riding, and surfing.



Sam Clarke



Sam Clarke

Ms. Svendsen enjoys being a receptionist for SOA because it is fast paced, she has the same schedule as her four kids, and because she enjoys interacting with people. Ms. Svendsen has a word of advice for students, "Team Humanity - take care of each other with kindness and respect."

Mr. White

by Sam Clarke

After nearly a month of waiting, SOA finally has a US Government teacher. **Mr Ernest White** stepped into the position at the beginning of October. Mr. White had been on campus as an administrative employee, and because of the right place and the right time, Dr. Cook was able to give Mr. White the job as government and economics teacher. Mr. White grew up in Columbia, SC and moved to Charleston when he attended Charleston Southern University where he studied Business Management and History. Mr White later got his Masters at the Citadel. In college, Mr White took a speech class which he cited as a big influence.

In his early life, Mr White worked at a printing business where he learned about hard work and being on time. He enjoyed everything about his education growing up. Mr. White first became involved in education in college and has been teaching and coaching various sports for over thirty years. Prior to SOA, Mr White has taught or coached for St. Andrews, West Ashley, Wando, Stall, North Charleston, University of Alabama-Birmingham, and University of New Orleans. Outside of school, Mr White enjoys taking part in the stock market and in elections. He also enjoys listening to 70s music, watching John Wayne movies, and



Sam Clarke

reading books by Stuart Woods. Mr. White hopes that his students come out of his class with a sense of knowledge and success.

Ms. Gorenstein

by Toni Walker

SOA is proud to welcome our new Spanish 2 and 4 teacher, **Ms. Michele Gorenstein**. She's a native New Yorker who eventually moved to Atlanta. After visiting Charleston multiple times, she realized what an astounding and amusing place it was. It was a perfect city for her daughter to grow up in, not to mention the pro of being so close to our beautiful beaches. While looking for work, an acquaintance recommended SOA to her, and since she has a big appreciation for the arts, SOA seemed like the perfect choice.

Ms. Gorenstein attended the State University of Brockport where she earned her BA in dance and her MAT from Georgia State University. Though she had a great passion for dance, it was hard to find a steady position in that career, which led her to pursue in education



Sam Clarke

since she also loved working with young people. She has now been a proud teacher for twelve strong years.

Prior to SOA, Ms. Gorenstein taught at Cobb County Georgia, last year, however, she took a year off to go back to her home state of

New York for her own enjoyment. One thing Ms. Gorenstein would like the students of SOA to know "is that what happens to you in life can either make you bitter or make you better. Choose better... Don't let the difficulties bring you down. In dance you achieve the greatest heights in your jumps when you push down and use the ground...So let your downs push you up!"

Ms. Geddes

by Sam Clarke



Ms. Angela Geddes is SOA's very own school psychologist. Ms. Geddes grew up in Ohio, and moved to Charleston a year ago when her husband was offered a job in the area. Ms. Geddes

attended Kent State University for both her undergraduate and graduate degrees. Here she earned her BA in Psychology and her Masters and Educational Specialist degree in School Psychology. The idea of helping people and getting summers off appealed to Ms. Geddes when deciding what career she wanted to pursue. She believes that her position at SOA is important for, "testing students for special education services, formulating and implementing interventions for academic, social emotional and behavioral issues." She values helping students receive the help that they need in order to be successful in school and in life. Prior to SOA, Ms. Geddes worked with North Canton City Schools for four years. Outside of SOA, she enjoys doing yoga, and spending time with her cat and two dogs.

SW SEAMON WHITESIDE

Mount Pleasant, SC Summerville, SC Greenville, SC Spartanburg, SC Charlotte, NC

www.seamonwhiteside.com

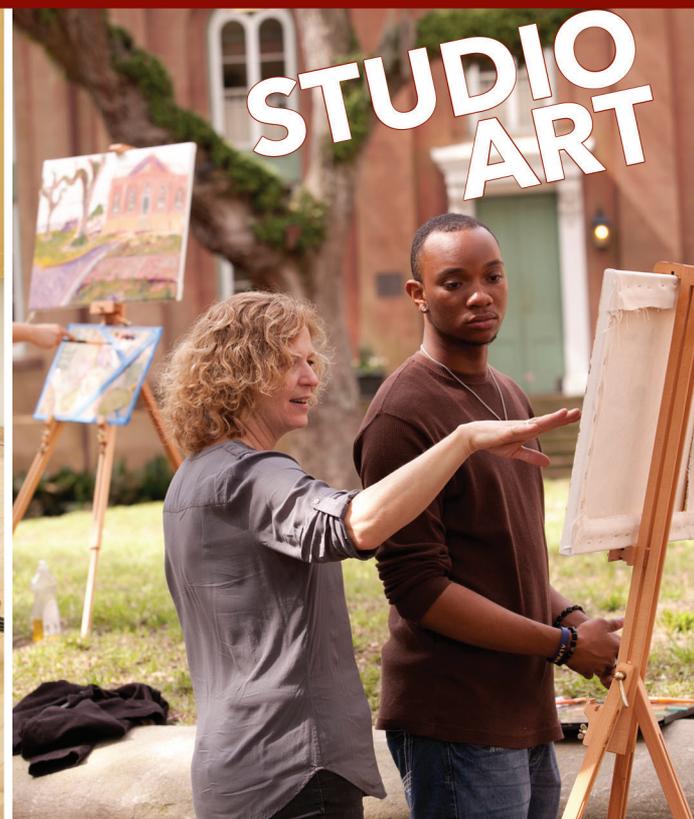
CONTINUE YOUR PASSION FOR **THE ARTS** AT COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON



SOTA.COFC.EDU



2020 Music Scholarship Auditions
Jan. 18, 24 and 25
MUSIC.COFC.EDU/SCHOLARSHIPS



OCTOBER EVENTS

MUSIC

music.cofc.edu/concerts

STUDENT DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE

10/22 CHARLESTON MUSIC FEST
Arabella String Quartet

10/24 COFC CONCERT CHOIR
Fall Concert

10/29 INTERNATIONAL PIANO SERIES
Rodrigo Project

STUDIO ART

art.cofc.edu

FREE

Year round STUDENT EXHIBITIONS
Painting, drawing, photography, printmaking, sculpture

THEATRE & DANCE

theatre.cofc.edu

STUDENT DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE

10/30-11/2 + 11/6-11/9 THEATRE
A Lie of the Mind by Sam Shepard
FOR MATURE AUDIENCES

HALSEY INSTITUTE OF CONTEMPORARY ART

halsey.cofc.edu

FREE UNLESS DENOTED

STUDENT MEMBERSHIPS AVAILABLE

Ongoing-Dec. 7 EXHIBITION
Katrina Andry: Over There and Here is Me and Me and Colin Quashie: Linked

10/13 FAMILY DAY
FREE FOR MEMBERS

10/29 ROUNDTABLE TALK
Art and Activism with Kali Holloway



HALSEY INSTITUTE OF CONTEMPORARY ART
at THE COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON

Where Were They Then?

Clara Collins sat down with AP Psychology and AP World History teacher Mr. Benjamin McCauley to discuss his life before SOA.

Clara Collins: Where were you born? What's an interesting story from your childhood?

Mr. Benjamin McCauley: Born in Wooster, Ohio. When I was seven or eight years old, my father (who was an assistant principal at my high school) took me to school with him during the summer months. He let me play on his office computer (these were the days before the internet). I went to work typing and playing on the computer and before I knew it, I accidentally logged into a dedicated network line to one of our local banks in the area. The cops showed up about 15-20 minutes later looking for the hacker. Woops!

CC: What did you enjoy doing as a kid?

BM: Baseball, baseball, baseball. I also loved fishing with my Grandpa. He was the first to teach me how and I miss those days and that time we spent together. Growing up on a farm, I learned to appreciate being outside. Camping, hiking, horseback riding, hunting, and fishing were all things I enjoyed as a kid.

CC: What were you like as a student? Were you interested in history/social studies then? If not, what was your favorite subject?

BM: I was a good student. Both parents worked at my school so I didn't have much of a choice. I have always been interested in history. My father taught history and when I was young, we traveled the US visiting historic battlefields, museums and landmarks. However, in college I took a Historical Research Methods class and in this class I did an in-depth study of Thomas Paine. It was during this class, I really fell in love with all of the unique stories and interpretations that make history such rich and untapped field of study.

CC: What was your dream job when you were younger?

BM: Anesthesiologist. I wanted to be a doctor and I felt that putting people to sleep would be pretty cool and the salary would be VERY cool. But after considering the eight years of schooling beyond high school and the massive cost of malpractice insurance, I decided teaching was more up my alley.

CC: Where did you go to college and what did you study?

BM: Wayne College (as high school Student)- Business Management; University of Kentucky- Business Management; University of Akron- Secondary Education: Social Studies; Ashland University- Educational Administration

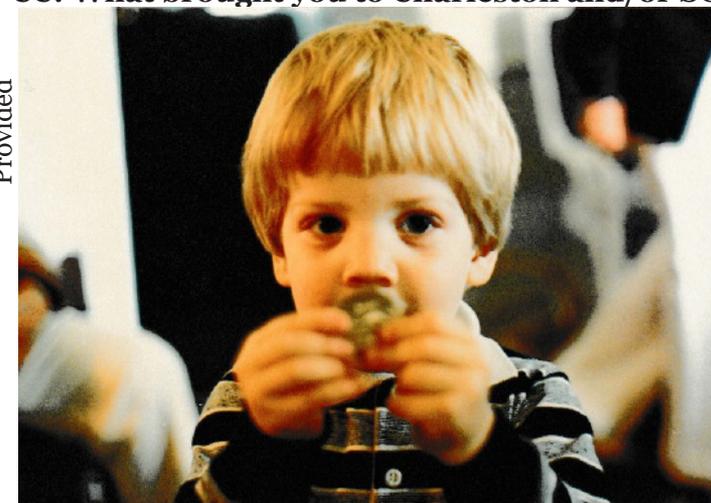
CC: How did you get into teaching?

BM: Both my parents were teachers, so the apple didn't fall far. I've always enjoyed helping people, even at a young age. I tried to apply this to my everyday life as I grew up and when it came time to pick a real job, teaching was a natural fit for me. After nine years of teaching I went into administration as an Athletic Director in Ohio. After five years of that, I realized that my strength and professional desire was in the classroom as a teacher. So here I am.

CC: Have you lived anywhere else? Where is your favorite place you've lived?

BM: I have lived in Ohio, Florida, Colorado, Kentucky, British Columbia (CA) and now Charleston. I absolutely loved Colorado. It is a beautiful place. Hundreds of thousands of acres of national forests and parks. Great skiing and rock climbing. Most of Colorado receives more sunshine than Florida on an annual basis and I need my sunshine!

CC: What brought you to Charleston and/or SOA?



BM: Ohio is hard place to enter into administration and then return to the classroom. When I made the decision to return to the classroom, I had a very hard time finding a job in my home state. So my fiancé and I decided that I would look in other states for teaching jobs. North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida, and Colorado were all potential states we were looking but it was here at SOA that offered me the job that I felt would best fit me.

CC: How is SOA different from other schools you attended or taught at?

BM: Some of the best students and a great atmosphere of tolerance. I have never taught in the performing arts world and when I came here I wasn't sure what to expect, but now that I'm into my second year, I am very happy that I made the decision to join the SOA family.

CC: It's rare to find teachers that can teach both AP Psychology and AP World. Why do you think you were drawn to both of these subjects?

BM: I love to learn and teaching AP forces me to learn new things and I enjoy the challenge. It's an added bonus that students that sign up for AP classes are usually the most driven and some of the most academically gifted students. That fact forces me to try to be on my best game as a teacher and that pushes me to be a better professional.

CC: If you had to pick one day to relive over and over, Groundhog Day style,

what day in your life would you pick?

BM: I would live today over again. I believe that we only have one shot at today and we should try our best to make it count. I know that's not what you wanted, but I truly believe that we all should value today as much as yesterday and tomorrow. The older I get, the more I realize that everyday should be "that day" that we choose to relive over and over. If it's not "that day" we should try harder!



Provided

Provided

Sass Attack

by John White

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

One morning I woke up extra early to treat myself to breakfast on the way to work yet another grueling brunch shift at Grace and Grit. My only motivation to get myself out of bed was the promise of the honey glazed, buttery rolls used to make only the most sacred of fast food breakfasts. I sailed dreamily down the streets awaiting the instant gratification of breaded poultry deep fried golden brown encapsulated betwixt two halves of leavened bread that bear the texture of biting into a cloud. I was elated to see I had beaten the breakfast rush as there was not a single car in the drive thru. That was when I remembered that Chick-fil-A is closed on Sundays.

As a good Christian boy, and an elder of my church, I understand that it might sound blasphemous for me to advocate against Chick-fil-A’s Sunday closure. I understand that on the seventh day God rested and we are not supposed to work on “The Lords Day.” But my question to the good people of Chick-fil-A is this: are you really working if you are bringing joy to so many people? Did not Jesus heal the sick on the sabbath to the dismay of many a pharisee? Are we not the sick that need the healing power of a large number one meal with a lemonade and Polynesian sauce?

It’s not hyperbole to say that the food Chick-fil-A serves has restorative powers. It’s addictive. Chick-fil-A is so good the owners have come out as openly homophobic and the gays don’t even care. I still eat my nuggets and feel no guilt. That in itself is incredible. If a company like McDonalds claimed that “[gay marriage] is inviting God’s judgement on our nation” as Chick-fil-A president Dan Cathy proclaimed in 2012, McDonalds would’ve shut down overnight. But here we are seven years later sipping our frosted lemonades and lusting after just one more waffle fry.

It’s not like opening Sunday’s would discourage employees from attending church either. Just go to the eight o’clock service and you’ll be able to start the fryers at noon to beat the eminent flood of hungry parishioners rushing out of their pews to feed their crying children. And every Chick-fil-A already plays Christian Rock music anyway. Walk into any of these fine establishments during lunchtime and from the florescent light, the overcrowding, and the music you’re practically at Seacoast already.

I hope this article finds its way to Chick-fil-A corporate and that they take my argument to heart, and to anyone reading this, I’ll see you Sunday at Chick-fil-A.



VS



How has the work of Toni Morrison impacted you?

responses continued from pg 28

“Reading Toni Morrison, especially *Song of Solomon* and *Beloved*, really helped me to gain a deeper sense of the African-American experience AND the human experience. I found Morrison’s work to be engrossing and powerful, it really opened my eyes and, even more profoundly, my heart. I will never know what it is truly like to be black in America, but because of Morrison’s work, I now have a conception of the profound wounds and utter horror of slavery as it was practiced in this country in a way that only fiction can convey. It is one thing to learn about the facts of history -- number of people enslaved, amount of wealth gained by slave owners, etc. -- but it is another to experience an emotional connection through stories. In my experience, there are few, if any, better than Morrison at conveying the most unspeakable and gut wrenching experience imaginable.”

-Stacy McKinley, English 2 and Theater Teacher

“Twenty seven years ago, a department chair took a risk on the two youngest members he had hired for his school English department that year. He appointed them to replace the retiring Pre-AP English 9 Honors teachers. I was one of that youthful two person team, and it was at that moment that Toni Morrison entered my life and changed it forever. As a new generation of educators, we introduced voices that had been marginalized from syllabi and literary canon to date: Toni Morrison who had, herself, dedicated her life and writings to advancing issues of civil rights and racial justice, inspired us to give the Ellis Reading Room (fiction collection) in our school library a facelift, one that would now include an authentic rendering of the life experiences had by those whose skin was brown and black. We made certain that Morrison and other minority writers’ points of view took their rightful place on the shelf among those writers who had represented their perspectives to date. Our commitment to represent myriad cultural experiences such as Morrison’s was steadfast, causing colleagues to label us mavericks, fearless of the potential swells and rough waters that our wave of multiculturalism might cause among students, parents, and the Community. Isn’t that what educators are supposed to do? From *The Bluest Eye* to *Beloved*, I saw students recognizing the struggles that separated them from the characters; but, I also witnessed adolescents recognizing text-to-self connections: some were as ordinary as coming of age and others as disheartening as familial abuse or sexual assault. Her legacy lives on in all those who see language as a tool to share messages about humanity through the narratives they tell in an effort to celebrate cultures while working toward a true appreciation of all that fueled my teaching partner and me almost three decades ago.”

-Kristen Jacksa, 8th grade English teacher

“I honestly can think of few other writers who’ve influenced my work as profoundly as Toni Morrison has. When I write, I am always after the same kind of gritty realism mixed with otherworldly magic, colloquial yet poetic language and characters who are beautiful if only in that they are fraught straining to be free. Morrison managed to take a whole canon of handworking salt-of-the-earth characters and free them of the bounds of societal gravity, illuminating the deity of the working class, the downtrodden and the ostracized. And she did all of that while crafting one luminous sentence after another and questioning the perimeters of perspective, the perimeters of who tells a story and how it gets told. I myself enjoy at least dabbling with these ideas, these notions, these techniques, and so Morrison is one of the reasons I find myself drawn so magnetically to write an American form of magical realism.”

-Francis Rutledge Hammes, SOA Creative Writing Teacher

Influential Artists: Creative Writing

by Luke Shaw

*Each issue **Luke Shaw** asks an arts instructor and his/her students about an artist who has inspired them.*

Luke Shaw: When and how did you first encounter the work of Raymond Carver?

Mr. Rutledge Hammes: I, still a professed and practicing poet, came upon Carver's work late in my undergraduate work, and frankly, I hated it. And so, me being me, an absolute sucker for a certain brand of self-inflicted pain, decided to write a story in the same syntactically stripped-down style as him, just to see what came of it. What, at first, incited my distaste for him was what I perceived, at the time, as a good plot concluded lazily, with nothing handed to me and so nothing for me to take away from it. In those days, what I wanted was a story that came full circle, all the questions I had answered directly and to my satisfaction. Long story short, what I ended up writing earned me one of the biggest honors that an undergrad writer can receive and set me on a path to pursue my terminal masters in Fiction and later

a career in the field.

LS: When and how did you first encounter the work of David Wong?

Lou Collins: I was walking down the main street of Las Vegas, New Mexico during the Fourth of July fiesta and decided to go into the only bookstore I could find. On a table located near the entrance *John Dies at the End* was propped up. The cover has a severed arm on the back that crosses over the spine and leads to a hand with the illusion that it's thumb is holding back pages in the bottom corner. The synopsis is a warning that you should not have picked the book up but now that you have, you must read the book and its terrible contents to ward yourself of the evils of "Soy Sauce." I bought the book and finished it in a day.

LS: What initially drew you and what continues to draw you to his work?

RH: I should say first that, in my mind, Raymond Carver is the single greatest short-story writer in American literature. That is what draws me back to his work. Because, for all my years of rereading his work, one thing has made itself clear to me: Nothing you read should be seen as a mistake or as if it was put there by chance. To appreciate Carver fully is to operate under the assumption that every last word carries with it a careful intent that amounts inevitably to layer upon layer of meaning. This makes reading his work endlessly enjoyable, if only in the process of unearthing yet another revealing discovery from within the text.

LS: What initially drew you and what continues to draw to his work?

LC: The comedy. Wong is a humor writer; he can craft an elaborate sci-fi horror using only jokes. I had never seen a satire novels so unabashedly funny. The meta humor in the synopsis of his first book I found drew me in and each new joke he writes draws me back to his work.

LS: Is there a certain writing style or technique that Carver uses that contributes to your admiration?

RH: Perhaps to understand Carver best, we must first understand his position amongst American minimalists before him, writers like Hemingway and Vonnegut. Like his predecessors, Carver's style tends to rely heavily on short declarative sentences, minimal details, a casual

narrative voice, and stating whatever needs to be stated without stating it at all. Theirs is an allegiance to simplicity and the depth of meaning that is born out of such simplicity. Kerouac (though not a minimalist himself) famously wrote, "One day I will find the right words, and they will be simple," and this, I think, sums it up quite nicely, the minimalist's creed: to strive to state the whole wide profundity of this life we lead in but a few short words, to operate with the unwavering conviction that true meaning comes from a thing boiled down to its barest elements. And the more of Carver you read, the more it becomes clear that the long road from Hemingway's doorstep, by way of all the many great minimalist writers since him, might settle at last on the stunning exactness in Carver's writing.

LS: Is there a certain writing style or technique that Wong uses that contributes to your admiration?

LC: Wong maintains a strong narrator. His main character and narrator for his three main books is named David Wong, this allows him to create a narrator that can be meta and direct with the reader, dragging them into the story by putting them in a situation where the character is telling this story directly to the reader, thereby making the reader a sort of character. Wong also lets his narrator completely control the pacing and scenes. I really love a strong narrator.

LS: In what ways has Carver inspired your own work?

RH: Carver always to be welcoming his readers to be a party to the story he is telling us, an invaluable exchange that comes in mining for more. I think experiencing this partnership so vividly in reading his work has helped me to focus my own writing on what I want my readers to walk away with. In my writing, there are also many resounding overtures of Carver's attention to the struggles and beauty of the "everyman," the fraught character willing forth his/her redemption, as well as Carver's fragmented, start-and-stop dialogue peppered with long silences, dialogue that so often feels like our native tongue, full of all the same misgivings and all the many uncertainties of a thing struggling to be said.

LS: In what ways has Wong inspired your own work?

LC: The introduction to *John Dies at the End* explains a paradox where someone hacks off a nazi's head with an ax and breaks the blade, therefore they replace the blade. A few months later they break and replace the handle, so when the nazi eventually returns with his head sewn back on and points to the ax stating "that's the ax that killed me," is he correct? I think about that introduction every day of my life and I cannot approach a situation without thinking of it.

LS: What do you think people can learn from the work of the writer or Carver as a person?

RH: Almost always, Carver is addressing a life we all know somehow, a place we've all been before, perhaps, for some of us, too many times before. And in that, his work is always in search of its reader. What we tend to admire about writers is their ability to take concepts, feelings, experiences we've all had, and write them in a way that clarifies those things for us. Carver does this, but he does this by drawing something profound from the most familiar of fictional circumstances and a common language. His endings are often nods in the direction of a character's life, subtle things, the initial effects of which might seem as small as a pebble dropped in a stream, the plunk you hear on the water: a sound that's as simple as it is faint. But wait a moment, sit with him a while, and the ripples will follow you, like a haunt, into the silences of your home, only to come washing up on the shorelines of your life, from time to time, as if by its own insistence. That is art at its purest.

LS: What do you think people can learn from the work of the writer or Wong as a person?

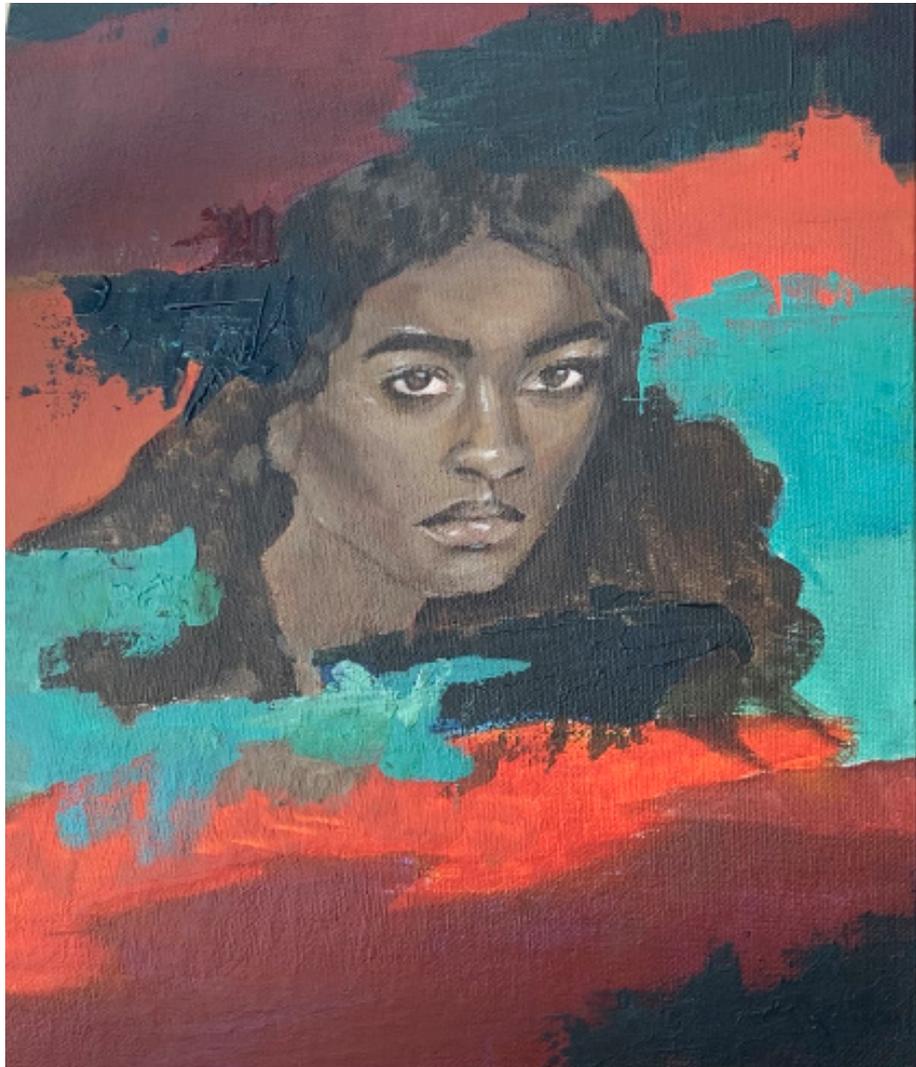
LC: I guess be funny.





above: **Abigail Poole** 8th // below: **Emma Heesen** 12th

above: **Grace Barker** 10th // below: **Eloise Lyons** 10th



**S
T
U
D
E
N
T

W
O
R
K**

Table for Two

by Bojena Sabin and Sam Clarke

Restaurant: Bon Banh Mi

Where: Mount Pleasant (second location in Downtown Charleston)

Rating: 9/10

Owner Jason Sakran says he started Bon Banh Mi after noticing a lack of solid, ethnic food in Charleston, and we wholeheartedly agree. Though Charleston has made some progress in the worldly food department, it's safe to say that every other eatery that pops up has "local oysters" displayed front and center on their menu. Other times, when a cultural place does manage to find some footing in the local food scene, it's because the flavors have been "southernized" or diluted enough so that people who are not used to such intense tastes can experience the food too (a good concept unless you're looking for authenticity).

You could say we were a bit wary (though very excited) to try Bon Banh Mi out. When we got there we were curiously surprised with the selection. It's the perfect mix: local with an upbeat vibe that seems to belong to a bigger city, a custom neon sign above the bar, and Cafe du Monde coffee canisters upcycled as table settings. It's just trendy enough for the waiters to mention "notes of chicory" in their Vietnamese iced coffee, or recommend their blueberry-blackberry kombucha, but laid-back enough to be a chill place to try if you're looking for someplace that uses spices other than salt.

For starters, we tried their shrimp summer rolls. This classic small dish of southeast Asian cuisine combines vermicelli noodles, shrimp, purple cabbage, carrots, green papaya, cucumber, mint, basil, and the fan favorite ingredient cilantro. These are rolled together in rice paper for a very refreshing and crunchy starter.

The dish is accompanied by a side of peanut hoisin sauce, which is a staple in Thai cuisine. We personally were not the biggest fans of the sauce, only because it did not taste the way we had anticipated. Typically peanut sauce from most southeast asian restaurants will be sweet and nutty, but there was a hint of bitterness in this sauce that threw us off a bit. There was something off putting about the almost sour taste it left.

Overall, it wasn't the worst, we've just had better summer rolls at other places. But despite that, summer rolls are always great if you're looking for something very fresh and



Exciting decorations gave the restaurant a modern feel.

delicious.

The first entree we tried was the Red Curry Tofu bowl. The great thing about Bon Banh Mi is that you can get any one of the "protein" options in banh mi, taco, salad, or bowl form, giving you a pretty extensive range of options. It's usually a bit of a hit or miss when ordering tofu as it's liable to be mushy, bland, and just kind of uninspiring, especially if it's poorly fried.

But, here it was.... firm, crispy tofu paired with fresh veggies that just snapped when you bit into them, carrots, cucumbers, creamy avocados to balance out the textures, buttery jasmine white rice, and nuoc cham sauce (a chile-lime fish dip). The menu describes it having flavors such as "coconut milk and lemongrass" and we both loved how equally the sweet and spicy sides of this dish were balanced. Bonus points since it's a great option for vegans and vegetarians (just make sure to get the sauce on the side).

For those unfamiliar with Vietnamese cuisine, banh mi refers to a type of baguette which is typically filled with a protein, and a blend of crunchy, savory veggies. With a restaurant name like Bon Banh Mi, it would be a disservice not to try their banh mi.



Bon Banh Mi's signature dish did not disappoint.

Much like the rice bowl, the banh mi starts with your choice of protein. For us, we picked the ginger lemongrass chicken. After the protein, each banh mi is topped with cucumber, pickled carrots, pickled daikon radish, cilantro, thai basil, crispy shallots, and lined with a chili-mayo.

This fresh blend of ingredients made for a very enjoyable experience. The baguette had just the right amount of crunch and body to where you're not in a tug of war with your sandwich. The harmonious mix was very satisfying in flavor and texture that won't leave you feeling guilty. Although this particular protein choice is not vegetarian, it is gluten-free!

And to wash it all down, Bon Banh Mi offers a variety of unique beverages to sip on during and after your meal. The first drink we tried was the black jasmine semi-sweet iced tea. For those who enjoy using milk and sugar I guess you could say this may not be your... cup of tea. Personally, we enjoyed the bitter floral notes.

Next we tried the One Love blueberry blackberry kombucha on tap. For those who

have never tried kombucha, it is a fermented beverage made of bacteria and yeast. The kombucha was on tap which made us feel like we were in some high brow, Soho Café (in the best way possible of course).

Last thing we tried was their Vietnamese iced coffee, even though in hindsight it was a bit too late in the day for it. But, they were so sweet and gave us a pretty large sample of this for free. It was absolutely creamy and thickened with a healthy dose of condensed milk. The bitterness from the chicory, and the sweetness from the condensed milk made for a happy medium for all kinds of coffee lovers.

Tall Girl: A Tall Girl's Take

by Katie Jo Gelasco

In one word, I'll describe the 2019 Netflix movie *Tall Girl* as unrelatable. Coming in a long line of Netflix rom-coms, this movie is neither one of the best nor the worst. But as a tall girl myself, I had some thoughts on more than just the cinematic aspects of the film.

The movie follows the oppression of a tall, skinny, gorgeous sixteen year old named Jodi, played by Dance Moms star Ava Michelle. Most (actually all) of her inner monologues are about her height which she sees as something that dominates her image.

Jodi is actually only 6'1 in the movie but in the cinematic universe of *Tall Girl*, every other classmate of hers has an average height of 5'4. That or this is the effect of the very obnoxious casting of extras with extreme height disparities.

The movie opens with Jodi's attempt at flirting with a boy, where the boy is interested until Jodi stands up and is revealed to be several heads taller than him. A few minutes in and it is clear that the entire plot revolves around Jodi's image in the eyes of men. The audience is even told that her father researched giving her hormones to stunt her growth as a toddler, even though the treatment could cause infertility because of his obsessive interest in her height. It's easy to see that Jodi has extreme self-esteem issues catalyzed by her height probably because most men in her life, be it an overbearing father or teenage boy, have deemed her unworthy due to her stature.



Jodi sports very basic, bland, and even masculine clothing throughout the movie. This emphasizes the stark contrast between Jodi and her beauty pageant sister, played by Sabrina Carpenter (whose ability to carry a scene did not go unnoticed). It is emphasized that Jodi feels more comfortable in masculine clothing, displayed by her discomfort in dresses and eventually showing up in a tux to her homecoming. There is absolutely nothing wrong with someone's expression through their clothes, but Jodi's attire in the movie seems like a cheap attempt at emasculating the men she encounters.

"I'm so much more than a tall girl," Jodi says in a closing monologue to her peers at the climactic homecoming dance. The message of your physical features not defining your character is a nice reminder to a generation that is often most validated by their counterparts. However, I am not sure if the best vehicle to explore this theme was through the lens of a tall, skinny, white teenage girl, who is played by an actual model. I worry if we are told by the movie from the beginning to focus on her height as much as Jodi and the men around her do, we might feel inclined to put that same amount of attention onto our own physical attributes.

Reel Talk: *It Chapter Two*

by Clara Collins and Logan Baker

(Note: This movie is rated R. If you're underage, make sure your parents are okay with you seeing it.)

Logan and Clara have notoriously conflicting opinions about movies. Clara refuses to see movies without a pretentious coming of age story, whereas Logan appreciates movies about people who just look at each other instead of talking (think *Lady Bird* vs *Dunkirk*). In this edition, they will be deeply analyzing Andy Muschietti's *It Chapter Two*.

Clara's Take:

It Chapter Two is the follow-up to the most successful horror movie of all time, 2017's *It*. As a big fan of both the first movie and the book, I waited in nervous anticipation for two years, annoying Logan to no end with my theories and casting fears, until finally it was time.

It Chapter Two takes place twenty seven years after the events of the first film, as the characters make good on their promise to fight *It* if it ever comes back to Derry, despite forgetting each other and the promise itself as soon as they left their hometown.

Unfortunately, the movie stumbles over

this premise, only focusing on the characters' adult lives for brief, often comedic segments. The true horror of the novel was psychological: *It* is haunting these particular people because of the evil lurking in their own lives, and the lengthy scenes of characters unconsciously reliving their childhoods created a lingering sense of discomfort. The movie, however, swaps these for a parade of jump scares that start to feel slightly tedious around the second hour. The effect is a slight pacing problem and a distinct lack of meaningful fright.

This isn't to say that I disliked the movie. For one, the cast is amazing; they alone justify the movie's run time. Bill Hader is a particular



Pennywise and his red balloon have become a classic horror movie duo.

standout, serving as both the emotional center of the film and some of the much needed comic relief. On that note, the humor is on-par with the first movie, and maybe even stronger. And though, as mentioned, *It Chapter Two* is not scary unless you're terrified of clowns or hate jump scares, there are some truly enjoyable scenes, with all the creepiness and tension you'd ever want from a horror movie. The ending, while a little saccharine, works extremely well. Fans of the book will enjoy the changes the movie's ending makes.

So, was the first movie better? Probably. Could you go see a more acclaimed flick (perhaps the new Tarantino every film bro is pushing)? Of course. But there's a time for that, and there's a time for seeing James McAvoy inexplicably take another horror movie role, for seeing Bill Skarsgard don the now infamous clown suit again, and for seeing Stephen King in the vanity cameo of the century.

Logan's Take:

My previous knowledge of this plot comes from all the trickle down theories, interpretations, and laments that Clara threw at me while reading *It* and following every single development in the production of these films. I think it would be an understatement to say that I was not only uninterested but slightly mystified

at the labyrinth of character development, background, and seemingly bizarre choices King turned out. This disinterest was only compounded by my stubborn need to never watch any movies someone tells me I have to see. That said, I already felt weirdly connected to the characters in *It*, so I kind of jumped at the chance to review it completely blind to any of the text or the original movie.

The beginning of this movie dragged on for far too long (although this did give me a chance to memorize their names). After the brutal opening scene, the movie cuts to a somewhat amusing but drawn-out introduction to each of the characters as adults. My evidence that this intro stagnated the plot is that my dad fell asleep after the first scene and stayed asleep until one of the many jump scares jolted him awake.

Overall, I really enjoyed the movie. It was entertaining, surprisingly funny, and a shining example of the found family trope. In fact, I wish there had been more scenes of just the Losers interacting with each other after so much time apart. I guess I could also watch the first movie to get my fix of that. Bill Hader really carried the humor throughout. I was confused at the lack of actual scary scenes in the movie. After the first scene, which dealt more with human cruelty than anything Pennywise could inflict, the movie seemed to settle into a predictable pattern of jump scares. It made all the characters' risks seem low-stakes, despite the supposed "eater of worlds" they're up against. What will happen if they fail to defeat the bad clown isn't even explored, and the questions "Why Derry? Why us?" are barely brushed against.

I also had a lot of qualms with the length, especially given the poor pacing with the tedious beginning and abrupt ending. After that marathon, the end of the movie felt rushed and too tidy. The voiceover was sweet and a fitting resolution and I'm sure for book fans it was a nice touch. However, it's ironic that King's poor endings end up as a meta, running joke in a movie that then fell prey to that exact same issue.

Going into this movie, I decided to gauge how much I liked it by whether I'd want to go back and watch the first one. I think that, fresh out of the theater, I'm interested in going back and watching it, if only to see more of the Losers' interactions with each other and to catch more parallels. Even if it wasn't a psychological thriller, it was still enjoyable and interesting, at least the first time around. As far as reading the 1,000+ page monstrosity these movies spawned from... I don't know that I'm there yet. Clara's going to have to work a little harder.

Beloved Review in the Wake of Toni Morrison

Katie Forrester

As the nation reflects on the legacy of Nobel Prize winner and American author Toni Morrison in the wake of her recent passing, her iconic novel *Beloved* stands the test of time. It not only reads beautifully, but was a shock to traditional narratives of slavery's legacy in the American south. Set in post-Civil war reconstruction, Morrison slowly unravels her story through the feverish, dream-like memories of Sethe, a former slave and widow living with her daughter, Denver, and mother-in law, Baby Suggs, in house 124 in Ohio.

In vividly described flashbacks, we see Sethe escaping from Sweet Home plantation to the North, pursued by slave catchers and pregnant with Denver. In surreal passages where Morrison's prose sings like poetry, she seamlessly moves through time. She describes Sweet Home with as many one-liners full of conviction as she does mysticism: "...and although there was not a leaf on that farm that did not make her want to scream, it rolled itself out before her in shameless beauty. It never looked as terrible as it was and it made her wonder if hell was a pretty place too."

Sethe's home is being haunted by the ghost of her dead baby girl, who died at two, nameless, her gravestone simply reading: BELOVED. In a stunning monologue, Sethe aches to know why God has not allowed her to go insane, imagining it would be softer than her grief. The baby's fury is palpable, her spirit presenting itself in the form of a Poltergeist-like moving of the house, saturating Sethe more so in grief than fear. Paul D, a man from Sweet Home, arrives on Sethe's doorstep. After tasting one afternoon of a stable family life going to a carnival, a quiet, mystifying woman arrives, seemingly with no past, calling herself "Beloved." Morrison's supernatural twist feels more like a retelling of an ancient folktale. It is this ghost story of a baby girl turned into flesh and blood that is the true catalyst of the novel as Morrison weaves through Sethe's haunting, blurred memories of slavery, steadily leaking into the true story of the death of her baby.

This reincarnation of *Beloved* exists on a tightrope between real and ghost, young woman and corpse, and for Sethe, daughter and stranger. Re-incarnated *Beloved* is a tangible symbol of the re-opening of the wound of American slavery, the untreated, collective fury of slaves, their names and faces unknown to history. Morrison deals with a picture of love for slaves during this time: how ill-defined the act of being a mother becomes when one's baby is claimed property by the state, and yet, how Sethe continues in spite of this. It is that grit and boiling anger beneath history's surface which *Beloved* represents, the novel also grappling with how trauma lingers in the form of memory. Trauma is a never-ending, generational cycle of bruising and healing, of remembering and forgetting. Sethe's loyalty to her daughters is an act of resistance in her oppression, with her stating, "Love is or it ain't. Thin love isn't love at all."

Morrison gives the tragedy of slavery a form to look straight into the face, one of Paul D choosing a star in the sky to love because of the impossibility of loving a mother or brother due to how they will inevitably be stolen. The resistance of *Beloved*, too, is symbolic, with her anger for her lost life haunting her family. I would argue that Morrison is portraying how it is the nameless slaves *Beloved* represents which should be the face of American slavery's history, rather than Lincoln or the Civil War or Ulysses S. Grant. Slaves themselves are the true faces of this trauma, the unknown people who persevered through acts of loving, grieving, and being families in the face of one of the most vicious, anti-family systems in history.

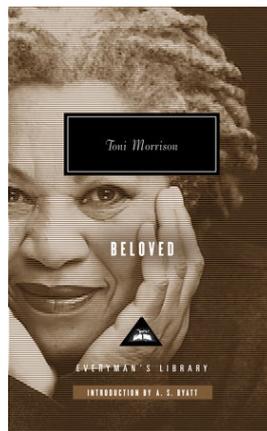
How has the work of Toni Morrison impacted you?

"Reading Toni Morrison's work was the first instance of seeing myself and my culture praised in literature. For years I was expected to revere the 'greats' of classic literature, white men whose limited gaze had no space for exploring the experiences of black people, and especially not black women. Reading Toni Morrison's work was the first time I didn't have to adjust, where I didn't have to morph myself to please the palate of a dominant white audience. Though centering novels around black people seems restricting, Toni Morrison's work is a testament to just how many distinct stories one can find within the black experience. As an artist, her writing has encouraged me to seek inspiration within myself. She's taught me not to minimize my experience, but to draw from it in order to achieve the most honest form of expression. Morrison's inventive language of storytelling has distinguished her novels from typical books, and her boldness graces the page of each and every one of her works. Her writing is revolutionary, and to read Toni Morrison is to be liberated."

-Laila Aleem, 2017 Graduate of SOA

"I read *The Bluest Eye* by Toni Morrison when I was in college (many decades ago.) It was the first novel that vividly opened my eyes to the rippling, devastating impact of systemic racism and how cruel and unfair the world can be to a family who is treated unjustly at every turn. Morrison's voice, perspective, and her ability to craft deeply compelling characters who have no other choice but to do whatever they can to survive, opened my mind and heart in ways I had no idea I needed them opened. I know she did this for countless readers. Her stories were a force for good and change. What more can a writer hope to accomplish? We owe her so very much"

- Beth Webb Hart, SOA Creative Writing teacher

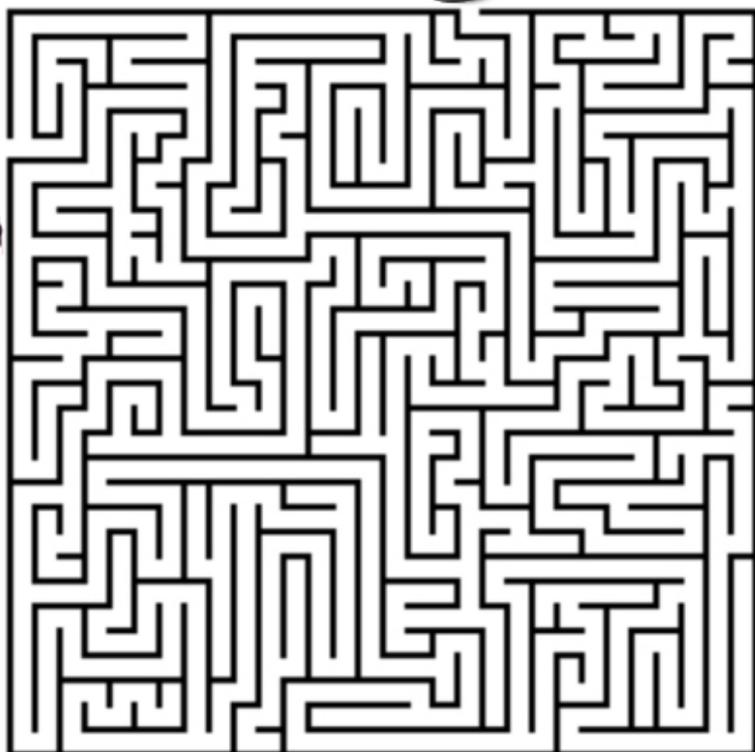


"Toni Morrison famously began writing her first book as a single mother working a full-time job as an editor. She wrote the book that she wanted to read, the one that did not exist or have a place yet in the world. She wanted to give voice to those voices that were silenced or erased. Her first book was published when she was 39 years old. I think about that fact whenever I feel daunted, whenever I want to convince myself not to pursue a dream or project--because I am afraid or busy or tired or filled with doubt. I think of Toni up at 4am, children sleeping, a stack of work in need of her red pen. Toni in her late 30s writing because she had to, groggy and in the dark, writing what would become the improbable masterpiece, *The Bluest Eye*. If you want to be close to the author and her legacy, to be inspired by her grit, you are in luck. In 2006, The Toni Morrison Society launched the Bench by the Road Project. Speaking about the lack of historical markers in this country to honor the lives of enslaved Africans, Morrison said, "There is no place you or I can go, to think about or not think about, to summon the presences of, or recollect the absences of slaves. There is no suitable memorial, or plaque, or wreath, or wall, or park, or skyscraper lobby. There's no 300-foot tower, there's no small bench by the road." In that spirit, I encourage curious students and citizens to drive to Sullivan's Island, park in Fort Moultrie's Visitor's Center and walk down to the water. There you can sit in the Toni Morrison bench and contemplate our country and our state's long history of racial violence. You can be moved by a writer's determination to refuse that history's erasure. To write such necessary, compelling work like *Beloved* and *Song of Solomon*. You could be inspired to tell your own improbable story"

-Danielle DeTiberus, SOA Creative Writing and English 101 teacher

responses continued on pg 23

MAZE!



Help Mr. McCauly get his morning cup of joe!

Cultural Calendar

curated by Logan Baker

Friday, Oct 11-Sunday, Oct 13: **Charleston Friends of the Library Sale** (hours and location vary, see website for details)

Saturday, Oct 12: **Music of the Movies** (7:30pm, Gaillard Center)

Sunday, Oct 13: **Latin American Festival** (12pm-6pm, Wannamaker Park)

Sunday, Oct 13: **Jericho Brown Reading** (6:30pm-8:30pm, City Gallery)

Sunday, Oct 13: **Second Sunday** (1pm-5pm, King Street)

Sunday, Oct 13-Monday, Oct 14: **Autumn on the Ashley** (Magnolia Plantation and Gardens)

Boone Hall Fright Night (See Boone Hall website for details)

Boone Hall Pumpkin Patch and Corn Maze (See Boone Hall website for details)

Tuesday, Oct 15: **Rent 20th Anniversary Tour** (7:30pm, North Charleston Performing Arts Center)

Wednesday, Oct 16-Sunday, Nov 3: **Nevermore! Performance** (Dock Street Theatre)

Friday, Oct 25-Saturday, Oct 26: **Pictures at an Exhibition** (7:30pm, Gaillard Center)

Thursday, Oct 31-Sunday, Nov 10: **Coastal Carolina Fair** (hours vary, Ladson)

Through Sunday, Dec 1: **“War on Fashion” Exhibit** (The Charleston Museum)

BACK TO SCHOOL

REMAINING LETTERS SPELL A BONUS PHRASE!

E	C	I	H	E	A	T	W	A	V	E	S	R	A	E	H	E	R
N	E	W	S	C	H	E	D	U	L	E	R	O	T	U	T	J	U
N	O	S	L	E	E	P	P	D	M	A	Y	P	R	A	I	N	Y
E	J	S	U	N	N	Y	I	I	A	I	T	R	A	M	L	A	W
M	S	W	R	M	V	E	C	K	P	K	I	E	A	N	F	N	E
A	S	U	J	E	M	D	T	W	P	C	D	T	B	T	E	O	A
I	P	U	A	J	K	E	U	E	A	A	I	R	E	U	E	I	T
L	I	W	B	L	Y	A	R	N	N	B	M	A	N	C	S	T	H
A	R	N	G	A	P	A	E	A	I	L	U	U	C	R	U	A	E
I	I	M	L	S	L	P	D	R	C	A	H	Q	H	I	P	N	R
N	T	U	O	C	T	L	A	B	B	T	I	T	M	A	P	I	Y
E	W	T	O	H	I	A	Y	L	U	E	D	S	A	H	L	T	A
D	E	U	M	O	O	R	S	S	A	L	C	R	R	M	I	S	D
R	E	A	Y	O	M	C	O	P	O	U	C	I	K	I	E	A	R
A	K	L	C	L	H	A	A	G	S	N	Q	F	U	R	S	R	O
Y	O	A	G	I	I	E	I	R	A	C	P	V	W	E	N	C	B
N	N	O	L	O	S	N	A	C	K	H	A	B	I	T	S	O	A
A	A	L	I	C	O	N	V	O	C	A	T	I	O	N	D	R	L
L	Y	D	N	I	W	G	P	I	R	T	D	L	E	I	F	P	E

CONVOGATION

REHEARSE

PICTURE DAY

CLUB DAY

SPIRIT WEEK

FIELD TRIP

JUN*

KONA

ICE*

NEW VP

FEES

LATE BUS

HAIRCUT

DENIAL

PROCRASTINATION

FIRST QUARTER

INTERIM

NO SLEEP

WALMART

SYLLABUS

WALMART

SUPPLIES

ICE BREAKERS

ID*

LANYARD

NEW KID

LATE LUNCH

SNACK

GOOGLE

CLASSROOM

SOA 101

PSAT

EMAIL

LOGIN

BENCHMARK

AP PANIC

SCHEDULE

BACK

SCHOOL

HABITS

TUTOR

GOAL

WEATHER

HURRICANE

LABOR DAY

NEWS

HEATWAVE

AC*

HUMIDITY

SUMMER

AUTUMN

SUNNY

CHILLY

RAINY

WINDY

GLOOMY

APPLAUSE

*NO OVERLAP ("ID" NOT FOUND IN "HUMIDITY")

EDUCATION

is a lifelong

journey whose

DESTINATION

EXPANDS as

you TRAVEL

-Jim Stovall

LUXURY TRAVEL ADVISOR

AND PROUD SOA PARENT!

Call me to help plan your next adventure!

departure lounge VIRTUOSO MEMBER

TRAVEL PLANNING SPECIALISTS SPECIALISTS IN THE ART OF TRAVEL

Virtuoso is a global network of the best travel advisors and travel providers all focused on providing you with the best travel experiences.