

# Applause

Volume 21, Number 3

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

December 2019



Celebrating 20 years of Applause

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John White

### Letter From the Editor

Dear Readers,

It's really happening! The 20th anniversary issue of *Applause*! This month, we are honoring 20 years of hard work from writers, editors, and everyone else who has contributed to the paper. The centerfold features a timeline of *Applause* constructed from old covers and special events. Out of SOA's nearly 80 faculty and staff members, four of them were teaching in 1999, when the first issue of *Applause* came out (see cover). Check out page 6 for interviews with two of the four, **Ms. Fairchild** and **Mr. Younts**.

Visit pages 8 through 11 to see what ten former editors of *Applause* are doing. Some are fresh out of college and some are well into successful careers. Additionally, on pages 22 and 23, staff writer **Sophia Leonardi** compiled the best responses to various Question of the Months over the past 20 years.

On another note, happy holidays! If you've been craving the chance to lay back on your couch with a holiday movie on but can't decide which one to watch, take the quiz on page 28. Be sure to rest up over the next two weeks, you deserve it! Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Love,  
Your Editor-in-Chief  
Maya Cline



Editors Clara Collins, Maya Cline, and Logan Baker celebrate 20 years of *Applause* with homemade canoli courtesy of Dr. Cusatis.

# Applause

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

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Maya Cline

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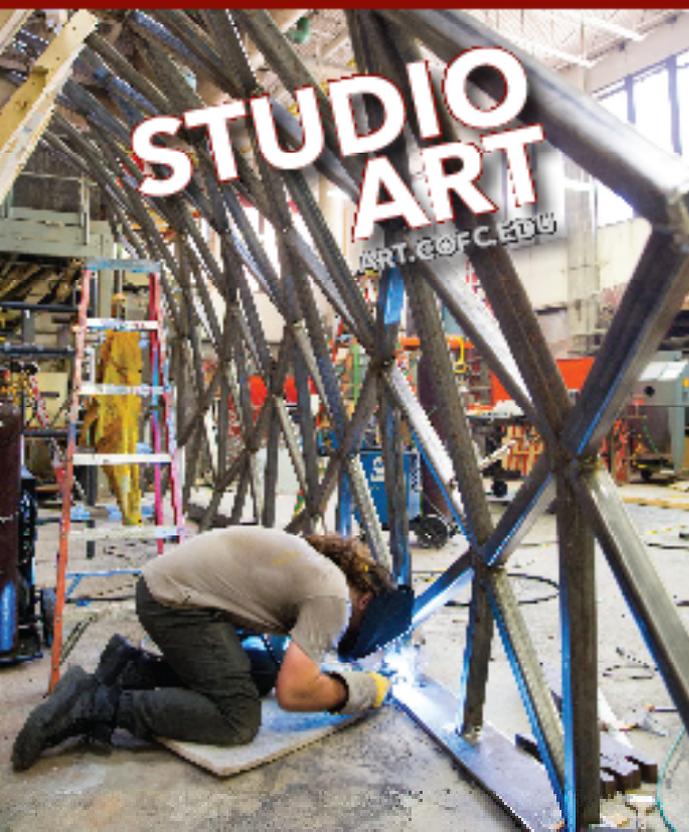


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## SOA Takes on Midwest

by Katie Jo Gelasco, Peyton Smalls, and Lilly Tipton

As the end of December sneaks up on us, while some are getting their holiday plans in order and others are freaking out over maintaining their sleep schedule, the high school Strings Department's Symphony Strings players are gearing up to go perform at a very high level clinic called The Midwest Clinic International Band, Orchestra, and Music Conference. Midwest began in 1946 from a large number of band directors meeting in a YWCA gym to one of the most prestigious music events in the world. **Dr. Christopher Selby**, the conductor and all around director of the symphony program, knew that the Midwest Clinic would be the last jewel in the crown to get for a school orchestra.



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**Dr. Selby has worked tirelessly throughout the years on building SOA's symphony to what it is today.**

With the SOA Orchestra in 2016, winning the National Orchestra Festival award, Dr. Selby felt as though there is no limit to how high his orchestra should strive. The process to prepare for the audition was nothing short of a challenge as well.

For the first portion of the audition, Dr. Selby had to choose two contrasting pieces that showcased the talents and capabilities of every student and was also a good fit for the orchestra. The two major pieces that were selected were a finale by Dvorak as well as a serenade by Tchaikovsky. After working on those two pieces for about 3 months, the orchestra recorded and Dr. Selby submitted. After the long and tedious wait, Dr. Selby found out about his admission into the clinic. He, as well as the symphony, was excited and ready to compete.

With there being many teachers in the nation trying years to achieve this goal of getting into the clinic, Dr. Selby knew how fortunate he and his orchestra were to get accepted on our very first try. Since this is the very first time that the SOA Symphony Orchestra will be attending the clinic, there are goals for everyone in the experience such as having the school district and state understand what the orchestra is doing at the School of the Arts and that they are striving to achieve the highest level that is possible. Dr. Selby wants his orchestra as a whole to be recognized nationally as well as at the district and state levels.

This is such a significant event due to the clinic in itself being an extremely selective opportunity for music ensembles. It is the gold standard for what is considered the best groups in the country. For example, if you ask any band or orchestra director in the country what the top honor to achieve is, then they will tell you that it is to be accepted into the Midwest Clinic. Dr. Selby, with this acceptance, knows that it is not the end and that his

orchestra will always continue to improve. It is just something he sees it as the highest benchmark any band or orchestra can reach. We are so fortunate and so proud to call this group a Midwest orchestra.

## Freshman's Single "Comet" Soars to Top of Disney Charts



**The freshman works hard to balance school and a blooming career.**

**John White** follows up with SOA vocal major **Cody Newman** on LA and creating new material. Since this interview, Cody's song "Comet" has reached number five on Radio Disney's list of top songs.

**John White: What are you doing in Los Angeles?**

**Cody Newman:** I have a couple meetings with some companies including Nickelodeon, Disney, iHeart Radio, and the CSA Group.

**JW: Were you surprised by the attention your EP received?**

**CN:** I was; It's crazy how well its doing but I'm so glad it is. My song "Comet" was put on Radio Disney a little less than a week ago and its now the 4th most requested song on the station and is about to break the Radio Disney top 50!

**JW: You recently dropped a single, "Mystery Boy." Who is the mystery boy?**

**CN:** This guy I liked at the beginning of the year until I found out he was a senior...I still haven't talked to him...

**JW: Do you find it difficult to balance school and your career?**

**CN:** Yeah, it's a bit difficult, but I just have to work through it.

**JW: How do you find time to work on new material? Is there anything you're working on that you're especially excited about?**

**CN:** After school and on the weekends, and yes, I'm currently working on a new album. I've gotten maybe eleven or twelve songs done, but I'm unable to record or produce anything for a while.



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## Remaining Teachers From the 1999 Staff Reflect on their Time at SOA

There are only four teachers who have been at SOA since the first issue of *Applause* twenty years ago: **Ms. Ann-Marie Fairchild, Mr. George Younts, Mr. Robin Rogers, and Dr. John Cusatis** (as pictured on the cover). **Maya Cline** talks to two of the four to find out what the past 20 years have been like.



**Maya Cline: Why have you chosen to stay at SOA for so long?**

**Ms. Ann-Marie Fairchild:** When I interviewed for my position with in the Spring of 1996, I saw students working in small groups in the hall. I watched how excited they were about learning and how engaged they were with their content. I quickly realized that this was “The Dream-Environment” for any teacher. I remember going home to my husband and telling him that I wanted our children (one yet unborn) to go to this school and I also said that I would teach here

until I retire. Here we are 24 years later. I still love my job - my calling.

**MC: What are some upsides and downsides of being at one school for 20 years?**

**AF:** Upside: I am completely spoiled. I have the best students in Charleston County.

Downside: I am completely spoiled. I have the best students in Charleston County.

**MC: What do you recall about your job interview? What were your expectations of the job and how were they met or exceeded?**

**AF:** I remember being interviewed by Mrs. Rose Maree Myers. She was statuesque and graceful. I was a little intimidated by her. As she asked me questions about my teaching experiences she had the most beautiful, encouraging smile. It made me feel comfortable and welcomed. After the interview and job offer, I had visions of teaching wonderful, talented, and kind students. I have not been disappointed.

**MC: What has changed about SOA in the past 20 years?**

**AF:** When the school was in its beginning phases, it had a weird, bohemian, organic, eclectic vibe. It was a beautiful thing. As the school has grown, the facilities have drastically improved and the students have gotten more sophisticated and polished artistically. The “small school” culture is also gone - but that’s okay too. Things change with growth and we have to accept that as a part of life.

**MC: What are some of the highlights from your time here?**

**AF:** The highlights from my time at SOA are defined by the relationships that I’ve made and nurtured here - relationships with fellow teachers, administrators, and students. My greatest joy in these 24 years has been teaching both of my sons. Joshua, class of 2012, was a Theater Arts major and I taught him Algebra I. Jacob, class of 2016, was a Vocal major and I taught him Geometry. I shared experiences with my sons that very few parents can claim. They saw me in my element and I was able to have a glimpse into their lives outside of our home. It was a privilege to contribute to their education and future successes.

**MC: Why have you chosen to stay at SOA for so long?**

**Mr. George Younts:** Great school w/ opportunities both in MS & HS to develop lots of projects in teaching/producing theatre. I am very lucky to be working at this school doing what I am doing.

**MC: What are some upsides and downsides of being at one school for 20 years?**



**GY:** You see a lot of the same problems again and again.

**MC: What do you recall about your job interview?**

**GY:** I was teaching in West Palm Beach Florida and traveled up in early June and spent about two days to check things out. I remember meeting Mrs. Meyers, Mr. Locklair, Mrs. Miller and seeing the facilities were not that great but there was lots of potential. Plus, there was an easygoing, small town feel Charleston had back then.

**MC: What has changed about SOA in the past 20 years?**

**GY:** In the “salad days” (early 2000s) it really felt like a little school where everyone knew everyone. Now it has a big suburban “busy, busy, busy” school feel.

**MC: What are some of the highlights from your time here?**

**GY:** Fighting Gnome Improv Outreaches over the years all over South Carolina and getting to know great theater teachers because of them; the musical *Peter Pan*, which we did in 2001, was one of the last times when the school really pulled together as a whole; the outrageous haunted houses high school theatre did on the old campus and the Tunnel of Loves middle school did around Valentine’s Day; touring the new campus during its construction and being amazed by what was going to happen.

## Applause Checks in with Dance and Fashion

by John White

**Dance:** 7th grade dance majors have been hard at work creating a dance for convocation on December 19th. Dancers learned choreography from their modern dance unit and then developed their own partnering choreography.

We also look forward to a world dance unit which will include Philippine Tinikling, the Carolina Shag, and a Bellydance workshop! Attached are some photos from our November residency with the local company Dance Matters - their classes integrated civil rights lessons with movement.

Two dancers in the company, Lamar Hunter and Jordan Benton, are SOA dance graduates! The Senior thesis “Social Issues” performance is on 12/5 at 6:30 in the RMMT, and the Junior Composition “Art in Motion” performance is on 12/4 at 6:30 in the RMMT.

**Fashion:** My students has 13 entries and won 13 medals in the Coastal Carolina Fair. We are currently working on the first Fashion Show garment in for grades 9-11, seniors are plugging away on Look 4 of 8 for Senior Thesis. Freshman are learning to cut and sew basic commercial patterns. Sophomores are all working on differentiated sewing patterns. Juniors just finished their first unit on draping which involves making their own patterns in muslin on 3D dress forms and then creating 2D patterns for sewing original designs. Draping is a second year of college level class and they handled it beautifully! Juniors will now drape, learn how to use boning properly and then create corset-style tops for the fashion show.



Current Dance majors learn from SOA graduates now work with Dance Matters.

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## SOA Student Featured in Hootie and the Blowfish Music Video

*Luke Shaw interviews Aiden Handegan on his involvement in the music video for Hootie and the Blowfish's, "Hold On."*

**Luke Shaw: How were you able to be in the music video?**

**Aiden Handegan:** The casting director for the Hootie and the Blowfish video found my headshot through Coastal Talent, my Talent Agency. From there I was asked to send in a current photo to make sure my look hadn't changed since my headshot. A few days later, I received a message that I booked the role.

**LS: What was your experience like?**

**AH:** The day started with hair & makeup in the dressing room. This is where I met the group of girls you see in the beginning of the video, and Antonio, who would be my friend throughout filming. We had only just met the morning of filming, and were told by the director to act like we were best friends and had known each other for years. Before we went on set costuming came in for last minute outfit checks. (Fun fact: All of the clothing worn by the cast in the music video, is actually owned by each actor).

**LS: How long did it take to film?**

**AH:** I was on set for 8 hours. The filming process was broken up into several segments of which we filmed multiple times.

**LS: Did you get to meet the members of the band? What were they like?**

**AH:** Yes, they were all super shy and quiet but super nice. I talked to Soni (Jim Sonefeld) mainly.

**LS: Do you hope to do more like this in the future?**

**AH:** Absolutely!!! I would love to have another amazing opportunity like this in the future.

**LS: What skills do you think helped you in the process?**

**AH:** We improvised most of the stuff that happened in the video, so having known some improv basics definitely helped.



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## SOA Holiday Concert is a Success

by Lilly Tipton and Lilly Stevens

Once again, both the Middle and High School Strings and Vocal majors put on spectacular holiday concerts. On December 3 at the Gaillard Center, School of the Arts Students performed for a sold out crowd. The concert, directed by **Mr. Rogers, Ms. Hammond, and Dr. Selby**, touched the hearts of many



Students in the deaf and hard of hearing program performed alongside the high school vocal and strings majors.

people in the audience as they performed a variety of holiday music. The concert opened with a festive overture followed by "Joy to the World." They also performed an arrangement of Memley's "O Nata Lux" written specifically for the School of the Arts Symphony and Singers. The students of the deaf and hard of hearing program performed "Let There Be Peace on Earth" and "Silent Night" alongside their classmates, among the highlights of the show.

On December 10 and 11 Middle School Strings and singers wowed audiences with classical favorites such as the "Hallelujah" from Handel's Messiah as well as popular holiday songs like "Santa Claus is Coming to Town." Strings performed "Christmas Concerto" featuring 3 soloists: **Emma Herrin, Carolina Agrest, and Jade Williams**. Seventh grader Trow Weeks guest conducted an outstanding performance of the "Nutcracker" by Tchaikovsky arranged by Conley. Both concerts were a smashing success and an excellent way to ring in the Christmas Season.



Seventh grade conductor Trow Weeks wows the audience.

Provided

## Catching Up With Ten Former Applause Editors

Applause wouldn't exist without the work each of its devoted editors put in throughout the years. So, to celebrate our Twentieth Anniversary, we've caught up with some past editors to see what they're up to now.

### Patrick Wohlscheid (17-18)

#### Where did you go to college? What are you studying?

I am currently a sophomore at the College of Charleston studying Philosophy and English. Although most, and probably too much of my time is spent studying, I am a Submissions Editor for CofC's literary and art magazine, Miscellany, and am a part of student organizations in the English, Philosophy, and Classics departments. I also try to make writing fiction and poetry a priority, and more generally just staying in touch with the arts.

#### What do you plan to do with your future?

In the next few years of school I would like to participate in independent research with some of the great professors here at the College, and gain some more relevant work experience. After college, I'd like to study and work abroad for a while and then aim for graduate school in Philosophy or English with the hopes of becoming a professor. But who knows, a lot can change in a few years.

#### What is your favorite memory from your time editing Applause?

I think that my favorite memory from my time at Applause is taking a tour of the Post & Courier and seeing one of our issues getting printed. Watching something come

to life that you and your peers created is a really gratifying and bonding experience for everyone, especially because of how hard everyone works to get things done. Learning about the old but quickly evolving journalism business from industry professionals was also very interesting.

#### Are there any lessons you learned while editing the paper that you apply to your current job/life?

Something I learned while editing the paper that still has a big impact on my life today is the ability to respect deadlines and not sacrifice quality for the sake of convenience. Editing the paper while balancing academic classes and writing a thesis is a really difficult thing to do, and it takes a lot to make sure that you are producing your best work on all fronts. Now, in college, I definitely see myself procrastinating a lot less and making sure that my creative and academic output is at the level I'd like it to be at. I also think that being an Editor gives you a much more critical eye in both the form and content of writing, which is always helpful to have in any area you go into.

### Cheyenne Koth (16-17)

#### Where did you go to college? What are you studying?

I ended up in Saint Augustine, Florida attending Flagler College where I am currently a junior. It's a small private liberal arts school whose campus is the grounds of Henry Flagler's gilded age hotel, the Ponce de Leon. I've been pursuing a major in Public History alongside two minors



Patrick Wohlscheid appreciates the sight of Charleston in the fall.

provided

in Anthropology and Creative Writing. Public History is actually a semi-contested field, as it seeks to bridge the gap between public and scholarly understandings of the past and some scholars look down upon those efforts. Anthropology has proved compelling and Creative Writing? That was a given. All this to say, I've been having a Time and learning a lot. This city is ripe for the taking so far as writerly inspiration, historical careers and research goes, so there's always something to do.

#### What are you up to now?

Oh, I've got my fingers in quite a few pies. (Since I have been given the platform to brag here, I'm going to go ahead and give it a swing.) I've been serving as President of the Archaeology Club at Flagler since the second semester of my freshman year. The club was small then, so I've been cultivating it alongside the other members and I think it's going very well. We host film screenings, visit local site of historical and archaeological significance, volunteer at the Castillo de San Marcos with the National Parks Service as well as at the Tolomato cemetery cleaning graves! (Yes, you read me right. And it is awesome.) Along with that, I work as a historic tour guide at Flagler's Legacy. This is the big get for tourists of St. Augustine— they're allowed to enter the grand dining hall and gawp at the Tiffany Stained Glass Windows while I regale them with dazzling facts about the old hotel Ponce de Leon for a full hour. There are hidden signatures, scandalously altered portraits and Austrian crystal chandeliers galore. ~Similarly, I did a Living History internship the summer before last wherein I gave tours of 18th century cabins and cooked dinner on the open hearth. I make a mean Irish Coddle and have had some success with the tomahawk. I've also been emcee-ing the Open Mics held by the English department this semester. These are held at a local coffee "lab" and are just the best evening you ever had. In that creative-writerly vein, I've scored two magazine publications of a poem each in Third Wednesday as well as The Heartland Review, both in Spring 2018. I'm working on a book review right now. I'd also like to mention my volunteer work in archaeological cataloguing under guidance of the remarkable Dr. Lee Newsom. I've been amassing an inventory of the 2000-2007 excavations of the site 8-SJ-31, aka "The Fountain of Youth": the long contested site of Juan Ponce de Leon's initial landing in La Florida circa 1514. I'm mostly creating spreadsheets, but it's highly compelling. There's so much to absorb.

#### What do you plan to do with your future?

Ha-ha-ha! Graduate. I guess I've got to do that. There's a lot of options out there but I mostly leave that to future Cheyenne to think about.

### Graham Crolley (14-15)

#### Where did you go to college? What did you study?

I went to Emerson College in Boston and graduated in spring 2019. I got my BA there in Writing, Literature, and Publishing, and I was also in the Honors College which I highly recommend as it cuts your tuition in half.

#### What are you up to now?

I've been living in Brooklyn with my lovely girlfriend and fellow former Applause co-editor Suzanne Jackson, as well as SOA-ers Zoe Abedon and Dmitri Grigorieff, since July of this year. I'm currently going to grad school at Queens College where I'm getting my MFA in Creative Writing (Fiction). Right now, I'm working at the Trader Joe's by Union Square, which happens to be the busiest in the country per capita and also the second smallest. Saying it's chaotic would be an understatement, but it does give me some great writing material.

#### What do you plan to do with your future?

My plans for the future are to use my MFA to teach writing on the college level while getting my own material published. I'm working on getting a

short story or two from this semester published hopefully by next year, but in the long term, I'd love to write novels. I currently have a novel in progress that I may or may not develop for my MFA thesis. On a broader scale, I'd love to move closer to Charleston (home sweet home) in the future. Oh, and music— hopefully in the near future I'll be playing drums in a band again, one of the things I miss most about my time in Boston. I also hope to still be making my own music. Gotta make all the cute boys pay attention to me somehow.

### **Suzanne Jackson (14-15)**

#### **Where did you go to college? What did you study?**

I went to Bard College in the Hudson Valley of New York, and graduated with a BA in Classical Studies this past May. Can't wait to use that degree! The reality of it is I just really loved ancient theatre and was fortunate enough to be able to study something I enjoyed, as opposed to something that might make me a ton more money immediately post-grad. But y'all, great news: unless you're going into medicine (or some math thing... not totally sure, as I went to SOA and didn't learn anything about math or science or anything like that), your undergrad degree doesn't matter. Don't overthink it, and definitely don't commit to (or pay for) four years of feeling so-so about what you're studying.

**What are you up to now?** I'm living in Brooklyn with Graham Crolley (my co-editor back in the day), Zoe Abedon, and Dmitri Grigorieff— shout out SOA! At the moment, I'm

a little more than halfway through an internship at The Late Show, which leads me to your next question...

#### **What do you plan to do with your future?**

Such a very scary, reasonable question! Ideally, I'd get a job doing something creative and challenging and fun up here in NYC while I still have the blinding and uncontrollable energy of my twenties. Stay tuned?

### **Taylor Dahl (14-15)**

#### **Where did you go to college? What did you study?**

I went to Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, VA. I started off as an English major but discovered Sociology my freshman year and ended up getting two degrees in Sociology and Psychology.

#### **What are you up to now?**

I'm still in Richmond taking a gap year before I continue my education. I'm actually in the process right now of applying to graduate schools! I currently volunteer at a domestic violence/sexual assault women's shelter and primarily work in their hospital accompaniment program. I also waitress on the side since volunteering doesn't pay the bills.

#### **What do you plan to do with your future?**

My plan is to get my master's in Social Work and become a licensed

clinical social worker focusing on mental health. I'm not quite sure where I'll end up yet, but I'm not planning on leaving the east coast- yet. I'm just going to see where the wind takes me. I'm just looking forward to learning more and eventually doing something I'm passionate about.

### **Madeleine Vath (13-14)**



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#### **Where did you go to college? What did you study?**

I studied mass communications and psychology at the University of South Carolina's Honors College (I graduated May 2018).

#### **What are you up to now?**

I'm now living in Richmond, Virginia, with my husband and dog. We both work at Virginia Commonwealth University and live close enough to campus to walk to work together! I help run communications for the university's Center for Pharmacy Practice Innovation, so I still use journalism skills I learned from Dr. Cusatis almost every day.

#### **What do you plan to do with your future?**

We just moved to Virginia, so we're planning to stay here for the next few years. I also recently started

my own business, Mark My Words Writing & Editing, so I'll be working on really getting that off the ground.

### **Savannah Miller (10-11/11-12)**

#### **Where did you go to college? What did you study?**

I went to Emory University for my undergraduate studies and received a BA in Environmental Sciences and Creative Writing. From there, I received my graduate degree at Columbia University, where I received a Masters in Public Administration in Environmental Sciences and Policy.

#### **What are you up to now?**

I live in Atlanta, GA and am currently the Sustainability Director for Better Earth, a company seeking to address single-use plastic pollution by designing compostable alternatives for foodservice packaging.

#### **What do you plan to do with your future?**

No matter what I do, or where I am, you can bet I'll be advocating for pressing environmental issues and applying what I learned at School of the Arts to tell a more compelling story.



Provided

Savannah Miller has combined her aptitude for writing and science to work against one of the world's most pressing issues.

Provided



Former co-editors Graham Crolley and Suzanne Jackson pose on a trip to Provincetown.

**K. Chaney Long (08-09/09-10)****Where did you go to college? What did you study?**

I moved to New York and majored in English at Marymount Manhattan College. I also continued my school newspaper career there as the Layout Editor for The Monitor at Marymount during my Junior and Senior years. While I was in college, I took an internship at Starz which started me on the career path I'm on today.

**What are you up to now?**

I continued to live and work in New York City after college for a few years, but I'm now living in Los Angeles in the heart of Hollywood and working at Netflix. I started about three and a half years ago and worked on our Operations team. Recently, I moved to the Majors Studio Acquisition team as an Acquisition Coordinator. I work on the team that acquires film and television to launch on Netflix from larger studios. It's a very exciting time to work in this industry and for the company. When I'm not working, I'm usually out trying new restaurants (or going to my same favorites), hanging out with friends, or going for runs in my neighborhood.

**What is your favorite memory from your time editing the Applause?**

It's so hard to pinpoint my favorite memory from Applause. When I think back on highschool it's frequently memories of being in Dr. Cusatis' classrooms (there were two in my time because we moved into the current SOA campus my senior year). All of his students were familiar with the sight of me silently walking into his classroom at any given point of the day to work on the paper. Being the editor could be stressful, but it was incredibly important to me and I took a lot of pride in seeing the stacks of a freshly printed volume. I have a lot of great memories of happily being at my computer while formatting/editing a new page, joking around the memories of repeating "Is your column done yet?" in increasingly impatient tones to the original writer of Sass Attack makes me smile. He mentioned my "wrath" in one of his Sass Attack columns. I also had the opportunity to interview SOA's founding principal Rose Maree Myers. That interview was published in the 10th anniversary edition of Applause. That was something that I felt very proud and honored to do.

**Are there any lessons you learned while editing the paper that you apply to your current job/life?**

I learned how to wear a lot of hats in my time editing. That skill has proven time and time again to be extraordinarily helpful in my work life. Besides just editing, I spent a lot of time formatting, photographing, interviewing, working with the team that physically printed the papers, and writing. I went to the Applause archive to look at the volumes I worked on- I did a lot of writing! I had forgotten that. Being in charge of handling all of those responsibilities was an experience that not all students receive and I feel like it set me up for more success in the work world later. Another good lesson- When things became stressful, Dr. Cusatis also used to frequently say "Work smarter not harder." I think about that at least once a week when approaching a project.



**K. Chaney Long takes a break from finding the next *Stranger Things*.**

Provided

**Cait Brennan (05-06)****Where did you go to college? What did you study?**

I attended the Academy of Art University in San Francisco and graduated with a BFA in Illustration in 2011.

**What are you up to now?**

Now, I have a freelance illustration business where I create imagery for everything from children's books to board games to stationary and animation. Everyday is different and I've had the pleasure of working with some amazing clients this year- Disney in particular was a major dream come true!

**What are your plans for the future?**

I'm looking to initiate more of my own projects in the future. I wrote and illustrated a children's book that has been wasting away in my desk drawer for quite some time and I think 2020 is the year to get it out into the world!



**Cait Brennan's art skills attract customers like Disney.**

Provided

**Casey O'Neill (04-05)****Where did you go to college? What did you study?**

I went to college at the University of South Carolina. I majored in experimental psychology and minored in chemistry. After that I went to graduate school at the University of Colorado (Boulder) where I completed my PhD in Neuroscience.



**Dr. Casey O'Neill works as an assistant professor at MUSC.**

**What are you up to now?**

I am an assistant professor at the Medical University of South Carolina. I study learning, decision making, and cognition as well as how they are impacted by traits like creativity and resilience. I also review and advise students and faculty on scientific manuscripts and grants.

**What are your plans for the future?**

I have no idea, no plans I've ever made more than a year in advance have come to fruition. In fact, almost none of what my life currently looks like was planned by me. I recommend taking things as they come and not getting too tied to what you think "should" happen.

**Taylor Silver (00-01)****Where did you go to college? What did you study?**

I started college at College of Charleston without picking a major. I transferred to a small school in Western Massachusetts called Westfield State University, to be closer to my then-girlfriend. Luckily that worked out and we've been married for twelve years now. I received my bachelor degree in Regional Planning from Westfield in 2006. I then went to the University of South Carolina School of Law and got my J.D. in 2009.

**What are you up to now?**

My wife, Nancy, and I have a two-year-old named Dean and live in

Georgetown, SC. I still play the french horn (I was a band major) in a small community orchestra I helped organize. As for work, I am an attorney. I started my own general practice firm in late 2016 and I am also the municipal court judge for the small town of Andrews, SC.

#### **What are your plans for the future?**

Maintain happiness and continue to grapple with partially Cusatis-induced existential and nihilistic horror.

#### **What is your favorite memory from your time editing the *Applause*?**

Back when I was editing, we used to have two staff writers named Emily that were good friends and very opinionated. I used to let them write that were good friends and very opinionated. I used to let them write pretty much whatever they wanted as opinion columns / editorials. One of their group efforts caused the entire school to go into a near unanimous uproar about its subject content. Without getting into the subject matter, which I honestly cannot remember at this point, it seemed to offend nearly everybody. The day that issue was distributed, I was stopped in the hall over and over again, and was grilled by nearly everyone on the as to how I could allow it to be printed. I answered everyone with the same general response - "Its opinion. Write in to the paper and I'll be happy to print rebuttals. Plus, it got you to read the paper, right?" Needless to say, I recall the following issue having pages of printed rebuttals. I was proud that the paper was being used to help facilitate discussion.

#### **Are there any lessons you learned while editing the paper that you apply to your current job/life?**

Selling advertising space made me realize I was not cut out to be a salesman; last minute, frantic completion of the layout ahead of the deadline for printing helped me learn how to stay calm under pressure; but most importantly, writing articles and editing others' writing greatly increased my vocabulary, grammar, and the speed in which I wrote. The writing skills I honed while with the paper was crucial to my success in law school, including earning my way onto the Student Editorial Board of the Real Property, Trust and Estate Law Journal, and they continue be of vital importance to my career.

### **Lucy Hunter (06-07/07-08)**

#### **Where did you go to college? What did you study?**

I graduated from Barnard College in 2012 with a degree in art history. Attending a women's college enabled me to grow academically and to really find my voice. (That said, Dr. Cusatis would agree I had plenty of strong opinions in high school, too!)

#### **What are you up to now?**

Right now I am hustling to finish the second chapter of my doctoral dissertation! After finishing undergrad I entered Yale University's PhD program in art history. Most people take 7 or 8 years to finish the dissertation. It's a slog but I'm happy! Outside of work, I got married in 2016 and live in Brooklyn with my husband.

#### **What do you plan to do with your future?**

Excellent question, but I don't know the answer! Finishing the PhD in 2021 is my major goal. I may go on the "job market" for university teaching positions, or I may focus more intensively on writing projects outside of academia.



Lucy is currently a PhD candidate at Yale.

#### **What is your favorite memory from your time editing *Applause*?**

I loved the crunch to finish a paper on time. I think a lot of journalists and writers are motivated by deadlines—it's energizing to have to race against the clock!

#### **Are there any lessons you learned while editing the paper that you apply to your current job/life?**

Editing the school newspaper is a great way to model productive working relationships with your peers. I learned how to give feedback to writers without being unnecessarily critical, and to be very clear when communicating deadlines and expectations. Respect, courtesy, and clarity are essential components of teamwork, whether in school or the workplace.

## **A Letter from your Student Body President**

Happy Holidays, SOA!

The student council has been hard at work planning the BEST second semester for you. The representatives this year are so innovative and have generated such amazing ideas. No spoilers, because proposals are being drafted, but there's a lot to be excited for.

On a personal note, as this year draws to a close, I've been thinking about all of the "lasts" I've experienced. 2019 was the last year of my childhood, my last full year of high school, my last guaranteed year at home. It's my last full year at SOA, which is hard to get my head around since I've been here since 7th



grade! I am definitely feeling a lot of nostalgia, and a drive to appreciate the familiar while I still have it. However, with all of these "lasts" comes the idea of legacy, and leaving something behind. While part of me wants to embrace the status quo since I'll miss it so much, I know I have to shake things up, because the spring of 2020 is also my last chance to positively impact the school that's become a second home to me.

With that in mind, I've been working on a proposal of my own: an audition workshop for underprivileged 5th graders from Title I schools, so that they have the same shot at attending our great school as kids who have benefited from private lessons and coaches. I believe this workshop can increase the diversity at SOA and create a community that accurately reflects Charleston County.

I'm still trying to work out the logistics, and so I'd love any input from you, the student body! Student Council has discussed implementing a Suggestion Box somewhere in the school so your voices can be heard, and as always feel free to message us on Instagram @soa\_stuco. Have a wonderful Winter Break!

Your prez,  
Maya Green

## Winter Sports

coverage by Peyton Smalls and Katie Forrester

*With the winter season here, it brings in a new set of students who can show off their talents outside of the arts atmosphere and into the athletic field. Before the introduction of this season's sports, we would like to congratulate Carson Archie on placing fifth in the region for the regional cross country meet. This means that Carson went on to compete in the state meet.*

**Kyla Conyers** plays basketball for R.B. Stall High School. She began playing recreational basketball when she was just six years old. She then played in the summer league until seventh grade, when she was given the opportunity to play with R.B. Stall Women's Basketball. Though she sometimes struggles to juggle basketball and band and other school work during the winter, it helps to have the solid support of her family. Kyla's mother always taught her to manage her time well, and that school work should always come first.

While her coaches know the players take pride in their athlete status, school work and grades are crucial to getting the privilege to play. While she loves basketball, Kyla says she knows her grades are most important.

**Emory King** is a 9th grade Creative Writer who is stepping outside of the traditional lowcountry sport boundaries. From October to April, she plays ice hockey for the Bishop England-Porter Gaud-Hanahan United High School, also known as the BEPGH, which is three schools as one team. Her home school does not have a hockey team, so she has to enter a player pool and be selected to play for the team. She has also played for lady hockey teams such as Jr. Stingrays U14 travel team and Lady Rush.

Since she started playing hockey at age nine, the quest to find balance between school and sports has been a battle. She practices with BEPGH every Monday night, with the Stingrays practice every Tuesday, with Lady Rush in Charlotte every other weekend, and school games every Friday night. With all that time in the car, her laptop is her best friend. That is where most of her studying and homework gets done. All of this running around adds up, so Emory does whatever she can to try and contribute to the high costs by pet sitting and house sitting in her neighborhood.

Despite all of the crazy schedules, her true passion for hockey and pure love of being on the ice and being in control keeps her going. The feelings of being "strong and powerful" contributes to her desire to prove to herself and everyone else that she belongs on the ice; those feelings drive her to be better. Amongst these feelings lie the stereotypes that Emory knows are completely false like "girls can't play hockey." Emory feels that the 2008 Winter Olympics strongly prove otherwise, as the United States Women's team brought home the gold, and argues that women such as Kendall Conye and the Women's National Hockey League are actually dominating the game. She wishes for more representation in the sport of hockey, particularly in co-ed teams and in the southern



**Emory King puts her game face on.**

region of the United States, where the sport is less popular. However, negative comments about being a girl on a competitive hockey team simply motivate her to do better. Her main goal for the season is to continue to improve her skills overall, as she believes she will never stop learning or growing with the sport. She also strives to stay out of the penalty box as much as possible.

## Applause sponsors SOA's Poetry Out Loud Competition

by Luke Shaw

SOA hosted the annual Poetry Out Loud competition on December 11 in the Media Center. Poetry Out Loud is a recitation contest that takes place in high schools across the nation and starts with a class level competition.

Out of nine contestants, **Samantha Clarke**, 12th grade, won 3rd reciting "Spring" by

Gerald Manley Hopkins and "I Am Learning To Abandon the World" by Linda Pastan; **Davis Varnado**, 11th grade, won 2nd reciting "Windigo" by Louise Erdrich and "They Flee From Me" by Sir Thomas Wyatt, and **Carson Stehling**, 12th grade, won 1st after reciting "Eve Revisited" by Alison Hawthorne Deming and "Not for That City" by Charlotte Mew. From here, Carson will go on to the regional contest at College of Charleston on Sunday, January 26th. Congratulations to all that competed and good luck to Carson!

## Creative Writing Celebrates Another Successful Wordfest

by Logan Baker

On Saturday, November 16, the Creative Writing department hosted its annual Wordfest reading at Barnes and Noble in Mt. Pleasant. With grades six through twelve participating, the event showcased the scripts, poems, flash fiction, essays, and more that Creative Writers have been working on this semester.

For many sixth graders, this was their first time reading their own work in a public setting, so it can be a nerve-racking process, but they know it's important to develop performance skills and gain confidence in public speaking, particularly in an art form that is so often focused on solitary work and reflection. By the time Creative Writers are seniors, they're reading excerpts from their theses, a culmination of all their work throughout the years.



**The participants each brought unique strengths to the competition.**



**Junior Creative Writer Syncere Washington shares her poetry.**

## Mental Health and the Holidays

by Logan Baker

With the onset of winter weather and the holidays in full swing, it can be hard to maintain good mental health and positive habits. In addition to regular school stress, Seasonal Affective Disorder, or SAD, can come into effect, meaning “grief and sadness can be even more pronounced during the holiday months,” explains SOA Nurse Nancy O’Donoghue. “Decreases in sunlight and temperature, anniversary grief, and schedule changes” can all make coping more difficult, even as students want to be alert and present during holiday events with family and friends. As she puts it, “trying to feel joyful is harder when you are struggling.”

If students feel like they’re struggling, they can seek help from a trusted adult or a guidance counselor, clinic nurse, student specialist, or administrator here at SOA. This year, students can also get referrals to Megan Kopsick, a Department of Mental Health Counselor who is our on-campus therapist, able to provide private counseling during the school day.

As far as building healthy habits goes, Nurse O’Donoghue recommends tools like exercise, sleeping well, and good nutrition as well as trying apps like CALM to “listen to guided meditation when you notice a wave of anxiety coming on.” She also stressed the importance of constantly evaluating and building upon your coping skills: “We are not born knowing how to deal with stressful events and everyone has different ways of coping. Stay mindful of what causes you to feel uneasy and avoid those triggers if possible.” Nurse O’Donoghue believes that learning how to manage mental health is “just like mastering your art—it takes practice, determination and most importantly, guidance from someone who knows how to help you.” As we go into the new year, look

inward and assess your mental health and school-life balance. If you or a friend are having trouble, don’t hesitate to reach out.

## High School Creative Writers Meet Joyce Carol Oates

by Clara Collins

On the November 9, the high school creative writers attended acclaimed writer Joyce Carol Oates’ discussion at the third 2019 Charleston to Charleston Literary Festival, which is the product of a partnership between the Charleston Literary Society and the Charleston Trust, located in Firle, England.

Oates was interviewed by Goeffrey Harpham, a philosophy professor at Duke, and spoke on a wide range of topics, from her two most recent novels to her enjoyment of boxing. She also touched on the greater themes present in her impressive body of work and described her writing process, presenting a full picture of her as an artist.

Tickets were provided for the entire creative writing program, with an exciting surprise included: students were awarded the opportunity to meet with Oates after her talk and personally ask her a few questions. She commended the students on the quality of the questions asked and ended the night by impressing upon them the importance of young writers.



The esteemed novelist answered questions about her work and writing process at the Dock Street Theatre.

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## Creative Writing Freshman Publishes Debut Novel

*Maya Cline sat down with Ella Fritz to discuss her first book.*

### Maya Cline: What inspired you to write a book?

**Ella Fritz:** I wrote my first novel when I was just nine years old, and did not publish it, but held it in my heart deeply, considering it my first piece of work in literature. I've loved reading and writing and the power of stories ever since I was little, and during these past few years I was aching to finally create a story that the whole community can read. After winning a Gold Medal for the Scholastic Art and Writing award and listening to Tina Fey's speech at Carnegie Hall, I launched myself back into finishing my story, inspired by her accomplishments and my own. I knew that I truly had a lot to say, and realized that I didn't have to wait to bring my work to the table. The power of youth has been America's biggest ally lately, and I am more than willing to help continue that.

### MC: Tell us a little about your novel.

**EF:** My novel is about a young woman named Delila Chapel, living in



Provided

**Fritz has been working on this book during her time as an SOA student and believes this to be the first of many.**

a small and close-minded country town in the 80's. When realizing she is pregnant and unmarried, this revelation leads her to discover who her family, her new husband, and the rest of the world around her sees women and religion. Delila is persistent on keeping dignity to her name, and the novel follows her life, and her own redemption, when she realizes what is and what isn't important in her existence.

### MC: What was the novel writing process like? How did you balance the novel work with your school obligations?

**EF:** I started writing this book in middle school, took a break and picked up a couple of novels, and then wrote the rest of the book during the summer. The story process for me was fun and well worth creating a tale about the things that I care about, but the editing of the book, the formatting of the cover and its pages, and checking for grammatical errors was something that I was having to balance on top of school, work, and being an actor. Without the use of taking my time and reading other's work to gain inspiration, I'm not sure if I could've handled the stress. But I reached for opportunity in the best ways that I could, to be able to get this book out. The others around me supported me during this time, and I was then able to put Delila Chapel's life on the pages.

### MC: How have you been able to self-publish and broadcast your book?

I had a few editors look over the book, and a cover designer, **Neo James**, who is a ninth grade visual artist at SOA. When we were around eleven in elementary, I would make stories for him that he would illustrate for fun. We both loved what we did, even when we were small. Stepping back now and realizing what we have accomplished together already is crazy. By using social media, local stores, the use of a website created by Neo, and posters, I have been able to get the word out, and I am so excited where this novel may bring me at just fifteen years old.

## SOA Slang

After listening to many students' conversations at SOA, and asking for suggestions, we have concluded that the high school students are not only creative when it comes to arts, but also in their everyday word choice. By keeping our ears open, we have compiled the following glossary of slang terms used by our students: (Students are welcome to submit new terms for this feature.) Thanks to Ira LaRoache for the example sentences.

- Bunk:** not pleasing or desirable. *i.e. That CD is bunk.*
- Cholo:** unappealing person. *i.e. She'd have more friends if she wasn't such a cholo.*
- Dip** (1) a realization; a sign of disappointment. *i.e. Aw dip, someone stole my book.* (2) a person lacking in the mind. *i.e. That cheerleader is such a dip.* (3) to flee. *i.e. The cops are comin'; we better dip.*
- Kickin':** an extreme sign of approval or disapproval. *i.e. Those tunes are kickin'.* (2) to lounge. *i.e. We're kickin' it at my house.*
- Lay the smack down:** (1) to insult someone in defense. *i.e. Imma tell Jay off and lay the smack down on him.* (2) to be successful in flirting with someone of the opposite sex. *i.e. Imma lay the smack down on the honey wid da red jacket on.*
- Peeps:** companions or people that one associates with. *i.e. Me and my peeps are going to the movies.*
- Scruff:** to engage in a violent act of physical conflict; to fight. *i.e. If you don't wanna scruff, you better get off my girl.*
- Sweet:** an admirable sign of approval. *i.e. That Lexus GS400 is sweet.*
- Triflin':** causing difficulties between other people. *i.e. She's always triflin'.*
- Tru Holla:** agreement; signifying anything that pleases you. *i.e. Person A: "That girl is bunk." Person B: "Tru Holla."*

Compiled by: Tracy Cantwell & Sohayla Roudsari

## SOA Slang Then and Now

by Charlie Hastings

To the left is list of slang terms from the December 1999 issue of *Applause*. Below are some current SOA slang terms.

- 1.OK Boomer-** 1) term meant to demean the opinions of baby boomers as old-fashioned *i.e. Boomer: Darn kids get off my lawn!*  
*Kid: Ok Boomer.*
- 2. On the prowl-** 1) Actively looking for a partner in an aggressive way *i.e. Guy 1: What's Jason doing? He's dated 4 girls in 2 weeks!*  
*Guy 2: Man is on the prowl.*
- 3. Bruv-** 1) synonym for bruh or bro. *i.e. Wassup bruv, how are you feeling?*
- 4. Cancelled-** 1) Shunned *i.e. Aubrey is acting up, she's cancelled* 2) undesirable, weird *i.e. Checkered pants are cancelled in 2020*
- 5. Gucci-** 1) great, okay, awesome *i.e. Mom: Honey why are you crying? Teenager: No reason it's all gucci.*
- 6. Electric-** 1) extremely cool or awesome, electrifying *i.e. Yo, the Yung Gravy concert was totally electric!*
- 7. Ghost-** to ignore someone on social media until they stop messaging you *i.e. I thought the date went well, but then he ghosted me.*
- 8. F in the chat-** 1) to pay respects to something or someone *i.e. Let's get a f in the chat for Tedward, the girl he asked out pretended not to hear him.*
- 9. Vibes-** the feelings or atmosphere *i.e. The vibes were off with that biology test.*
- 10. Soft girl/boy-** 1) similar to an e-girl/boy, a person who openly expresses her/his soft and cute side to be different *i.e. omg Julie is so in touch with her emotions, she's such a soft girl* 2) Person who outwardly expresses emotion and is innocent *i.e. OwO, she's such a baby, a soft girl.*



# Looking Back at

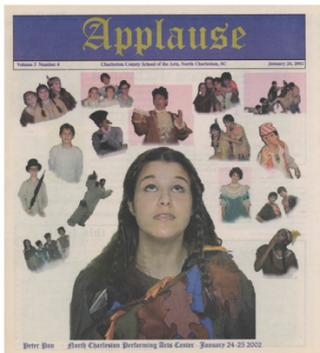


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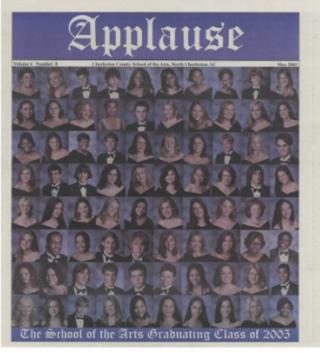




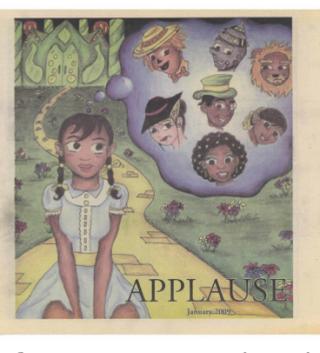
Applause publishes its first issue, twelve black and white pages, in December 1999.



The January 2002 issue celebrates SOA's production of Peter Pan, which features actress-turned-educator Rose Maree Myers, SOA's founder, as Mrs. Darling.



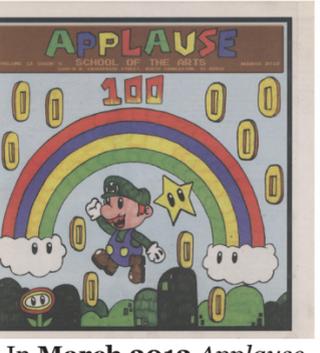
In May 2005 Applause publishes its first 48-page graduation issue, which will eventually increase to 64 full-color pages for subsequent graduating classes.



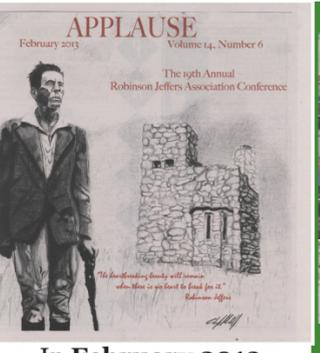
The January 2009 issue is devoted to SOA's production of The Wiz.



In April 2010 Applause sponsors the Dedication Ceremony of the Rose Maree Myers Theater, which features performances by Grammy nominee and former SOA band instructor Charlton Singleton and hip-hop violinist Daniel D (Class of '08), as well as tributes by Mayor Summey and Mayor Riley and a keynote address from National Book Award Winner Colum McCann.



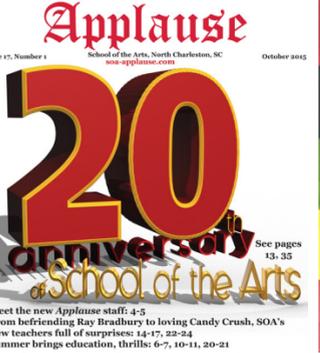
In March 2012 Applause publishes its 100th issue. The staff invited submissions from student artists for the cover, and Megan Dawson's work was chosen as the winner.



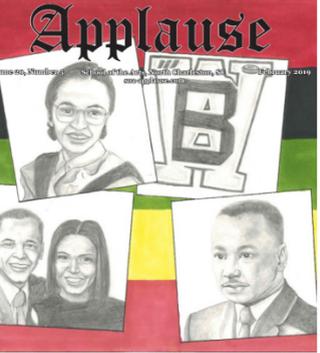
In February 2013 Applause, with the support of new principal, Shannon Cook, sponsors a three-day international poetry conference devoted to the work of American poet Robinson Jeffers, featuring a night of arts performances. The conference features a keynote address by poet Nikki Finney. Two SOA students are among the international scholars who present papers.



The December 2014 issue celebrates the 15th Anniversary of Applause and includes dozens of features from its new digital archive housed at www.soa-applause.com.



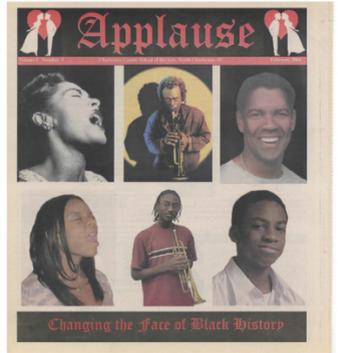
The October 2015 issue of Applause commemorates SOA's 20th anniversary. The school opened its doors in August 1995 under the leadership of Rose Maree Myers.



The February 2019 Applause celebrates Black History Month and includes an in-depth feature on John Wilson, the star quarterback for Bonds-Wilson High School who earned a full scholarship to SC State, where he was among the civil rights protesters shot at (three fatally) by law enforcement officers during the Orangeburg Massacre of 1968.

# Timeline: Twenty Years of Applause in Twenty Covers

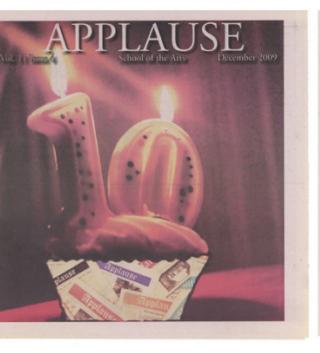
In February 2004 Applause publishes its first of many Black History Month issues. The cover features Robbie Madison (Band) and Matt Bostick (Theatre), who have both gone on to highly successful careers in the arts, Robbie as a jazz and gospel vocalist and multi-instrumentalist and Matt as rapper Matt Monday.



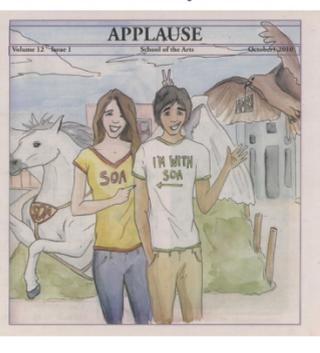
The January 2006 Applause celebrates SOA's production of Big River.



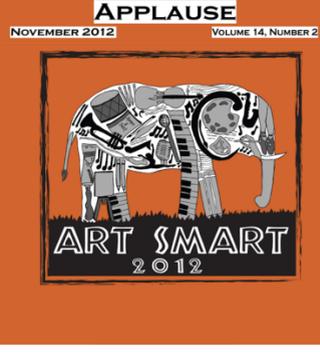
Applause publishes its 10th anniversary issue in December 2009.



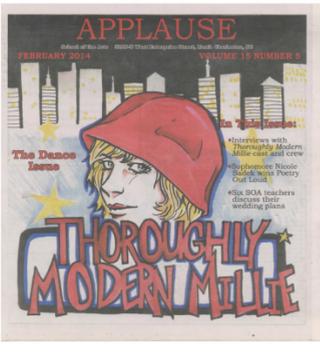
The October 2010 issue welcomes Academic Magnet High School to the Bonds Wilson Campus to join SOA, who moved in at the start of the second half of the 2009-10 school year.



The November 2012 issue is dedicated to the final Art Smart, SOA's annual middle school showcase, which Applause supported with a full issue every fall beginning in 2002.



The February 2014 Applause is dedicated to SOA's production of Thoroughly Modern Millie.



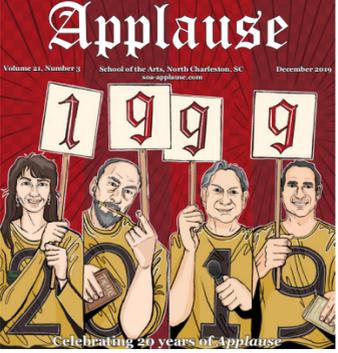
In April 2015, as part of National Poetry Month, Applause and the SOA Creative Writing Department co-sponsor a visit by poet Richard Blanco, who had read his poem "One Today" at the 2012 inauguration ceremony of President Barack Obama. The event also features South Carolina Poet Laureate Marjory Wentworth, who reads the poem she was not permitted to read at the inauguration ceremony of Governor Nikki Haley, "One River, One Boat," which she dedicates to Walter Scott.



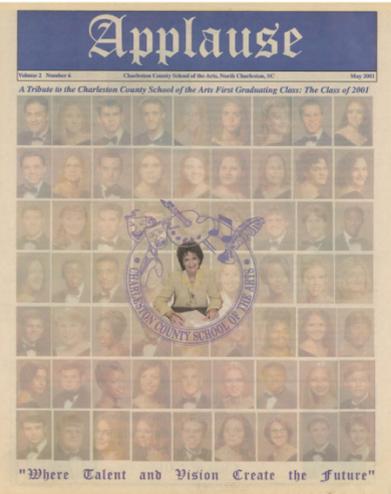
In April 2018 Applause publishes its first Fashion Show Issue, to celebrate this colossal annual event sponsored by SOA's newest major. In May, Applause sponsors "American Pie: A Tribute to Early Rock 'n' Roll," the third in a series of annual concerts performed with AMHS, that has become its own signature event and features the presentation of the Rose Maree Myers Scholarship.



In December 2019 Applause publishes its full-color 20th Anniversary issue under the leadership of second year editor-in-chief, Maya Cline, Class of 2020.



Applause adds color photos to the cover and centerfold as it commemorates the first graduating class in its May 2001 issue.



## Influential Artists: Strings

by Luke Shaw

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

### Dr. Christopher Selby: Doris Fukawa

**Luke Shaw:** When and how did you first encounter the work of Doris Fukawa?

**Dr. Christopher Selby:** I first met Doris at a summer camp at the San Francisco Conservatory. She was a violinist who was also the camp director, and she allowed me to sit in her string orchestra, even though I had only been playing the violin for six months.

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

**CS:** I was immediately drawn to her style of teaching, and the way that she spoke to her students and expected greatness from them.

**LS:** Is there a certain technique that she used that contributes to your admiration?

**CS:** Doris spoke to every student, even the youngest kids, the same way she spoke to her adult colleagues. In doing so, she made her students feel important and encouraged them to do their best.

**LS:** In what ways has she inspired your own work?

**CS:** I continue to strive to be the best music teacher I can be, and I do my best to approach my students with the highest level of professionalism.

**LS:** What do you think people can learn from the work of this artist or her as a person?

**CS:** I expect my students to give their best effort and attention when performing in our orchestras. There is no such thing as getting a perfect score on a performance or in any art form. The arts teach us that our best is all that there is, and there

will always be more to learn.

### Jake Hoch: Herbert Von Karajan

**Luke Shaw:** When and how did you first encounter the work of Karajan?

**Jake Hoch:** I first found Karajan's recordings on Youtube a few years

ago before I paid any attention to the I would always watch the versions of with his face in the thumbnail. It was only later that I learned who was, both as a conductor and a person.

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

**JH:** I always found his recordings to be very musical, and something very underrated in classical music, but the music videos were also very musical and artistic. I didn't know at the time, but Karajan directed all of the music videos as well as conducted.

**LS:** Is there a certain technique that he uses that contributes to your admiration?

**JH:** He conducted all his concerts with his eyes closed the whole time. On one hand it's very impressive as it means he couldn't look at a score and so had to do every concert memorized, but it is also sort of strange as it eliminated all visual communication between him and the orchestra.

**LS:** What are your favorite works by Karajan?

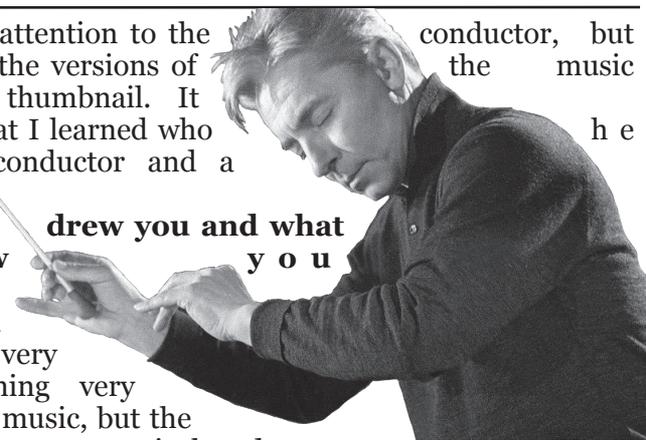
**JH:** I really enjoy his interpretation of Mahler. Karajan would sometimes take tempos on the slower side for the sake of sound quality, but Mahler's music is so complicated that I don't mind.

**LS:** In what ways has he inspired your own work?

**JH:** Karajan would take great care to get the sound he wanted out of the orchestra. This often wouldn't sound appropriate by current musical thinking, as he filtered music through his artistic lens, making his music more stylistically homogeneous than would be expected today. I don't put all my music through his lens, but I do try to at least try to have an artistic vision about all aspects of playing and I try to have the greatest control over my sound, like he would over his orchestras.

**LS:** What do you think people can learn from the work of Karjan

**JH:** I think the biggest thing to be learned from Karajan would be to be disciplined about your art. He felt so passionately about music that he basically gave his whole life to music, which I can't really say is advisable, but it has shown me that the best way to enjoy something you are passionate about is to at least have some discipline about it.



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## STUDENT WORK

### Skip Step Two

Ramie Thompson, 11th grade

#### One— Church

Usually unavoidable  
unless sick or otherwise unavailable.  
A choice is presented,  
a church for each parent.  
Hasn't led to any problems,  
only distress. Keep in mind  
when overthinking everything else.

#### Two— Panic

It's really that simple.  
Notice your breathing  
and lose control. The air remains  
stubborn, holding itself higher  
just so you can't breathe it in.  
Throat closed up while  
others open theirs  
and sing. Find a way  
to run even if you mirror  
an animal learning  
to walk. Escape  
the eyes.

#### Three— Breathe

Hide in an empty room  
with air that wants to save you.  
If you can't, imagine  
you are somewhere else.  
You know anywhere would be  
better. It's easier without people  
watching your lungs expand  
and contract while you fight  
to lift an invisible weight off your chest.  
Imagine the gas station bathroom  
that smells like children's chapstick,  
cherry and comforting despite  
the water slicked floors. That air  
you could breathe.

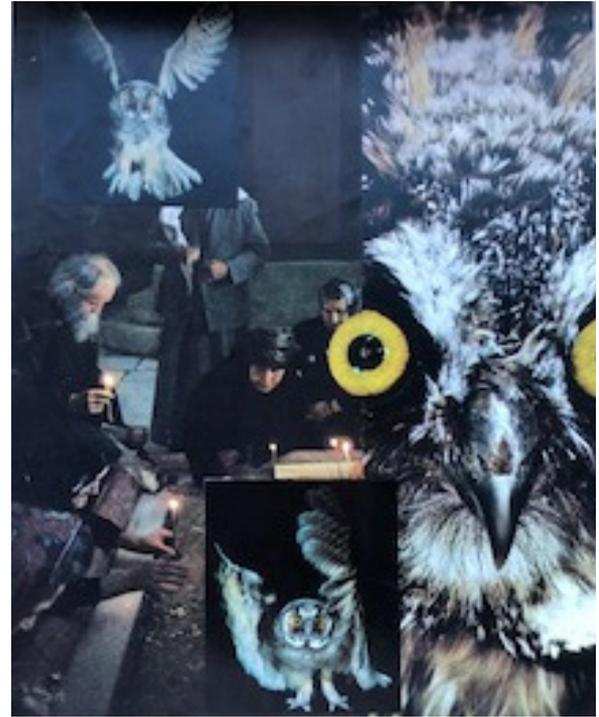
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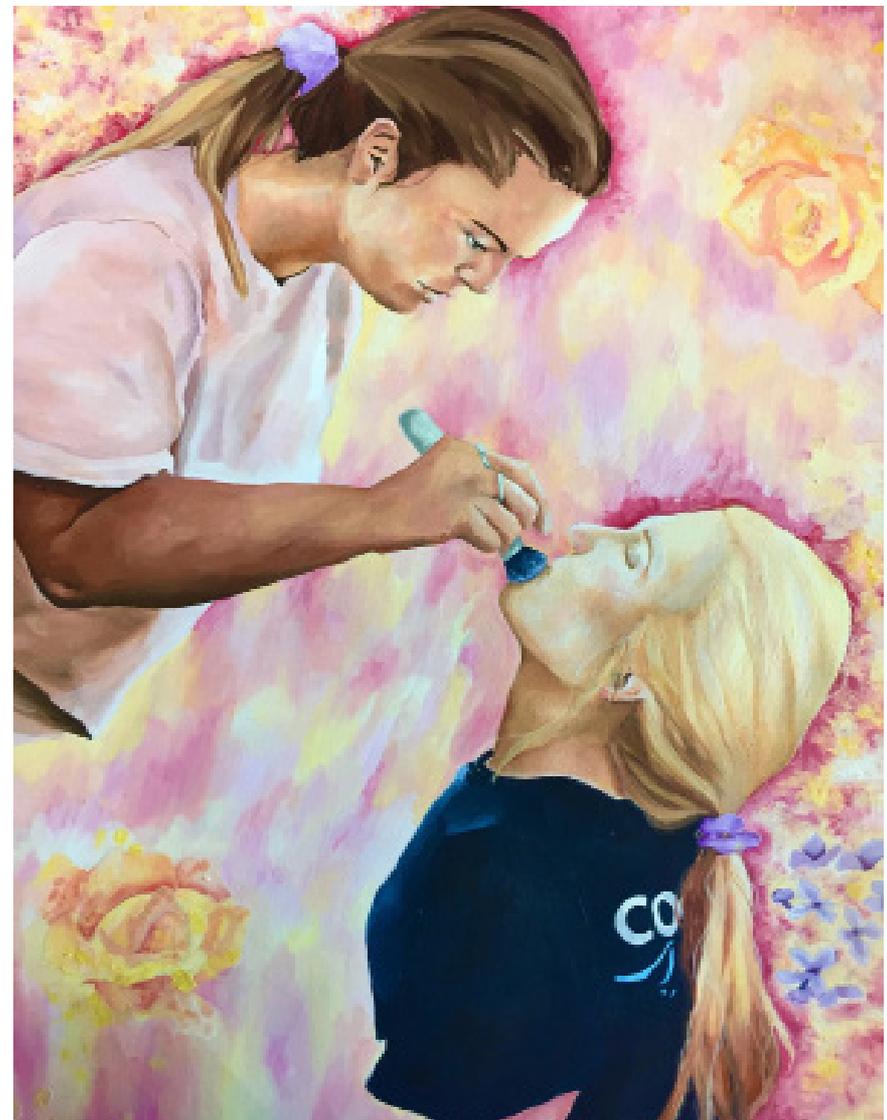
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above: Ella Waldron-Noren, 11th // below: Emma Heesen, 12th



## College Review: Warren Wilson College

by Leo Cantrell

"We believe the world needs curiosity." This is the motto of small mountain college Warren Wilson. They're located in Swannanoa, North Carolina; it's a short drive from downtown Asheville, traveling on the Blue Ridge Parkway. It's between 4 and 5 hours from Charleston. The Swannanoa River runs directly through the campus; you can take a dip anytime.

Why is WWC different than any other liberal arts college? Their work ethic. Students work on campus, on one of about seventy-five crews. For example, the farm crew manages the farm: taking care of the pigs, chickens, cows, all the farm equipment, the chores, and one special dairy cow named Bell Pepper. The herb crew grows (you guessed it) herbs, then makes them into soaps, lip balms, teas, and more. The blacksmithing crew welds metal both for art and for around campus. Freshmen work 10 hours per week, sophomores work 15, and 20 for juniors and seniors. The money you make on your crew goes toward your tuition. Pretty epic.

95% of Warren Wilson students live on campus. There are several dorm options; all freshmen, all male, all female, LGBT, suites vs singular dorms, and the EcoDorm. The EcoDorm is platinum LEED certified. "EcoDorm is a great option for students who are seeking to minimize their environmental impact," cites the WWC website. There are compostable toilets, a vegetable garden, and more.



**Bell Pepper the dairy cow, a campus staple.**

this; I attended Discovery Day on October 25 and toured the campus. It was divine. The air is crisp and the leaves are crunchy.

25% of the food in the Gladfelter dining hall is locally grown and made. Everything is sustainably sourced. The Cowpie Cafe is a vegan option, located down the hall from the Campus Store. The Sage Cafe is a bakery/coffee shop found in the Sunderland freshman residence hall. On average, they only use about half a garbage bag's worth of trash each MONTH. HALF A BAG!!!! Starbucks could NEVER. Warren Wilson's compost game is the best I've ever seen, with compost in every dining area. There are recycling options everywhere you look as well.

The library is quiet and dimly lit, but in the most calming way. There are two stress relief guinea pigs to cuddle when you're tense about your grades or a test. There are computer stations and about 100,000 books to browse/study.



**Warren Wilson prides itself on its eco-friendly buildings and community service.**

The campus stretches 1,135 acres and there are 44 majors. There's even a Create-Your-Own-Major option for those who want to customize. You don't even have to declare your major until sophomore year.

The scenery is out of this world. There's a swing overlooking the Blue Ridge Mountains; all the trees are various shades of yellow, orange, and red in autumn; there's 25 miles of trails to hike on campus. In the woods, there lies the Meditation Hut, designed and built completely by students. I can attest to all of

Merit-based scholarships are between \$7,000 and \$18,000 per year. Now that I've seen the light, all other colleges are just a bit more wack in my eyes.

All I'm gonna say is, when December 15 rolls around, I better be getting that Early Decision acceptance letter.




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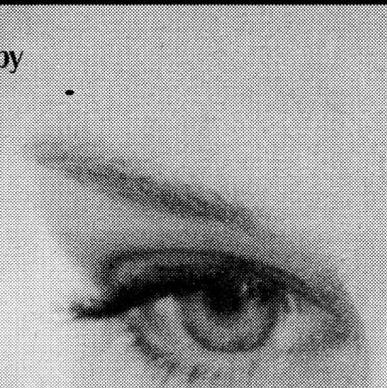
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## Restaurant Review: Table for Two

by Bojena Sabin and Sam Clarke

Restaurant: Xiao Bao Biscuit  
Where: Downtown  
Rating: 10 saucy dumplings out of 10

If Xiao Bao is anything, it's family style food made relevant to the younger generations. It's a place meant for community gatherings, for hanging out with your friends and sharing a hot meal. The website describes the vibe as food from around Asia (with each dishes' country of origin labeled) inspired by very cool grandmothers everywhere. The fusion of countries lends itself perfectly to allowing people to sample a wide variety of cuisines in an authentic way, honoring, rather than watering down the original recipes. The dishes are unapologetically robust in their flavors, the playlist is terrific, and most importantly the atmosphere is just wonderfully fun (for lack of a better term). Located on Spring Street, it manages to mix homestyle dishes with hot pink christmas lights, and an exterior decorated with succulents. I remember listening to "Oblivion" by Grimes over the speaker, devouring a runny egg with red chopsticks, and just thinking that this was a spot so perfect for Downtown Charleston. The last part of the name "Biscuit" is even an homage to the South, and the idea of "reconnecting to...comfort food from our childhoods," even if raw fish and dumplings were not frequent dishes of your childhood.

**Dumplings:** This familiar classic did not disappoint. The doughy crescents were filled with a very flavorful pork, and doused heavily in a soy/sesame sauce. The texture was just doughy enough to fulfil that comfort food expectation without disguising the inside. The size of the dumplings made it so you and your dinner partner could have two, and each bring one back to share with your mom. Overall the dumplings are an excellent and safe pairing with just about anything on the menu.

**Chirashi:** Much like a poke bowl, this Japanese dish had a base of sticky white rice, and was topped with tuna, avocado, sweet & spicy mayo, and was garnished with sesame seeds and seaweed. However— there was one item in the dish that had us scratching our heads. With the look of tofu, the texture of a custard, and a slight hue of yellow, the mystery could only be solved by inquiring the waitress. "Tomago," she said. A sort of "egg custard," that basically serves the same purpose of a soft tofu in being a vehicle for

flavor. This cold dish was a great palate cleanser to compliment the hearty entree and appetizer.

**Okonomiyaki (Cabbage Pancake):** Don't get me wrong, the term "cabbage pancake" wasn't appealing to me either, because I am apparently five years old and still avoid vegetables, but there is something about this dish that just hits different. The runny, sunny side up egg, the crispy cabbage, and the sweet okonomiyaki sauce drizzled on top all manage to turn a dish invented to get rid of leftovers into a divine balance of textures and flavors. Hailing from Japan, particularly farms in Japan where this is a common meal, it's been called "Japanese pizza" here in America, most likely due to the numerous topping options. At Xiao Bao, they offer a fried egg (if I haven't mentioned that enough), pork candy, and katsuobushi (salty, dried fish). Personally, I recommend all three, but if you're looking for a vegetarian or vegan option, Xiao Bao offers that too!



The cabbage pancake surpassed all expectations.

Xiao Bao Biscuit was definitely a great experience inside and out. Everything from the hip atmosphere, to the delicious, traditional cuisine was thoroughly enjoyable. This is the perfect setting for a nice dinner date, a family gathering, or just a friendly hangout.

## Movie Review: Reel Talk- *Lady and the Tramp (2019)*

by Clara Collins and Logan Baker

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*).

**Clara's Take:** Did *Lady and the Tramp* really need to be adapted into a live-action movie? No, of course not. Neither did the hundred other movies they've already adapted and the thousands more to come. And this is a particularly bad attempt, so smug in its mediocrity that they've barely changed the plot from the original movie, or even tried to find a

reason for its existence.

The live action detracts from the charm in every way conceivable; I know I'm not a dog, but the villains (evil dog catchers and cat-loving aunts) feel goofy when played by real people, killing any sense of conflict. The only thing actually scary here is the dogs themselves, especially the scenes where they flirt, which got a bigger reaction out of me than *Midsommar*. The limits of using dog actors is also apparent in "action" scenes, as all the dogs can really do is run and bark, which is more than I can say about Robert DeNiro's attempts at a comedy career, but boring after more than a few seconds. But really, the most annoying thing is that millions of people will watch this no matter how uncreative, and Disney knows it.

In a truly astonishing act of self-importance, Disney+ calls this both a "timeless re-telling" and "one of the greatest love stories ever told" on their site. Funny, I was thinking more along the lines of "shameless cash grab" and "wasn't *Frozen 2* enough for you?"

**Logan's Take:** I pretty much agree with Clara's assessment here; so much of the artistry and perspective is lost when live-action movies are adapted from animation. It's just impossible to have realistic-looking dogs convey as much expression and personality. Seeing actual dogs fall in love with the same tropes often used on human characters was a little strange, but the movie still stayed true to the original, veering off in the right places to remove some of the problematic elements.

I do have to say that I liked the setting, with the New Orleans vibes coming through in the architecture and jazzy soundtrack (Janelle Monáe's "He's a Tramp" was a good moment). The costume design, for the humans and at least one dog, was a nice window into the time period and added a little whimsical touch, even though it could have been more over-the-top for a Disney movie.

For me, watching real people play the human characters in this movie was kind of bizarrely funny and adds a new layer to the spaghetti scene, where the restaurant workers create a candle-lit dinner for two stray dogs and then serenade their blossoming love. Kinda relatable. Both suspending your disbelief and leaning into the absurdity of the situation can make this movie really enjoyable. Another plus to this movie is that because of it, I read a review where Lady was called "an upper-middle-class American cocker spaniel," which was another surreal dollop on top. So I mean, it's a fine movie, it's just nothing new.



**June 2000: What are you doing for summer vacation?**

**Blair James:** I'm applying for a job at Chuck E Cheeses to be a character, or I'll be working as a counselor at a camp.



**December 2002: If Mr. Davis were Santa Claus what would you want for Christmas?**

**Jenny Parnow:** A new dress code that doesn't require us to dress like nuns or perhaps a sleigh ride.



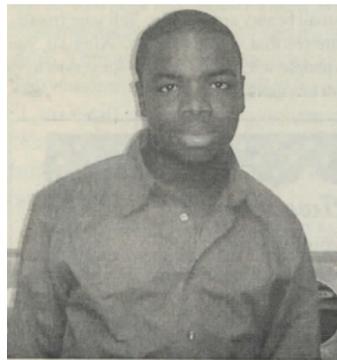
**December 2005: Who is your favorite literary character and why?**

**Graylond Murdock:** The grinch because he's mean and green.



**December 2008: What would be your perfect Holiday gift?**

**Walker Townsend:** Rock band 2.



**February 2001: What do you resolve to do in 2001?**

**Russel Patterson:** I didn't make any resolutions this year because I figured why mess with perfection?



**January 2004: What is something interesting about you that most people don't know?**

**Dana Gilmore:** I like the smell of horse



**November 2006: What is your most disastrous Thanksgiving memory?**

**Jonathan Warren:** The time when someone at the table told a funny joke and milk shot out of my nose and hit my Grandmother in the forehead.

## Questions of the Month



**December 2001: What do you want for Christmas?**

**Dan Earnst:** I'm wetting the bed every night in anticipation of some leather pants so I can look like Jim Morrison.



**March 2005: If you could add a word to the dictionary, what would it be?**

**Kathleen Smith:** Liger because it's the greatest animal ever. It's a mix between a lion and a tiger.



**October 2007: What is your biggest fear?**  
**Francisco Figueroa:** Failing high school.

Compiled by Sophia  
Leonardi

## 20 Best Responses for 20 Years



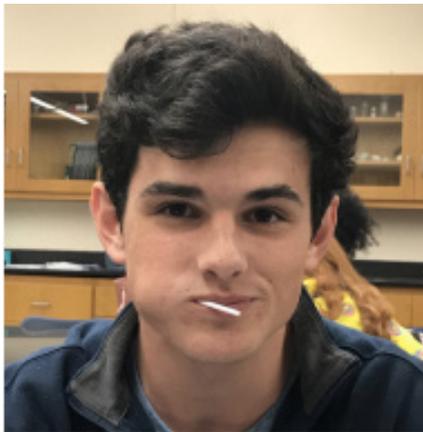
**December 2011: If you could have any superpower, what would it be?**

**Malik Rivers:** To make copies of me so that I can get them to do my chores.



**November 2014: What are you least thankful for?**

**Luke Shaw:** People who hate Harry Potter.



**December 2017: What gift would you most like to receive this Holiday season?**

**Jack Jeffery:** Some female friends.



**December 2010: What is the most unusual gift you have ever received?**

**Kiara Lemons:** A turtle shell with a dead turtle in it.



**September 2013: What is your most important goal for this year?**

**Megan LeBarron:** I want to buy a hedgehog.



**November 2016: What are you most afraid of?**

**Emily Shorter:** Clowns because they're literally coming after me, and boys because what are they? Also dying in my sleep.



**December 2009: What are you going to miss from the old school?**

**Tyler Dubose:** All the broken down appliances everywhere.



**December 2013: Who will you be kissing at midnight on New Year's Eve?**

**Harper Cash:** My pillow.



**December 2015: Who is your favorite superhero and why?**

**Copeland Barrett:** Kanye West because he's a god.



**February 2019: What is your definition of love?**

**Mrs. Richardson:** Love is when it hurts my hand to lift the diamond up.

## Ask Autumn

by Autumn Chaveco

Ramie Thompson



Have a problem? Junior Creative Writer **Autumn Chaveco** has an answer. To submit a query, shoot an email to [chaaut7952@ccsdschools.com](mailto:chaaut7952@ccsdschools.com).

**I need enough volunteer hours, but I'm not sure where to get them? Is there a master list of pre-approved hours anywhere?**

**-Struggling Freshman**

**A:** There are so many different service opportunities to choose from! I actually go to Liberty Hill twice a week and volunteer helping kids read. All you have to do is get the bus that takes you to Liberty Hill and stay there for an hour or two (also they are pre-approved hours!). If you want more options than this, there is a HUGE three page long list on the Charleston County School of the Arts website. All you have to do is click on the Students/Parents tab, go to the button that says "SOA Credentials" and the third option down says "Pre Approved service organization list." Also, don't forget to not overwhelm yourself with getting service hours, because at the end of the day, that's not the most important thing that colleges look at. Good luck!

**How do I improve my PSAT/future SAT score? I went down from my sophomore year one by 40 points and my parents are really disappointed in me.**

**-Concerned Junior**

**A:** I struggled with the same thing last year. I recommend getting an SAT or ACT tutor of some sort (if you're interested in the ACT). I've known a few people that got tutors that improved their score by a few hundred points. There are some really good Barrons books for SAT studying you could checkout from your local library with no expense. Taking the SAT as many times as you can is also helpful because each time you take it, your score is proven to improve. Also remember that the majority of colleges allow you to superscore your two highest SAT scores together, so there's not too much room for error and you don't need to overstress yourself.

## Naas Quote of the Month

"Believe your beliefs and doubt your doubts."



## Holiday Playlist

by Toni Walker

There's nothing more comforting than knowing that one of the happiest holidays, Christmas, is coming our way, and the best way to start the holidays this year is with a playlist that features all of our favorite Christmas songs. To listen to the songs, go to **@soaapplause** to really get into the holiday spirit.



"Let it Snow" by Boyz II Men

"This Christmas" by Chris Brown

"Silent Night" by The Temptations

"All I Want For Christmas Is You" by Mariah Carey

"Mistletoe" by Justin Bieber

"Santa Claus Is Coming To Town" by Jackson 5

"I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus" by Jackson 5

"8 Days Of Christmas" by Destiny's Child

"Rudolph, the Red Nosed Reindeer" by Gene Autry

"Let it Snow Let it Snow Let it Snow" by Dean Martin

"Santa Baby" by Eartha Kitt

"Christmas in Hollis" by RUN DMC

"Sleigh Ride" by TLC

"Santa Tell Me" by Ariana Grande

"It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas" by Michael Bublé



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# SOA's Top 30 Books Wish List

*Applause* polled all of SOA's English classes to find the most popular books among middle and high schoolers.

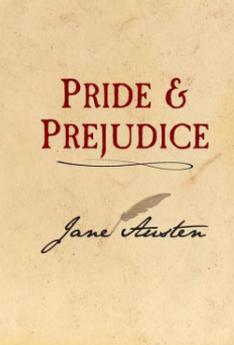
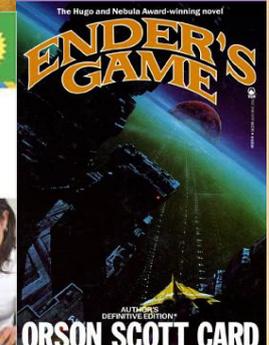
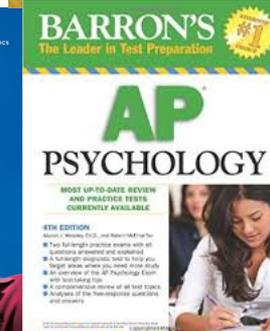
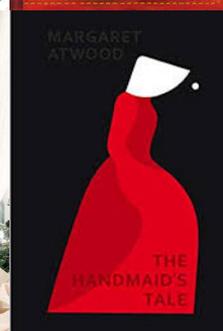
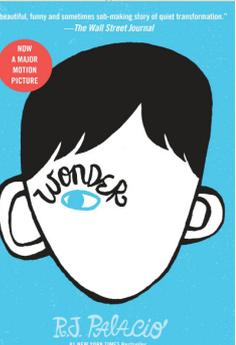
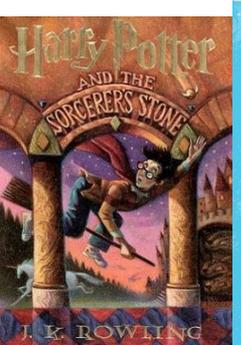
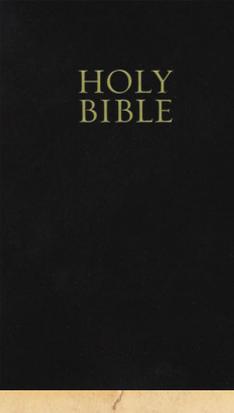
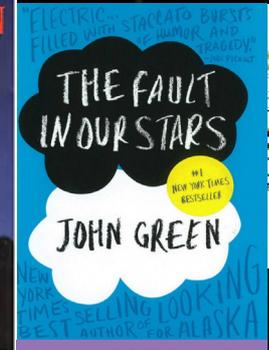
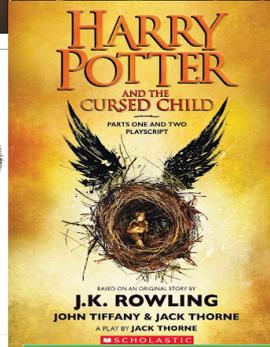
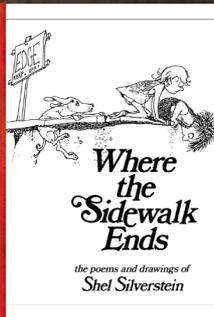
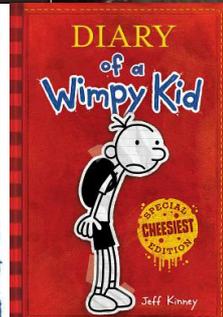
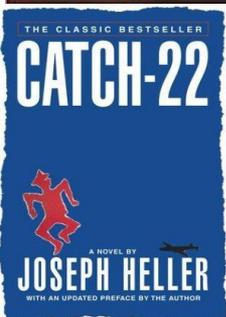
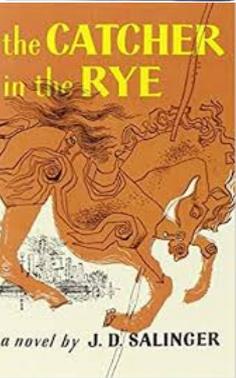
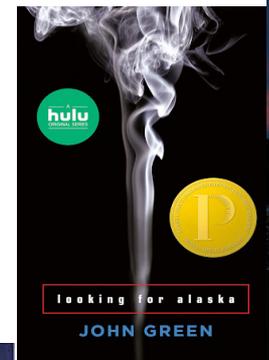
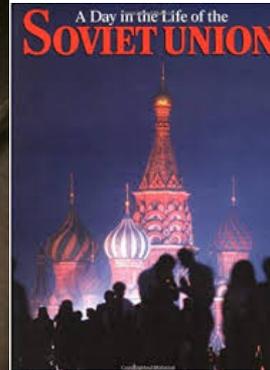
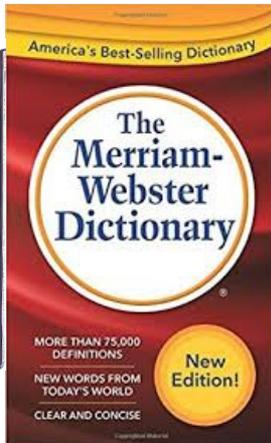
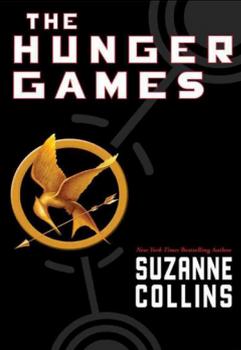
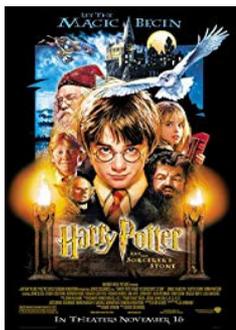
Before Christmas, *Applause* will gift 4 lucky middle and high schoolers with the book they said they wanted.

## Middle School Top 15

1. It
2. Diary of a Wimpy Kid
3. The Hate U Give
4. Harry Potter
5. Guts
6. To All the Boys I've Loved Before
7. The Hunger Games
8. Five Feet Apart
9. Everything, Everything
10. Where the Sidewalk Ends
11. The Bible
12. Ender's Game
13. Wonder
14. Pride and Prejudice
15. The Fault in our Stars

## High School Top 15

1. It
2. The Institute
3. The Hate U Give
4. Harry Potter
5. The Merriam-Webster Dictionary
6. Catch-22
7. The Handmaid's Tale
8. Barron's AP Psychology
9. A Day in the Life of the Soviet Union
10. Qu'ran
11. Harry Potter and the Cursed Child
12. Looking for Alaska
13. Call Me by Your Name
14. The Bible
15. The Catcher in the Rye



## Sass Attack: Black Friday

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.*

Since 2006 twelve have died and hundreds have been injured in this annual event that still persists to attract millions of Americans each year. Despite the threat of getting stabbed, shot, or trampled Black Friday still remains to be one of the biggest shopping days of the year.

This is not to make light of the tragic accidents that have occurred in years past, but simply a thought and warning for all prospective shoppers this holiday season.

Nothing says “Merry Christmas” like a new dishwasher or 0% APR financing on a 2017 Kia Sorento but this doesn’t stop retailers from trying to equate the holiday spirit with a new kitchen aid mixer. Never mind that the sales aren’t all that good, you’re still going to blow off your family that’s travelled miles to see you to wake up at 3am to storm the Walmart on Gray Thursday (sometimes called Thanksgiving). What exactly are you buying? Not just a 54 inch flatscreen to replace the 52 inch one you bought last year, or buy one get two free blenders (Why do you need so many blenders?) but you’re buying your families love. Or at least you’re trying to. Why else would anyone waste their time on this fools errand?

Honestly the act itself is kind of valiant. The same kind of noble stupidity that compels Kronk to pull the lever that inevitably leads to his own doom draws in millions of would-be heroes to malls and superstores trying to recreate their own Jingle All the Way moment where they save Christmas by purchasing a toy. If you’ve been fortunate enough never to witness the atrocities of Black Friday, watch the first few minutes of the live action How the Grinch Stole Christmas to see absolute chaos in a store and sirens go off celebrating one Who who maxes out their credit card.

Maybe this Christmas, give your friends and family something more than crippling debt. Is it groundbreaking to think maybe the only thing we should be spending this holiday season isn’t money, but time with our loved ones?

## The Mystery of the Phantom Buzz

by Luke Shaw

Have you ever been doing something when, out of nowhere, you think you’re getting a call or a text or some other notification only to find that when you pull out your phone--there’s an empty screen? This phenomenon, coined “the phantom buzz,” has been around only since the birth of the digital age (NPR).



This is a bit startling, the interruption of this buzz residing in our heads--the simple invention of a computer that fits in your pocket has manipulated the chemicals in our brains, so much so that the familiar warm buzz of our phones has warped into the sirens call to an almost inevitable mania. According to a survey by Deloitte in around 2015, Americans collectively check their phones 8 billion times per day. No this is not a cautionary tale, it would be hard to find someone innocent of checking their phone impulsively. The phantom buzz is a sign of something bigger--the fact that phones have led us to wanting and expecting something more. Our phones are not only a way to “stay connected with friends” aka ruin your life by comparing it to others, but it’s also a sort of stimuli for our brains. Want to feel happy without getting up? Check your phone. Want to laugh without getting up? Check your phone. Want to get angry without getting up? Check your phone. Want to feel lonely without getting up? Check your phone. Yes, we are able to drill a peephole into the world with our phones but our phones also drill a peephole into us.

Maybe this is just another phase, like cigarettes. Today’s technology is almost to us what cigarettes were to the people of the 20th century. We don’t care how much they cost, we don’t care if they may be bad for us, because we cannot bear to part with them.

So what are we to do? Accept this as a new tick in the back of our minds? It seems a bit dismal, to be so bound to a device. It’s becoming more evident that cell phones were just the beginning of a new aspect of the human experience: altered expectations with the constant await for another notification; possibly a shorter attention span or patience is in our future?

Maybe one day we will fall out of love with our little window to the world. Hopefully we will. Then maybe we’d move on to the next craze. Maybe Virtual Reality. Next time you feel the phantom buzz, maybe just ignore it.



# xfinity

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20TH

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NIGEL SHINE,  
DIRECT SALES  
SPECIALIST,  
SOA CLASS  
OF 2004



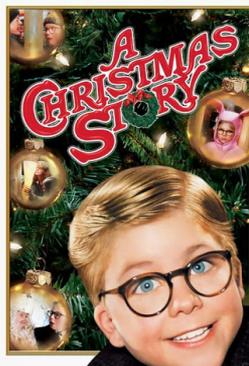
## Answer These Questions and We'll Suggest a Holiday Movie to Watch

by Makayla Gonzalez and Aliza Reynolds

- First off, do you like the holidays?
  - I like presents.
  - I don't like to talk about it.
  - Yes!
  - Halloween is better.
  - Hate it!
- What's your favorite holiday song?
  - "Santa Baby"-Eartha Kitt
  - "White Christmas"-Bing Crosby
  - "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer"-Gene Autry
  - "Carol of the Bells"-Mykola Leontovych
  - "I'll Be Home for Christmas"-Bing Crosby
- What's your favorite holiday drink?
  - Punch
  - Coffee
  - Hot cocoa
  - Apple cider
  - Eggnog
- What do you want for the holidays?
  - My two front teeth.
  - A restraining order.
  - A hippopotamus
  - Jewelry
  - Money
- What are your favorite parts of the holidays?
  - Getting gifts.
  - Setting up traps to prevent robbers from getting into my house.
  - Making cookies!
  - Making a gingerbread house.
  - Staying in my room with a nice warm blanket.
- Pick a food
  - Ham
  - Pizza
  - Gingerbread
  - Yule log
  - Fruit cake
- Lastly, your favorite scent?
  - The smell of baking cookies
  - Gasoline
  - Peppermint
  - Roasting chestnuts
  - Frankincense and myrrh

**Mostly As?** You should watch..... *A Christmas Story*  
**Mostly Bs?** You should watch..... *Home Alone!*  
**Mostly Cs?** You should watch..... *Elf!*  
**Mostly Ds?** You should watch..... *The Nightmare Before Christmas!*  
**Mostly Es?** You should watch..... *How The Grinch Stole Christmas!*

THIS HOLIDAY DISCOVER YOUR INNER ELF.



## Then and Now

### What video games did/do you want for Christmas?

Toni Walker



6th grade dance major  
**Serenity Bolton**  
 wants the new Call  
 of Duty game, Call of  
 Duty: Black Ops 4.



12th grade strings major  
**Peyton Smalls**  
 wanted any Mario Kart game she  
 could find.



Toni Walker



EDUCATION  
 is a lifelong  
 journey whose  
 DESTINATION  
 EXPANDS as  
 you TRAVEL

-Jim Stovall

Allison Tolbert

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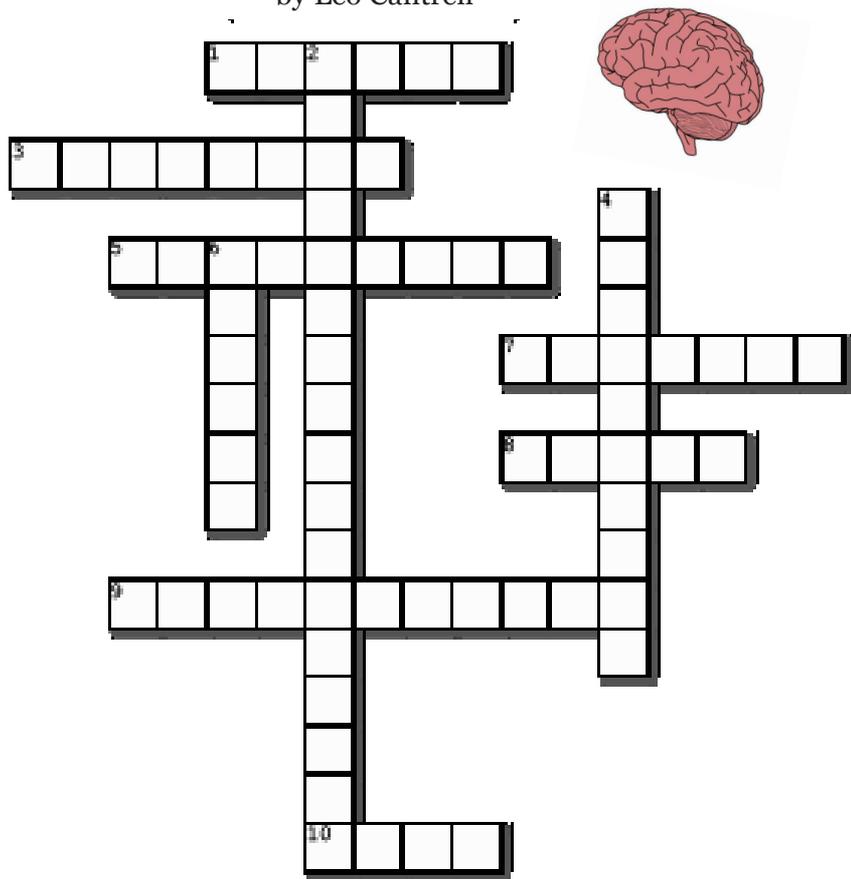


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## Obscure Knowledge Crossword

by Leo Cantrell



### Across

1. Also known as milk punch
3. The founder of this brand had his ashes placed in one of the cans
5. The 'hashtag' is also called an \_\_\_\_\_
7. The candle holder used for celebrating Hanukkah is called a \_\_\_\_\_
8. All unclaimed \_\_\_\_\_ in England is owned by the Queen
9. The first person to pee on the moon
10. A group of toads is called a \_\_\_\_\_

### Down

2. If you flip this marine predator on its back, it becomes defenseless
4. Highest-grossing Christmas movie
6. A giraffe can clean its ears with its \_\_\_\_\_

## Self Care Tip of the Month

by Sam Clarke

It's that time of the year again where everybody starts getting sniffling and itchy and coughy. While you're waiting on your antihistamine to kick in, one thing you should start doing this season is washing your sheets either once or twice a week. Doing this will get rid of all the dust and allergens to keep in addition to taming common cold, your out of your system. In your allergies or skin will also thank you for getting rid of all the excess oils and bacteria that can build on your sheets and pillow cases! Take care!

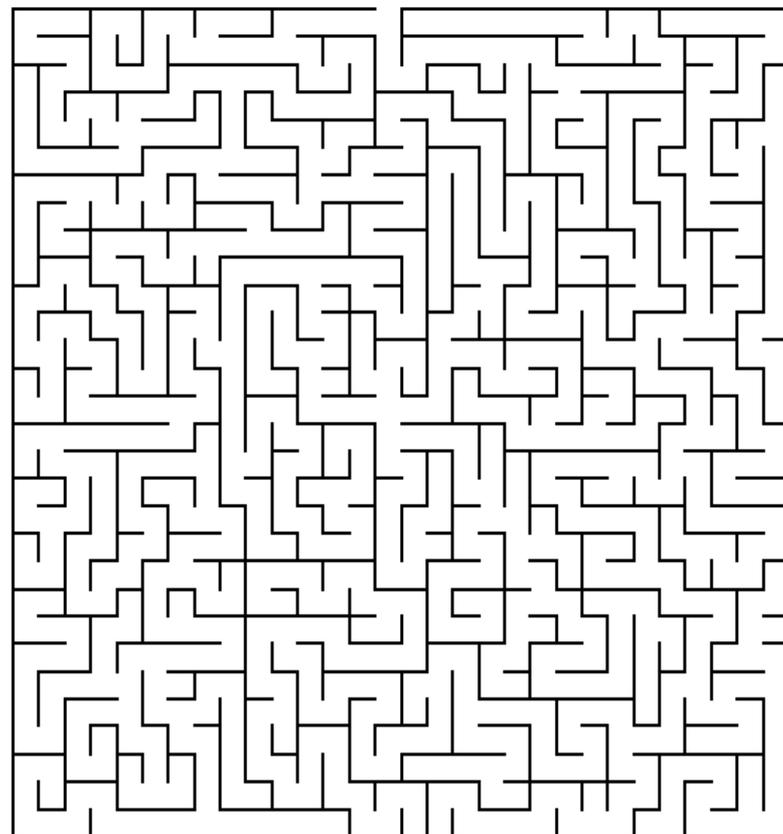


## December Cultural Calendar

by Logan Baker

- Fri, Nov 15-Tues, Dec 31: **Holiday Festival of Lights** (see website for times, James Island County Park)
- Sat, Dec 4-Sun, Dec 22: **Elf the Musical** (see website for times, Dock Street Theatre)
- Sat, Dec 14: **Christmas in the Creek Parade** (9:30am, Goose Creek)
- Sat, Dec 14: **Folly Christmas Parade** (12pm, Center St.)
- Sat, Dec 14: **Gospel Meets Jazz Christmas Concert** (5pm-8pm, Mt. Zion AME Church)
- Sun, Dec 15: **Yuletide Special Bluegrass Concert** (7:30pm, Pour House)
- Sun, Dec 22: **Chanukah in the Square** (4pm-6pm, Marion Square)
- Mon, Dec 23: **It's a Wonderful Life Screening** (7pm, Charleston Music Hall)
- Sat, Dec 24: **Moscow Ballet's "Great Russian Nutcracker"** (3pm and 7pm, North Charleston Performing Arts Center)

**Help the seniors  
make it to graduation!**



20



20

## Horoscopes

by Carson Stehling



**Sagittarius (Nov. 22- Dec. 21):** If you feel anything less than ecstatic about Taylor Swift winning Billboard's Woman of the Decade, then you're a fake Sagittarius. Possibly a fake human being. In fact, if you would have to be a robot to not love her. If you can listen to Lover and not feel like she opened up a window into your soul and wrote a song just for you, you're most definitely A.I.

**Capricorn (Dec. 22- Jan.19):** Trouble is on the horizon for you this month, Capricorn. This time, I'm afraid you're on your own. We aren't going to cover for you anymore and we certainly aren't going to pretend we did it so you can save face. You tooted, and you have to own up to it. We will be having none of that "Whoever smelt it dealt it," nonsense. Take responsibility for your actions.

**Aquarius (Jan. 20- Feb. 18):** You have a tendency to obsess, which is often interpreted as endearing neurosis, but you've got to stop talking about your flat-earthier conspiracies. We're sick of hearing about it and frankly, you're just not correct. And stop asking for evidence that you're wrong, you just are. I'm not a physicist, I don't have proof of Earth's curvature on me at all times, but that doesn't make the earth flat!

**Pisces (Feb. 19- Mar. 20):** It's important to take time for yourself, but with your difficulty saying no, that often feels impossible. That's why I encourage you to try faking a narcolepsy diagnosis. Tweet about being at the doctor bou randomly falling asleep and then try it out in uncomfortable situations. Example: "Yeah, I'd love to edit your college essay! Let me grab a pe —" (now pretend to fall asleep)

**Aries (Mar. 21- Apr. 19):** You will coast through this month with very little to worry about, Aries. Not that you would have worried anyways. Must be nice to live free of an overwhelming sense of dread, taking each moment as it comes. I'd give anything to be in your brain for a day. To be able to sit and think about the breakfast burrito you had this morning or be enthralled by your hoodie string without the crushing weight of late-stage capitalism bearing down on you. What a dream...

**Taurus (Apr. 20- May 20):** Charisma. Wit. Intellect. Three qualities your average Taurean lacks, but some Taureans stand above the rest. I don't want to be accused of nepotism so I won't name any names, but let's just call this Taurus, Nora, completely hypothetically. And maybe, this hypothetical Taurus just scored well on a very difficult test. If this were the case, I would want to tell her congratulations, but I would never do that here. That would be abusing my platform. (Luv u, Nora)

**Gemini (May 21- Jun. 20):** Impulsive Gemini, at it again! Seems like you've really stepped in it this time, though. At your age, you ought to know not to disrespect an old woman with a cloak and a hunch. Of course she's a witch! You had to run off your big mouth and now you and your descendants will be cursed with horns for one thousand years, all because she was walking slow in front of you. I hope it was worth it.

**Cancer (Jun 21- Jul. 22):** You may find yourself feeling more distracted than usual this month, Cancer. It's probably



nothing, just the stars aligning in a way that makes you kind of spacey. Or maybe it's not. Let's webMD it. Uh oh, this says being easily distracted could be an indicator of all sorts of bad things. Have you been out of the country recently? Are you having frequent headaches? I'm sure it's fine. Let's go to the hospital, though. Better safe than sorry.



**Leo (Jul. 23- Aug. 22):** You are a beacon of light in the lives of everyone you meet. You approach every situation with the interest of justice in your heart and the poise of a humble, but strong monarch. We are so very grateful to — hold on, sorry I thought this was Virgo not Leo. God, why can't you be more like Virgo you selfish cretin! I apologize. That's unfair, no one can live up to the Virgo standard.



**Virgo (Aug. 23- Sept. 22):** You're doing amazing sweetie.



**Libra (Sept. 23- Oct. 22):** Clever Libra thought you could get away with it, huh? Thought you could pass the joke off as your own, well I'm onto you, Libra. That TikTok you made that went semi-viral was stolen from a Tumblr post from like, 2014. That story you told at lunch the other day happened to your work friend. You thought we wouldn't notice but, knock knock, it's the joke police! You're going away for a long time you thieving son of a gun!



**Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** No more blending into the background, Scorpio, it's time to make your presence known! Raise your hand and tell everyone your interpretation of the poem. Wear that bright yellow shirt that's been sitting in the back of your closet. Interrupt people while they're talking. Film yourself dumping a frostee on your head in the middle of a Wendy's and post it on YouTube. I swear this isn't sabotage and no one will hate you. I truly believe it's really sage advice!



**Jude says, "all the cool kids RECYCLE!"**

Message Sponsored by the Eastlake Community Foundation

## Sign of the Month: Happy Holidays!

Demonstrated by Marion Major, 11th grade



1. Hold hands out, palms facing chest.



2. Bring hands up toward shoulders.



3. Bring hands straight out.



4. Face hands down diagonally.

Photos by Sam Clarke

## The Trivia Challenge: Movie Edition

by Charlie Hastings

December is, of course, the season of holiday joy, but we all know that's a little cliché.

How about we celebrate December, the biggest month for big movies, with some trivia about the much anticipated swath of movies coming to us this holiday season.

### Questions:

1. The new Star Wars movie, *The Rise of Skywalker*, comes out December 20th. Who is the director of this and the *The Force Awakens*?
2. Adam Sandler's latest movie, *Uncut Gems*, comes out on Christmas day. What was Adam Sandler's highest-grossing movie?
3. The third Jumanji installment, *Jumanji: The Next Level*, came out December 13th. In the original movie with Robin Williams, what kind of game was Jumanji?
4. The all powerful Danny Devito also stars in *Jumanji*. How tall is Danny?
5. Bruce Willis' new movie, *Trauma Center*, came out December 6th. What was Bruce Willis' first big movie?
6. Ryan Reynolds' new movie, *6 Underground*, hit theaters December 13th. What Marvel superhero does Reynolds play?
7. The movie *6 Underground* also stars Michael Bay. What genre is Bay famous for directing?
8. Taylor Swift stars in the new spinoff of the Broadway musical *Cats*, out now. Was Taylor featured in the Jonas Brothers movie (yes or no)?
9. DJ Khaled stars in the new movie *Spies in Disguise*. Complete his famous quote: "don't ever play....."

**Bojena Sabin**  
11th grade

1. Jar Jar Binks
2. *Grown Ups*?
3. Board game
4. 5'1"
5. *Die Hard*
6. Deadpool
7. Action
8. True
9. Yourself



7/9

**Adam Crosby & Manny Summers**  
11th grade

1. Spielberg
2. *Click* and/or *Happy Gilmore*
3. Board game
4. 5 foot
5. *Pulp Fiction*
6. Pikachu
7. Action
8. True
9. Tetris



3/9

Sir Adam and The King Manny put up a reasonable fight, but once again, Bojena comes out on top, so far exhibiting mad trivia skills in Halloween trivia, Kanye Trivia, and now movie trivia. Stay tuned for January edition trivia when Bojena returns to face a new challenger.

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Are you interested  
in competing in an  
upcoming *Applause*  
Trivia Challenge? If so,  
email [mjmcline@gmail.com](mailto:mjmcline@gmail.com)

Photos by Charlie Hastings

### Answers

1. JJ Abrams
2. *Hotel Transylvania*
3. Board game
4. 4'10"
5. *Die Hard*
6. Deadpool
7. Action
8. True
9. Yourself



“I want the Eagles to win the Super Bowl again.”

-Ms. T, Dance teacher

“Ps4.”

-Sam Owens, 7th grade Theatre

“Friends.”

-Caroline Gladstein, 11th grade Fashion & Costume Design

“A Stradivarius violin.”

-Capers Tabrizian, 9th grade Strings



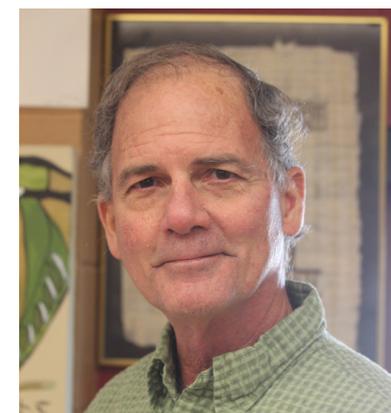
“A vinyl player.”

-Lucy Cromwell, 8th grade Visual Arts

# If you could receive any present what would it be?

## by Sophia Leonardi and Luke Shaw

Photos by Luke Shaw



“Everlasting health.”

-Mr. Orvin, High School History teacher



“A lifetime supply of Kraft Mac & Cheese.”

-Rylie Tart, 10th grade Strings



“Some Chevrolet seat covers.”

-Mr. Dawson, Day Porter



“Gel pens or an inside pool.”

-Amy Adyaeva, 6th grade Creative Writing



“A lady friend.”

-Gabe Whited, 12th grade Piano