

# APPLAUSE

November 2020 | Volume 22, Number 2



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## From the Editors

Dear Readers,

What a month! For starters, the first quarter has officially ended, meaning we're welcoming many students back to campus. This year has been unlike any other, but thanks to the hard work of our teachers and administrators, SOA has continued to safely provide all students with an unparalleled academic and artistic education.

*Applause* is proud to highlight the achievements of two SOA students- one former and one current. Be sure to check out our interview with international conductor Jonathon Heyward, a 2010 graduate, and our feature on baseball standout Travis Dannecker. Also, our Where Were They Then feature focuses on the Pre-SOA days of our guidance counselor Ms. Ciara Greco.

Check in with how Creative Writing and Visual Arts teachers are handling the challenges of virtual learning on page 6, or how some of our academic teachers have adapted on page 7.

*Applause* also has all the election coverage you could want, from our presidential trivia on page 22 to our editorial on the historical results of this year's presidential election.

Thanksgiving Break is also on the horizon! We're sure we're all thankful for the chance to kick back and relax (with the newest issue of *Applause*, of course) after all our hard work this quarter. But here at *Applause*, we're most thankful for all of our readers!

Thank you for your support, and have a happy and safe Thanksgiving!

*Logan Baker*



# Applause

since 1999, the official student publication of

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*Founded in 1995 by Rose Maree Myers*

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## In This Issue

**Senior Travis Dannecker sets his sights on the big leagues**

By Giovanni Cusatis

**2010 SOA Grad enjoys prestigious international conducting career**

By Peter O'Malley

**Guidance Counselor Ms. Ciara Greco looks back on life before SOA**

By Ethan Butler

## Senior Travis Dannecker Pursues his Dream

by Giovanni Cusatis

Unlike many teenagers, who will enjoy a lavish, home cooked Thanksgiving dinner with their family next week, Travis Dannecker, a senior vocal major, will be spending the holiday break in the Dominican Republic, working hard to showcase his skills as a baseball player, skills he has been perfecting since early childhood.

“We knew he had the qualities of a competitive athlete since he was in pre-school,” said Denise Dannecker, Travis’s mother. “He started playing baseball in third grade. He was a natural talent.”

At fourteen, Travis shared his dream with his parents.

“He told us he wanted to play in the Major Leagues.”

Travis and his parents moved from Germany to the United States when he was eight. A year later, Travis started playing baseball and was instantly hooked on the game. “I just loved the rush of energy that moved throughout your body when you got a hit or made a nice play,” he said.

For the first three years of his young career, he played recreational ball, but when he turned twelve, a coach from the Diamonds Devils, a local travel ball organization, asked him to join them for batting practice. The coach was impressed, and Travis spent the next five years playing for the Diamond Devils. Travis enjoyed a stint with the Wando High Junior Varsity team in his sophomore year at SOA, but it was playing travel ball that “had the biggest impact in my development,” he



Travis pitches in the Dominican Republic in August 2020

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Travis steps to the plate at Shipyard Park last summer.

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says.

When Travis entered middle school, he took an interest in major league baseball, particularly the Chicago Cubs. He was especially drawn to Cubs star Anthony Rizzo. “You could always tell that he enjoyed playing the game, which is the most important thing,” Travis shares a few traits with Rizzo. They are both 6’3”, both lefties, and both play first base. But Travis is also being scouted as a pitcher who is noted for good control and a deep knowledge of the game. “He has a great build for what scouts look for in pitchers, tall and long” said Coach Brian Johnson, Travis’s PE teacher.

But Travis’s career was put on hold last year when it was discovered he needed surgery on his chest. He underwent the procedure on Halloween of 2019, and by April of this year, he was back on the pitcher’s mound feeling better. Until his sophomore year in college, Travis will play with a metal bar in his chest. “The surgery was extremely painful for the next week,” he said, “but I am glad to have done it, since the doctors and I believe it was holding me back.”

Travis didn’t let this setback deter him. Once he was clear to play again, he continued to work diligently in pursuit of his dream, heading to the Isle of Palms three days a week at the start of the school year to begin conditioning at 5 AM before coming to school. Last August he was invited to the Dominican Republic for the first time to play in front of international coaches and scouts. He played games against Dominican baseball teams, which included players already possessing

Provided



Travis with two Kansas City Royals coaches in the Dominican Republic in August.

professional contracts. “It was a truly humbling experience. With their country being so poor, most kids rely on baseball to provide for themselves and their families.” Last month Travis attended a showcase in Hickory, North Carolina, where he showed off his skills in front of regional college and professional scouts.

Travis is looking at such colleges as Wofford, Gardner-Webb, Flagler, and North Greenville, each of which has a fine baseball program. He intends to major in either engineering or biology, but baseball remains the priority.

Next week, when Travis travels to the Dominican Republic, he will be watched closely by the coach of the 18U German National baseball team, who hopes to recruit him. Travis, who maintains dual citizenship in the United States and Germany, is eligible to play for the team if he makes it. “Traveling around the world to play for a national team is about the most exciting thing I can think of for a seventeen-year-old athlete,” Mrs. Dannecker says.

Travis got to the place he is today by practicing and always striving to be better. “Baseball is a game of failure. You have to expect that you will fail more than you will succeed.”

“Seventy-five percent of his success has come from his work ethic,” said his mother. Travis credits his parents as being his strongest supporters and mentors. Mrs. Dannecker says she and her husband, Thomas, have instilled this message in their teenage son: “Always pursue your dream, even if it changes, and don’t make decisions based on what others want for you. “You have one life here on earth; make it count,” she says.

Travis says he is grateful for the opportunity to play baseball and pursue his dream of making the big leagues, and his parents have reinforced this sense of gratitude. The most important advice she and her husband offer him, Mrs. Dannecker says, is to “never forget to give thanks to God for all of the blessings he has bestowed upon you.” Travis, known for motivating his teammates, offers this advice for young players who hope to make a career in sports: “Putting the work into being great won’t always be fun or easy, but the results you get from it will be worth it.”

## SOA Athletes Excel as Fall Season Concludes

by Giovanni Cusatis

*Applause covers the success of our athletes competing for their home schools throughout the 2020-2021 school year.*

SOA’s fall athletes wrapped up their seasons this month with impressive performances. Lillian Sustaita, James Herring, and Ella Tolbert eclipsed their best times on the cross-country course, while Nic Tuemler set personal and team bests as a swimmer.



Provided

**Travis “has a great build for what scouts look for in pitchers,” says SOA PE teacher Mr. Brian Johnson**

Nic, a senior piano major who swims for James Island Charter High School, set a school record while helping his team to three medals in the South Carolina State Championship. James Island placed fifth overall in the state. Nic’s 200-meter freestyle relay took home a silver medal, and his 400-meter freestyle team won the bronze. Nic’s time of 23.2 in the 200-meter freestyle established a new JICHS team record.

Although her season was shortened due to a leg injury, sophomore Ella Tolbert, who runs cross-country for North Charleston High, also set some personal bests. She ran the 5K (3.1 miles) course in 23:50 and, in training, clocked a sub-3-minute 800 meter run (1/2 mile). With a little physical therapy, she plans to be ready for track in the spring.



Provided

**A muddy Lillian Sustaita walks off the course after a strong finish in a recent cross country meet**

Also running for North Charleston, sophomore James Herring hoped to beat his best 5K time of 21:00. At the Region Meet, however, James crushed that time, covering the 3.1 miles in 19:32, averaging better than a 6:20 mile.

Lillian Sustaita, who runs for Stall, finished her season with a strong performance at the Region Meet, nearly qualifying for Lower State. Lillian, who joined the team to condition for track, was pleased with her season, considering she is not a long-distance runner on Stall’s track team – she’s a sprinter and a hurdler. The day before schools were ordered to close in March, Lillian ran an impressive 1:12.81 in the 400-meter hurdles, placing third at the highly competitive Raising Cane’s Track and Field Classic, hosted by Summerville High School. She also ran the 400-meter dash in a blazing 1:07 at the Sandlapper Classic earlier that month. A senior, Lillian hopes to run track for a Division One college.

Congratulations to our fall athletes! Check back to learn about SOA’s winter athletes next month.

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## SOA meets COVID

*Continued from Last Issue*

Applause spoke with members of the arts faculty to learn how they are adapting their teaching due to COVID-19.

### Creative Writing

**Katie Forrester: How has covid-19 impacted your major and what unique challenges does creative writing face? In what ways does it force you to alter your teaching?**

**Ms. DeTiberus:** Adjusting to new modes of teaching has been a challenge, but I feel that the Creative Writing program will have an easier time adjusting than others because so much of our work takes place on the page. What I will miss the most is feeling safe enough to all be in a room together, as well as the ability to hug my students and look them directly in the eyes. That kind of human connection can't be replicated over Zoom, so I am mourning that.

While these past few months have been tremendously stressful and challenging for all of us-- in many different concrete and abstract ways-- I feel that we artists have a real sense of responsibility as witnesses during this historic moment. In that way, all of the artists (teachers and students) here at SOA will be challenged this year in responding to both the pandemic and the BLM protests, not to mention the human rights violations happening at our border. Before we create, we always need time to observe and reflect, which is what I mostly did all summer; I wasn't ready to engage in my art yet, as I was still adjusting and processing. But now that we are back to school-- whether that be in person or virtual-- my hope is that we can begin to talk about ways in which we might meaningfully create in this new reality.



Photo by Ethan Butler

**Middle school visual arts students use their own supplies to prevent the spread of infection.**

### Visual Arts

**Katie Forrester: How has Covid-19 impacted your major?**

**Ms. Anne Cimballa:** I think Covid-19 has impacted my major in the same ways it has impacted us as individuals. There is a heightened sense of anxiety for many of us, a desire to get back to our normal routines, but apprehension about when that, and if that, time will come, and how it will look and feel. It has affected the types of assignments I design, the materials we use, the connectivity we normally feel when we are all in the same room working towards the same goal. Materials are a big part of the issue right now, because so many families have been financially impacted by the pandemic that it's important for me to be sensitive to what students might or might not have at home, in terms of media to work with.

**Mr Damond Howard:** Covid-19 has impacted Visual Arts in many ways. Commonly used supplies and materials that can normally be

shared in an art class like scissors, rulers, pencil sharpeners, devices/machinery, sinks, cabinets, and other stationary tools, now have to be cleaned/disinfected, or approached differently, if they are to be shared at all. But to be most safe, students may now have to purchase a personal copy and this can hinder available funds that students and parents set aside to help with the course support activities. For instance, I ask my Middle School Visual Arts students to pay an art activity fee at the beginning of the school year and with that money I provide students with a field trip, special art materials, a traditional art exhibition experience with their own work, and more! Covid-19 will also impact whether the students get a traditional art exhibition experience this year.

**KF: In what ways has COVID forced you to alter the way you teach?**

**AC:** My teaching has been impacted considerably. Having a group of students in front of me, and a group of students on my computer screen is definitely a first. I've taken part in virtual classes as a student this summer, learning Italian. Every class was zoomed, so that was helpful training for me. But the instructor did not have a group of studentw in front of her. That component changes the dynamics a bit. It's kind of like having a talk show with a live studio audience. I have had to come up with two different ways to approach every lesson. I've had to consider what my students have at home versus what is available at school. We are not sharing supplies at school, so any and everything each student uses is their own. There are no in-person critiques. Everything is emailed to me. The great part of this is I can give personalized feedback quickly, and have "conversations" with students about their work throughout the day. I have to admit, I was very VERY nervous about being able to provide quality, meaningful instruction this year, but every single visual arts and art history student of mine has been patient, understanding and helpful in ways I can't measure.

**DH:** Covid-19 precautions have impacted my teaching in both positive and negative ways. It has caused me to become more innovative in the way and in the types of lessons that I present to my students. I like Zoom, but slow internet speeds and the impersonal feel of virtual learning, all while trying to deliver quality, synchronous teaching and learning experience to both in-person and off-campus students is very

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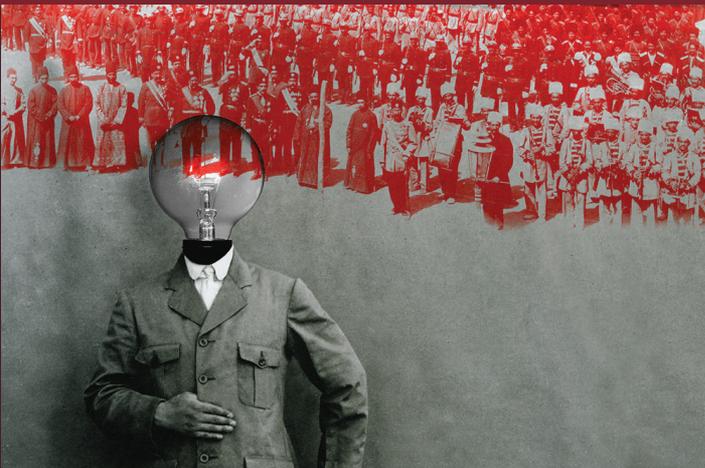
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## Meet SOA's New Middle School English Teacher

by Ella Fritz

Applause welcomes SOA's newest eighth grade English teacher, **Mrs. Burt!**

This is Mrs. Burt's first year of being a teacher, and she is excited to start off her educational career in an artistic environment like SOA.

Originally from Utah, Mrs. Burt attended Brigham Young University and graduated with a degree in Print Journalism with a minor in English. After college, she moved to Washington, DC to pursue a career in journalism. Mrs. Burt has also lived in Palo Alto, Baltimore, and Orlando. Mrs. Burt fell in love with teaching while working as a youth ministry leader and children's choir instructor at her local church during college. This, combined with her enjoyment of English class and reading, prompted her to become an English teacher.

Mrs. Burt's first job at fourteen was working as an assistant janitor at a nearby elementary school. She then moved on to bagging groceries at her local supermarket. In college, she worked for her school newspaper, enjoying the feel of teamwork and the fulfillment of hard nights, prompting her first career choice to take charge. She also returned to her "janitorial roots" and worked cleaning the sports areas around campus. Her side job helped her find her now-husband, who she met also cleaning the men's restrooms at the college stadium. As Mrs. Burt puts it, "It was love at first scrub!"

Mrs. Burt moved to Charleston with her husband and three kids a year ago. In her free time, she likes to draw, play the piano, watch the Panda Cam at the National Zoo, study Mandarin Chinese, and of course, read. Mrs. Burt strongly believes in the power of literature, saying, "...as I take each book out of the moving boxes one by one and place it on the shelf, I'm flooded with memories about the story, its characters, how it made me feel, and where I was in my life when I read it. There is a quote from Marcus Tullius Cicero that I love: 'A room without books is like a body without a soul.' Every single room in my house (other than the bathroom!) has books in it. I don't feel quite right without them."

Mrs. Burt also offered advice to her new students: "It's OK to not know what you want to be when you grow up! You have plenty of time for that. Use these teenage years to get to know yourself, explore many different interests."

## SOA Academic Teachers Share How They're Adapting to the Pandemic

by Hannah Elledge

**Hannah Elledge** interviewed three teachers at SOA: **Mr. Short**, who has been at SOA for ten years, **Mr. Morelli**, who has been at SOA for seven years, and **Ms. Miller**, who has been at SOA for three years, to see how they have adapted their teaching methods during the pandemic and how this year is different from their years teaching



Photo by Ethan Butler

in the past.

In the wake of the pandemic, all of us at School of the Arts have felt the effects of Covid. I decided to interview a few of our own to see how they and their students are doing two months into the school year. To get a variety of opinions at the school, I interviewed Ms. Miller, a high school math teacher, Mr. Short, a high school science teacher, and Mr. Morelli, a middle school English teacher.

While all of these teachers are responsible for different subjects and a variety of different grades, they all had similar responses when asked about their past teaching styles and how these might have helped prepare them for the situation at hand. For Mr. Short, this question was easy to answer. As an AP Environmental Science teacher, one of the last units he was able to teach before quarantine was on pandemics. He was glad he got the chance to discuss something so current, even if at the time he was unaware, but still wishes he could give more advice to other students. Each of the teachers also miss the dynamic of having students in a classroom able to work together, and find it hard to teach virtually, as Mr. Morelli says they are not able "to see the personalities of the students come alive in the classroom." Ms. Miller, especially, misses watching her students in groups or pairs discussing problems and solutions as she is "a huge believer that students don't fully grasp the material until they can speak to others fluently about what they know."

This pandemic, while disheartening, has also been a learning experience. Students have to make sure to stay organized to get assignments in on time, and teachers are having to learn technology, educating in a totally new way than ever before by having to teach to two different groups of students, online and in-person, at the same time. Even with all this, everyone is realizing just how key interaction with others is in order to be successful. Mr. Morelli says that "English is all about stories." The same can be said for any class at this school. Because we are at an arts school, stories are ingrained in every bit of knowledge students retain, from creative group projects to a diversity in talent that leads to interesting class discussions. So, while this is a difficult time for all of us, we are lucky to have the teachers we do, who understand the importance of connection at this school and do their best to think of unique ways for us to continue to learn from each other.

## Student Intern Enjoying SOA

by Will Brown

You may have seen Ms. Jarecke around our school. She's here to fulfill an internship with another amazing teacher - Ms. Bednarczyk.

Ms. Jarecke grew up in Castres, a small town in France where she spent much of her childhood taking dance lessons. Going to school in France is a very different experience than school in the United States. Similar to SOA, sports in French schools are almost non-existent. However, the length of school days are very different. Ms. Jarecke says, "High school days would start at 8 am and end at 5 pm with a long lunch break." She also noted that "30 students or so will go from class



Photo by Ethan Butler

to class together and follow the same course schedule.”

Ms. Jarecke has also lived in Texas and Mississippi. She has been in Charleston for three years. Her favorite activities in Charleston include going shopping, walking around downtown, and going to the beach.

Ms. Jarecke’s passion for teaching and education stems from her love of the French language and culture. She applies this love to a desire to educate the young, saying, “I hope I can help my students experience the same opportunities I was blessed with.” When thinking about which teachers in her life inspired her and impacted the most, Ms. Jarecke looks back to a 10th-grade literature teacher: “I remember Mr. Rossignol’s ways of making everyone feel important in the classroom and being an excellent listener.”

While Coronavirus has brought a new set of challenges to Ms. Jarecke’s internship, she’s looking on the bright side of things, saying “it has taught me to be more flexible and creative.” The College of Charleston has also allowed her to focus far more “on teaching and less on writing papers and busywork.”

Ms. Jarecke has felt so welcome by both teachers and students: “The weeks have flown by and I know I will look at this experience soon and wish it would have lasted longer.” Ms. Jarecke also can’t wait to make her rounds to all of the art majors classes so she can “fully experience the SOA spirit.”

## Students in Action Adapt During Pandemic

by Katie Forrester

*Katie Forrester spoke with seniors Michelle Schultze and Ramie Thompson about how their community service club is adapting to the pandemic.*

**Katie Forrester: You are co-presidents of the Students in Action club at SOA. What is the mission statement of SIA, and could you speak to some of the community service events and projects you organized or oversaw before the pandemic?**

**Ramie Thompson:** Our mission is to provide opportunities for community service hours without very strict guidelines of how things need to be done. Before the pandemic, most of the students in our club would get hours by helping out with the Liberty Hill Afterschool Program, which had them working with kids on their homework and reading skills, or with Hursey Elementary School’s Arts Outreach Program. I worked with both programs and it felt amazing to help them out while still being their friend!

**Michelle Schultze:** A year or so ago, we raised over \$1000 through the SOA middle school to buy bikes for the whole fifth grade graduating class of Liberty Hill! Not only bikes, but locks and helmets too. It was really exciting to see how well the project took off. But we didn’t get a chance to repeat last spring due to the pandemic. Hopefully this year will work out!

**KF: Tutoring the elementary school students at Liberty Hill**

**is typically a popular extracurricular activity and way for SOA students to earn pre-approved service hours, however, face to face tutoring would now pose too much of a spreading risk. Though it’s early in the year, how is your club adapting to the pandemic so far? What has been the biggest challenge?**

**MS:** It’s really been a bummer that Liberty Hill can’t work out this year. Here at SOA we have other tutoring avenues available, like NHS tutoring, but those are virtually driven and with low demand. We’re hoping to continue working with Liberty Hill for other ventures soon to come.

**RT:** Moving online seems to be the path of most things right now, so we are following it. The pandemic made it so recruitment is a lot harder and the ability to have in-person meetings is non-existent. We are working through this change by having Zoom meetings most Wednesdays and by setting up a Google Classroom.

**KF: Are there any safer community service activities could SOA students could possibly look forward to?**

**MS:** Sometime in the spring, we’ll have a repeat of our beach sweep. There’s more in the pipes soon to come. You’ll hear about it throughout the year, but if you want to keep updated, follow our Instagram @soa\_sia. Sylera and Naja have been killing it this year. Their posts always look amazing.

**RT:** Our club isn’t the only option for service hours. NHS is currently holding a food drive and the Charleston Outreach for Women club is starting to set up their own drives. While SIA will have fundraisers or opportunities of our own, we will not stop or limit our members from getting hours elsewhere, especially with the challenges that this school year holds.

**KF: Despite the pandemic, what do you hope to accomplish in your last year as presidents of the club?**

**MS:** Our biggest goal was recruitment, and we’re lucky enough to see so many people participating this year! It’s really incredible to see so many faces—two years ago it was just three of us, and now the club is growing and will have a fighting shot at surviving once we’ve graduated. It’s so cool to see. If you’ve been showing up at all, we really appreciate you.

**RT:** I really hope to find someone or even another duo, like Michelle and I, who we could pass the club on to and have them come up with their own projects in the future. All I want right now is for the right people to follow in our footsteps and help them make the club last just a little bit longer. Community service opportunities should be given to those who are motivated to go all the way with any projects they work on, if it is their own or not.

**Applause wishes you all a Happy Thanksgiving!**



The Students in Action club are currently planning more beach sweeps this year after the success of their first one.

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## Seniors Enjoy First Grub on the Green after WIN Testing

by Hannah Elledge

As much as everyone hates standardized testing, it was a fun Tuesday the twenty-seventh for the class of 2021. After being apart for the entire start of the school year, seniors were very excited to get everyone back together for WIN testing, a career-readiness assessment that we were supposed to take last year, as well as our first Grub On The Green, which we have been looking forward to for as long as we've been at SOA.

WIN testing went very smoothly, starting at a prompt 8:30 with everyone working in complete silence—or at least that's what the teachers had hoped would happen. In reality, it was much more chaotic than that, but, to be fair, it was the first time we had all been together in months. After an hour delay, four tests, and some not-so-quiet whisper jokes resulting in everyone getting sent outside to wait for the rest of the class to finish, it was finally time for Grub On The Green.

Most of us didn't know what it would entail this year, as we were so used to watching from the outside as the seniors ate burgers and chips. We could only hold onto the hope that one day we, too, would get to eat the food that made the delicious smell that seemed to linger in the breezeway. But, as we all walked down, there was a different smell in the air, one that I knew all too well. Chick-fil-A.

We grabbed our chicken sandwiches (or salads if you were vegetarian) and claimed our lunch table for the day, eagerly awaiting the first lunch we would have all together in our last year of high school. The class crowns they had given us were situated on top of our heads, and the rest of the day was spent talking graduation caps, parking spot painting, Powderpuff, and Prom. It was official: we were seniors.

**Looking Back on SOA's Past 25 Years**  
*In celebration of SOA's 25th anniversary, each month we will be revisiting moments from 1995 to 2020.*



Applause Archive

From the February 2003 *Applause*:  
 Mr. Charlton Singleton, former SOA Middle School Band Director, who founded the Charleston Jazz Orchestra and the Grammy award winning band Ranky Tanky, with his teacher, longtime SOA Band director Basil Kerr, at Wando High School in the late 1980s.

**Sign of the Month:**  
**“Happy Thanksgiving”**  
 Demonstrated by Karolyn Figueroa, 9th Grade  
 Photos by Ethan Butler



Move the fingertips of both open hands, palms and fingers pointing in, from the mouth to the front of the chest. Then move the hands away from you in an arc, ending with the palms facing up.

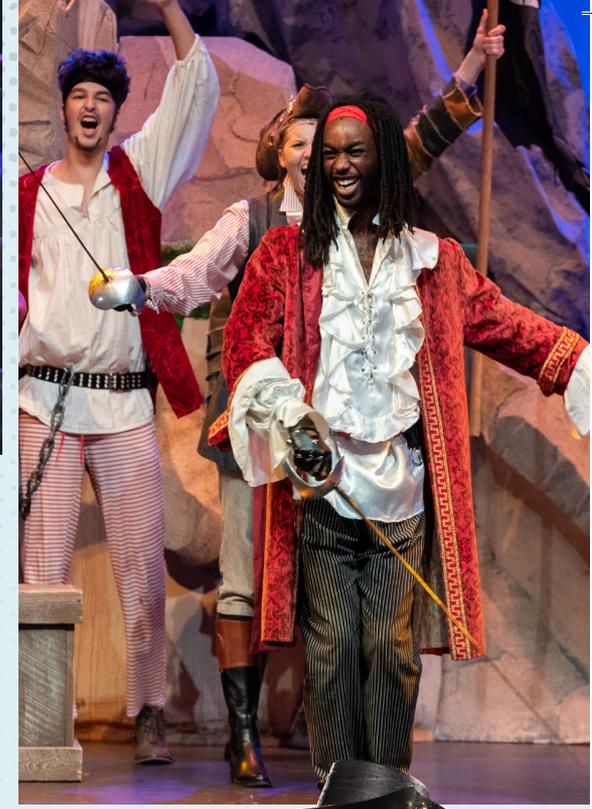


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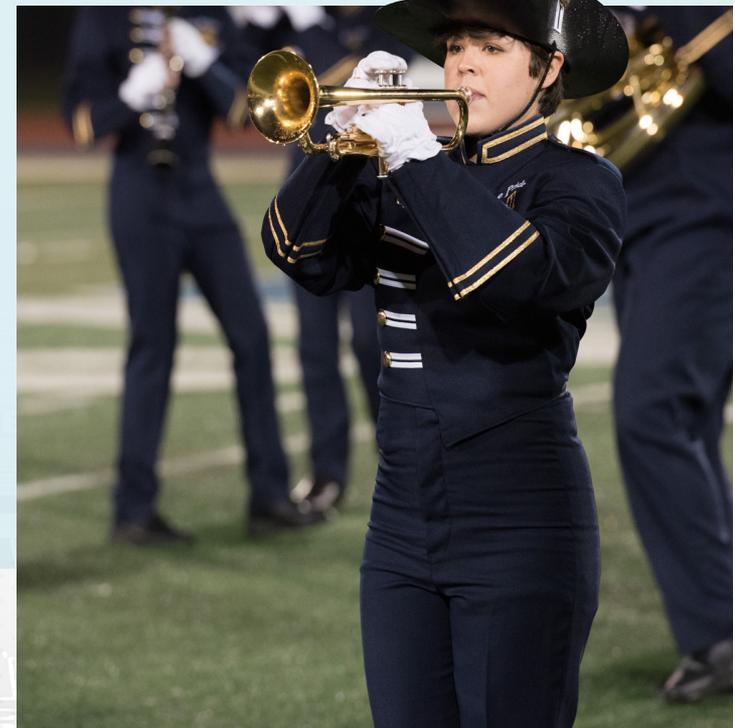
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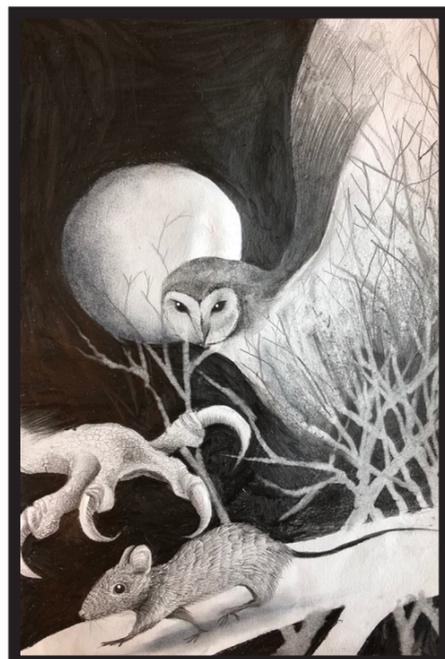
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Faith Durinsky  
"Wonder"



Ella R Waldron-Noren  
"Quick Prey for the Barn Owl"

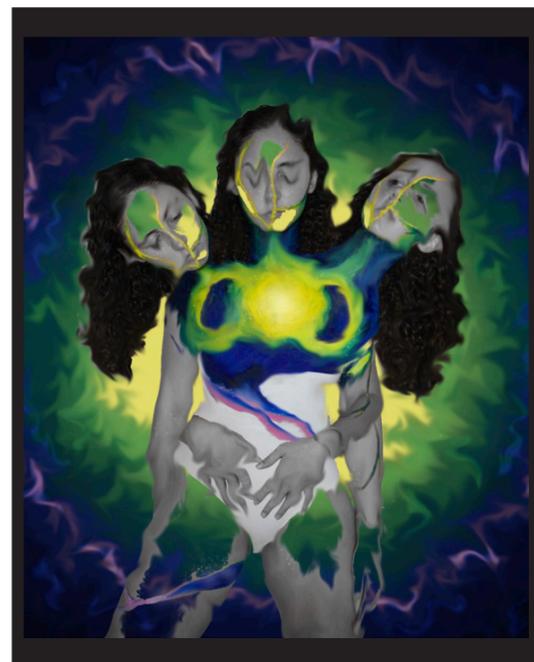
# Visual Arts Senior Thesis: Part 1



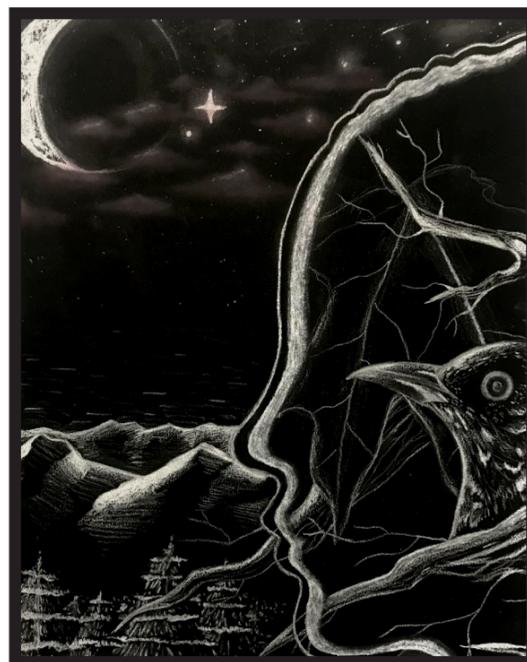
Luna Steedley  
"Hebe"



Brooke Brunson  
"Untitled"



Esther Ray  
"The Three Sisters"



Makenna Fugate  
"Forlorn Closure"



Esme Barna  
"Late Night T.V."



Julien Kucklick  
"Caesar"

## Horoscopes

by Clara Collins



**Scorpio (October 23- November 21)**- Don't let anyone dull your sparkle this month, Scorpio. Sure, you've listened to "All I Want For Christmas is You" three hundred times since November started and probably single-handedly funded Mariah Carey's Christmas vacation this year, but hey, at least your most listened-to song on Spotify's 2020 Wrapped won't be from the Glee soundtrack anymore.

**Sagittarius (November 22- December 21)**- As we speak, Urban Outfitters is creating a plain white shirt with a little heart on it that they'll charge eighty dollars for, and you are going to buy it. You are going to leave it your cart for two weeks, tell yourself you don't need it every time you check to see if the price has dropped (it won't), and then buy it. It'll look great (sitting in your closet for the next year)!

**Capricorn (December 22- January 19)**- You're wondering what to do with your time now that you're not checking the news every three minutes. I wish I knew, dear Capricorn. I wish I knew.

**Aquarius (January 20- February 18)**- I see a big achievement coming to you this November. Maybe you'll get an A on that test. Maybe you'll get your application done a week before the deadline. Maybe you'll finally delete those ten thousand unread emails (no, that can't be it).

**Pisces (February 19- March 20)**- Listen, Harry Styles is not going to randomly stumble upon your home and hang out there like he did with the other fan. I'm sorry I had to be the one to tell you that, but I have to follow the stars, and the stars say: he's not going to feed your fish for you!

**Aries (March 21- April 19)**- Aries, don't be afraid to speak your truth this month. *New Girl* is better than *The Office*. Pineapple belongs on pizza. The best Halloween candy isn't candy at all, it's those little packs of pretzels. I'm pretty sure that one's just you, but be bold!

**Taurus (April 20- May 20)**- November will be a busy month for you, but a productive one as well! By busy, I mean you're going to do all of your assignments on one night, and by productive, I mean you're going to watch all 15 seasons of *Criminal Minds*.

**Gemini (May 21- June 20)**- Much like the latest season of the Bachelorette and their swap from Clare to Tayshia, you're got two sides to you. My advice for achieving balance: stare at yourself in the mirror until you start to look like a stranger, get really freaked out, and immediately try to distract yourself by scrolling through the Comments by Celebs Instagram account for an hour. Didn't that help?

**Cancer (June 21- July 22)**- You've seen all the videos about shifting into the Harry Potter universe on TikTok, and now you're going to spend all month trying to make it work. You've got about a 65% chance of getting there by November 30th, but be careful what you wish for—I wouldn't want to write a ten page paper about pegasi with a quill, but that's just me!

**Leo (July 23- August 22)**- The stars tell me you're going to be the bearer of bad news for someone. Oh no! But don't worry; I'll give you some bad news just so you can get this over with. Matthew Morrison is playing the Grinch in an NBC musical special. I know. Now go pass it on.

**Virgo (August 23- September 22)**- Take the time to get to know yourself this month. Take a million personality quizzes, or if you want, I'll just tell you the results in advance: you're Monica from *Friends*, an INFJ, and a Ravenclaw.

**Libra (September 23- October 22)**- You're felt a longing to go back to the past recently, and I've got the solution. Hula hooping! Yep, go to Walmart and get yourself that sparkly pink hula hoop. For a beautiful two minutes, you'll be back on the elementary school playground, not a care in the world other than keeping that hoop on your hips.



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## The Historic Victory of Joe Biden and Kamala Harris

by Peter O'Malley



On Saturday, November 7, former Vice President Joe Biden and Senator Kamala Harris were elected into office to serve as President and Vice President of the United States. President Biden and Vice President Harris will be sworn in on Inauguration Day, January 20, 2021.

Prior to November 3, Americans knew that this election's outcome would take much longer than usual to be announced, but no one knew precisely how long that would be. Many of us partly expected to wake up on Wednesday, November 4, knowing who our next president would be, but that just was not possible. Many states were almost tied; Georgia and Pennsylvania were going back and forth between blue and red throughout the week. Nevada was taking forever to count their votes, leading to some humorous memes that spread all over the internet. The whole week felt like a cliffhanger from a TV show's season finale; no one could wait to see what happened next.

I remember receiving a text message around 11:30 on Saturday morning from some of my friends, saying, "Check the news, any news," and immediately looking for any election stream I could find. After hearing that Joe Biden would be the President of the United States, I immediately told friends, family, anyone I could. My phone was blowing up, Reddit's servers crashed, and the world looked, as I saw from one of Mark Hamill's tweets, "like the end of Return of the Jedi." Family from Washington, DC, told me how people were celebrating through their windows and on the streets. People across not only the country but the world were celebrating.

Kamala Harris will go down in history as not only the first female but the first person of South Asian and African American descent to become Vice President. "Black women, Asian women, white women, Latina women, Native American women, who throughout our nation's history, have paved the way for this moment tonight. While I may be the first woman in this office, I will not be the last," Harris said on Saturday night. With Harris' position as Vice President, women across our country now see that the door has truly opened for them.

Through the next four years, I hope to see the Biden administration take steps to fight the pandemic, but also to end the horrific plague known as systemic racism and police brutality that our country has faced for centuries. The significant flaws in the American law enforcement and justice systems need to be addressed. I am confident that President-Elect Biden and Vice President-Elect Harris will do their best to solve these problems our country faces every day.

As Joe Biden said in Saturday's victory speech, "Let's give each other a chance. It's time to put away the harsh rhetoric, lower the temperature, see each other again, listen to each other again." The future is looking much brighter as the new administration is already planning to reform immigration laws, address the serious threat of climate change, and maintain affordable healthcare for all.



Artwork by Connor Smith



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## Where Are They Now: 2010 Graduate and Award Winning Conductor Jonathon Heyward

**Peter O'Malley** called former SOA student **Jonathon Heyward** on Zoom to meet up for the first time in ten years. A 2010 graduate of the SOA Strings program, Jonathon has gone on to conduct major orchestras around the world, receive the 2020 Sir George Solti Career Assistant Award, and win the 2015 Besançon International Conducting Competition.



imgartists.com

Jonathon Heyward remembers writing in the *Applause* about his dream of conducting; now, he's an award-winning conductor who credits SOA for giving him his first experiences leading an orchestra.

**Peter O'Malley:** In what ways did SOA prepare you for the career you are enjoying now?

**Jonathon Heyward:** A lot of different ways. What I'll always remember is the culture of the School of the Arts, and the atmosphere between every major. I had friends in every major, and we were all the same in the fact that we all had the same artistic geekiness about us. I loved learning about their disciplines, and even through my career, I find that this idea to collaborate across different art forms is very important. I remember working with some of the Dance students playing Bach, and I found that being able to collaborate in that way was a great way to understand and learn about other forms of art.

**PO:** At what point did you decide you were going to be a professional conductor?

**JH:** It was quite early on. One day in eighth grade Ms. Mears was off sick and the substitute teacher wasn't a conductor. So, he decided to put names in a hat, swirl it around, and have whoever was picked conduct. I believed I was the second one picked, and of course I was terribly nervous. I didn't like being in front of an orchestra, but I did it. I waved my arms in front of the orchestra, and I immediately fell in love with the idea of the score. As a cellist, you read one single line and play it, but as a conductor your goal is to get the idea of a collaboration between five lines. I really went into conducting because of the idea of studying a score, not to stand in front of my peers. I probably didn't get used to that until I was a senior. When I was a freshman, I made the decision to go up to Ms. Sarah Fitzgerald, who was the director. I said that I was interested in conducting, and she was so gracious, to the point where I was conducting rehearsals at least once a week and conducting at least one piece on each concert, which was huge for a fourteen-year-old. I wouldn't be where I am now without those experiences.

**PO:** Who are some of your musical inspirations?

**JH:** There's so many artists, not just musicians, that inspire me. It's very cliché to say this, but I've met Yo-Yo Ma twice, and I am still to this day so inspired by the way he is changing the world. Not just his concerti, but his projects such as the Silk Road Ensemble, all these really incredible innovative ideas and concepts about what music can actually be, make him a true artist. As far as conducting goes, people like Simon Rattle, who have this palpable energy, are people I am very inspired by.

**PO:** Where did you go to college and what was your major? How did college help further your career?

**JH:** For undergrad, I went to the Boston Conservatory of Music as a cellist, and I always knew that cello was the means to get to where I wanted to go. I knew the great importance of learning an instrument before going to a professional level. It was always in my scope to attend a music conservatory in the United States to get as far as I possibly could. The first two years I didn't conduct; I really wanted to focus on my technique as a cellist. I then went to the Royal Academy of Music in London to study my orchestral conducting.

**PO:** How did you end up in London, and what do you like about living there? What are some cultural differences?

**JH:** I fell in love with London when I first visited. It was actually one of the first places I visited in Europe. I was on a vacation, but it was really to check out the Royal Academy of Music. I remember this feeling going into the Academy and walking around through the hustle and bustle of London. There was something very charming, very me, about it, so I felt that I fit in. Culturally, what's amazing is their very dedicated approach to all arts. They have such a really palpable vitality for the arts. Some of these things you can't explain in life, but I really felt a connection to London.

**PO:** The pandemic certainly hasn't made anything easy for musicians. How has it changed your year?

**JH:** I have to say, it's really been on my side a bit. It's so devastating for the music industry and I consider myself very fortunate right now. Colleagues of mine in big orchestras haven't experienced anything like this, even in the World Wars. It's a frighteningly devastating and scary time for the arts. Through these cancellations, I have been asked to conduct a lot of ensembles in London. I made my debut with the London Symphony about a month ago, and debuted at the Royal Opera House this past Saturday [October 24].

**PO:** What are your plans for the 2020-21 season?

**JH:** They're all slightly up in the air, and I wait on a daily basis to hear from my manager about what's going to happen. It's really day-by-day, but having said that, I do plan on starting as the chief conductor of my orchestra in Germany, the Nordwestdeutsche Philharmonie, which starts in January. Fingers crossed—we do have a concert scheduled for the second week of January. I'm returning to the Seattle Symphony Orchestra hopefully in April.

**PO:** Do you have any advice for young artists who may want to go down the same path you took?

**JH:** My biggest thing that I can tell anyone that wants a career in music is to absolutely dream big. Don't limit yourself. Think as far, as wide, as long as you can. I remember writing in that article in *Applause* that I'd like to be a conductor of an orchestra. How naive, how silly, that was. But I'm here; I've done it. The world is completely your oyster, and it's so essential to think about where you want to go. Explore different countries, states, worlds, be free and open to those things. It's such an amazing world that music can take you to. Music, it's a universal language. Dream big, work hard, but take care of yourself along the way. It's a very cutthroat industry, but have a goal and be kind to yourself.

## Where Were They Then: Ms. Ciara Greco

*Ethan Butler* reached out to SOA Guidance Counselor *Ms. Ciara Greco* to find out about her early life.

**Ethan Butler:** Where were you raised? What did you like about it and what memories do you have of that place?

**Ms. Ciara Greco:** I was raised in Amsterdam, NY in a big Catholic Italian family, I have so many happy memories with all my cousins, including eating pizza frita made by my grandpa.

**EB:** What was your early schooling like and how did it differ from this school?

**CG:** I went to a traditional high school but I did major in art. Sports really were the heart of my high school, so that's a huge difference from SOA.



*Ms. Greco and her husband, Joe, on their wedding day.*

**EB:** Who did you look up to as a child?

**CG:** As a kid, I was OBSESSED with Mariah Carey. I used to rollerblade in the basement singing "Always Be My Baby." As I entered high school, I fell in love with Stevie Nicks.

**EB:** Did you play any sports?

**CG:** I started playing basketball in elementary school and continued throughout most of high school. I also played volleyball and ran track.

**EB:** Where did you see yourself being now when you were a kid?

**CG:** When I was younger, I told

my parents I was going to run away to CJ. I guess I thought I was going to be a Real Housewife.

**EB:** What was high school like for you?

**CG:** I loved HS for the socialization only. I had a lot of fun and I drove my school counselor bananas!

**EB:** What was your path after high school?

**CG:** After HS I bounced around from college to college. I changed my major about a hundred times. I was originally a Fashion Merchandising major. At one point, I wanted to be a state trooper and started taking criminology courses, but once I realized I had to wear that hat I changed my mind. It took me five years to get my undergraduate. I ended up at a community college in my hometown. After that, I transferred to SUNY Albany and went to graduate school nearby. After grad school, I packed up my Jetta and moved to Charleston with my pup. I met my husband, Joe, here and we have two beautiful girls, Penelope and Camilla. We are currently renovating a home in downtown Summerville.



*Young Ms. Greco pouts at a party.*



*Ms. Greco (far right) and friends in college, a period she calls her "emo phase."*

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## Music Review: *Ghost in the Machine*

by Ethan Butler

The Police's fourth album, *Ghost in the Machine* (1981), showcased the shift in the band's musical focus, changing from more of a raw, acoustic trio to a contemporary pop group. It also serves as a metaphor for the changes that contemporary music in the early Eighties was undergoing.

most successful out of the three is definitely Sting, the band's lead vocalist and bassist. The following album, *Synchronicity*, was even more of a contemporary pop album than *Ghost in the Machine*. However, their fourth album was, by far, their most unique album, as it was a transition from the more acoustic and individualistic attitude that the group had in the late 1970's, to the more typical, yet experimental pop of the mid 1980's.

## Book Review: *Notes of a Native Son*

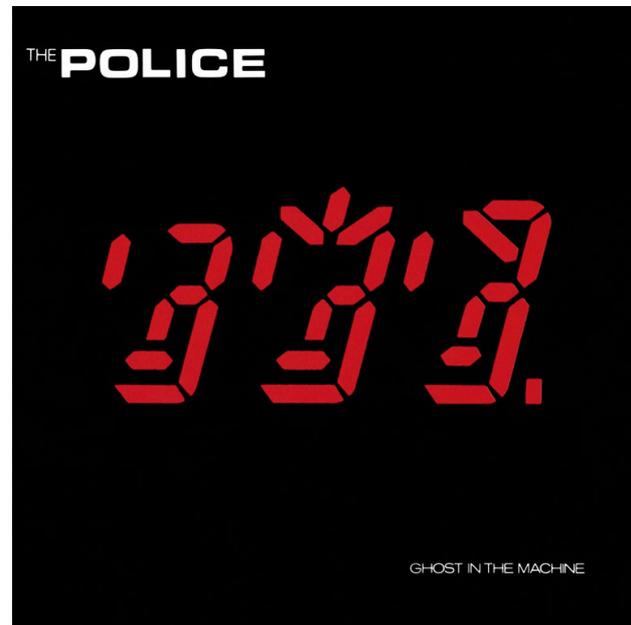
by Katie Forrester

Written by one of America's foremost writers and thinkers of his time, James Baldwin's essay collection *Notes of a Native Son* feels as visionary, relevant, and perceptive of the social and political experiences of black Americans today as it did when first published in 1955. In essays seamlessly interweaving his personal experiences of subjection to racism with insights into American society as an academic, Baldwin integrates a nuanced conception of America's history of slavery and racial oppression into vulnerable meditations about his own life as an African American writer living in Harlem during the dawn of the Civil Rights Movement. The range of subjects with which Baldwin explores deeply and earnestly—the phenomenon of the protest novel, the American church and religion, the failures of politicians, identity, exile, poverty, protest, and hope for the United States—showcase his depth as a writer and social critic, and make his grievances against oppression and those complicit in it all the more urgent. Baldwin introduces his collection by describing his motives for writing it—"I love America more than any country in the world, and exactly for this reason, I insist on the right to criticize her perpetually." The idea that America can be improved only through seeing the nation for all its prejudice and fatal imperfections, rather than believing in the deceiving ideals of an American dream which has never been actualized for African Americans, is a driving force behind the collection.

In one of several essays exploring the protest novel and American media, Baldwin critiques the media's portrayal of African American figures and characters in his essay "Many Thousands Gone," arguing that this contributes to dehumanization and the viewing of African Americans through stereotypes rather than as individuals. In one of the

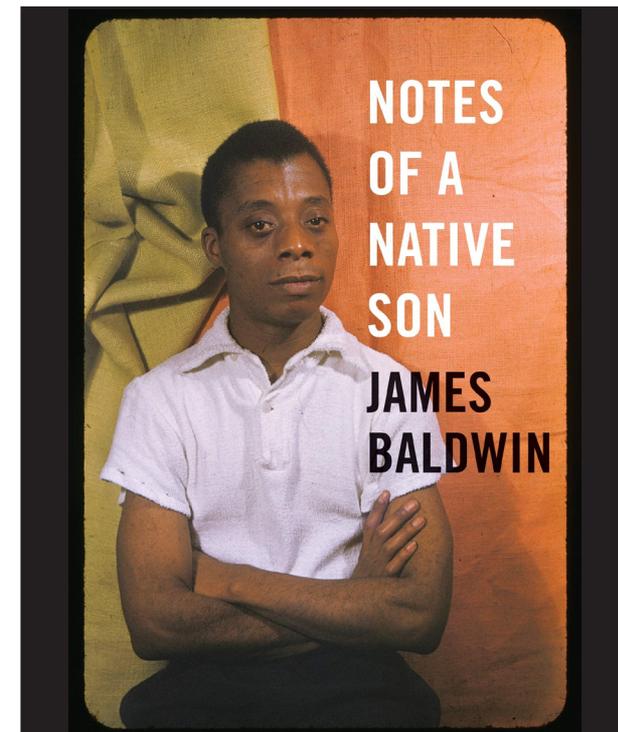
most vivid essays portraying life for African Americans in Baldwin's native neighborhood of Harlem, he describes the uphill battle of many residents to meet basic needs such as paying rent and buying meals. Baldwin details the protests that break out in response to the government's failure to address such, and the suggestions of politicians insulting, superficial remedies such as building new playgrounds, solutions Baldwin likens to "putting makeup on a leper."

In "Journey to Atlanta," Baldwin describes the Progressive Party's attempt to persuade African American voters through promises of civil rights. Baldwin's brother was a member of a musical quartet enlisted to perform for an Atlanta rally for the party. After singing, the group told their patrons they could not perform the next day due to their hoarse voices, and a white patron,



*Ghost in the Machine* was the first of the Police's albums to heavily feature synthesizers and more pop-like electronic instruments. All of the band's previous albums fell into the genre of reggae and more classic rock. The first three also had French titles, with *Ghost in the Machine* being the first in English. The album was named after a book by Arthur Koestler, which shared the same name. However, they retained a bit of the French influence, with the majority of the song "Hungry for You" written in French. The song "Invisible Sun" faced some controversy, as its music video was banned by the BBC for showing clips of the conflict in Northern Ireland, which was still happening at the time. A number of the band's biggest hits were also on this album, such as "Spirits In The Material World," and "Every Little Thing She Does Is Magic."

*Ghost in the Machine* was debatably the height of the Police's popularity in the early to mid 1980's, as they only released one more studio album before disbanding in 1986. After breaking up, the three members went on to each have successful solo careers, though the



withdrawing sponsorship, threatened to have the group arrested, causing the group to struggle to find money to buy food and tickets back to Harlem. The essay's narrations of his brother's experience is seamlessly intertwined with Baldwin's commentary on the empty promises of politicians to remedy prejudice, disenfranchisement, and financial inequality. Baldwin introduces the most famous and personal of his collection, "Notes of a Native Son," by describing his father's death amongst the backdrop of Harlem, conflicted with social and political unrest at the beginning

of America's Civil Rights Movement. Baldwin writes about the transition between a fairly sheltered adolescence and entering the workforce, overwhelmed by the racism and effects of Jim Crow Laws on his own psyche and behavior. He was demanded certain behavior by white people around him—to be subject to constant humiliation for his own existence, to be silent, to be unwilling to argue even for his own seat at a diner or on a bus. Baldwin explores the inevitable feelings of rage caused by such treatment, but ends the essay on a hopeful plea to never accept such—"One must never accept these injustices as commonplace but must fight them with all one's strength."

## Food Review: Jackrabbit Filly

by Will Brown

The Japanese and Chinese restaurant scene in Charleston is interesting, to say the least. You've got the carry out kings like Taste of Thai and Panda Express, your buffet-style



Jackrabbit Filly's outdoor seating fills up quickly, so be sure to grab a table when you see it.

dining like A1 Chinese and Grand Buffet. There's also solid mom and pop places like Green Garden Asian Cuisine and Hong Kong. While overlooked, Jackrabbit Filly has created a unique space in the Asian fusion landscape. I wouldn't be doing my reviewing due diligence if I didn't tell you the actual story of Jackrabbit Filly. In 2014 the owners moved from Brooklyn New York under, as their website puts it, "the impression they had jobs. They did not." After refusing to work under somebody else again, Jackrabbit Filly was born. The name comes from the owner's Chinese zodiac signs, a jackrabbit and a filly horse. They started off as a food truck and moved into their permanent home in Park Circle back in 2019.

They are far and few between, but Jackrabbit Philly does have some flaws that

maybe a turn-off for some guests. The two main ones I encountered were parking and pricing. They do have limited parking directly in front of the restaurant; for additional parking, you'll need to use the parking lot which is about a block away, and walk to the restaurant (which I can't imagine would be terribly comfortable at night). As for pricing, we ordered two entrees and an appetizer. The check ended up being \$40, plus tip. This was a common criticism I noticed when reading customer reviews. And with critiques out of the way, let's move on to the aspects Jackrabbit Filly does so well, and why it's a must-add to your restaurant catalog. To get the most out of your dining experience, I suggest carving out time in advance, not only grab a reservation but also to know what you're getting yourself into. You need to decide which meal of the day you're going for. If it's brunch; it's only Sundays from 11 am to 2 pm. Expect menu items like Belgian waffles, biscuits and gravy, and a wedge salad. But, there are also Japanese style dishes like the Hangover Noodles (which I've come to learn are a favorite among Jackrabbit Filly regulars) and the OMU Rice Bowl. If it's lunch; It's 11 am - 2 pm Wednesdays through Saturdays. Expect lighter dishes like salads and rice bowls. They also serve Cauliflower Fritters at lunch, which is an item that carries over to the dinner menu - they are mouthwatering. Finally, if you're there for dinner (Wednesdays through Saturdays, 5 pm - 9 pm), this is where I recommend making the reservation as they are usually packed. You're in for top-tier Japanese dishes like the Stir-Fried Noodles and Sichuan Dry Pot.

Made with hot honey, aioli, and some other magic, the Cauliflower Fritters are a Jackrabbit Filly essential. They are the Goldilocks appetizer: not filling enough to spoil your dinner, but not so light that you're craving more. I also ordered the Stir-Fried Noodles. Born from mushrooms, caramelized onions, mushroom taré, aonori, and ramen noodles, it's a dish best served hot. While I have to admit Stir-Fry Noodles are not a gourmet meal by any means, Jackrabbit Filly has found a way to master the simplistic dishes, which, in my book, are just as important to get right as lavish entries.

It's truly a sign of the times when I feel obligated to detail each restaurant's COVID-19 response. Nonetheless, it's important to know beforehand, so here is the breakdown. Masks are obviously required up until you sit down to eat. Mini hand sanitizers are at each table for your convenience. Tables are also distanced properly from one another.

Menus are disinfected between each use. Use of their outdoor setting is urged (and fills rapidly). Curbside pickup and carry out are also encouraged options. In times of hyper-cautious restaurant-goers, it's evident the cleanliness and health of their guests is a top priority for Jackrabbit Filly.

It's my opinion that the corks and quality of this restaurant far outweigh the



Photo by Will Brown

Jackrabbit Filly's elevated take on stir-fried noodles is a highlight of their dinner menu.

few shortcomings. I can confidently say the Jackrabbit Filly is an incredible addition to the Park Circle dining scene. Whether you're a foodie trying to check every restaurant off in the Charleston metropolitan area, or simply looking for a low-key dining experience Jackrabbit Filly is one you've got to try.

## November Cultural Calendar

by Logan Baker

**Fri, Nov 13-Sat, Nov 14:** YALLFest's YALLWrite Online Festival (see [yallwrite.org](http://yallwrite.org) for details on virtual events)

**Friday, Nov 13-Thurs, Dec 31:** James Island County Park's Festival of Lights (see [ccprc.com](http://ccprc.com) for details)

**Friday, Nov 27-Thurs, Dec 31:** Brookgreen Gardens' Night of a Thousand Candles (4:00pm-9:00pm, Brookgreen Gardens)

**Sat, Dec 12:** Mount Pleasant Holiday Market & Craft Show (11:00am-4:00pm, Moultrie Middle School)

**Sat, Dec 12:** Holiday Parade of Boats (nightfall, Charleston Harbor)



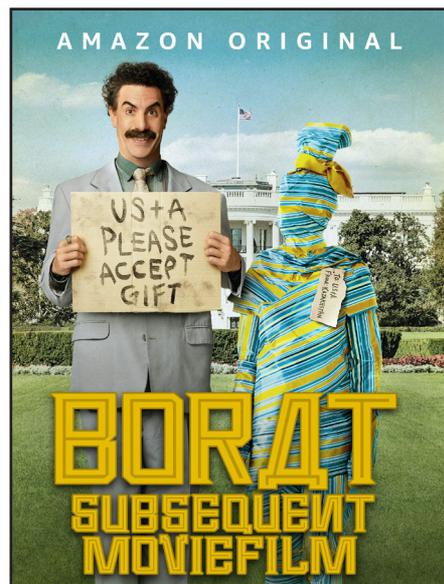
## Movie Review: *Borat Subsequent Moviefilm* by Clara Collins

Applause's resident movie lover is back, and her opinions are as strong as ever! This time, **Clara Collins** is reviewing ***Borat: Subsequent Moviefilm***, out now on Amazon Prime.

*The Godfather*, *Citizen Kane*, *Pulp Fiction*. What do these three have in common? None of them come close to the comedic genius of *Borat: Subsequent Moviefilm*. (Promise you won't show this to the film schools I just applied to.)

I've always thought that Sacha Baron Cohen is this generation's Andy Kaufman. *Borat 2* almost feels like the kind of movie Kaufman would have made if he'd been able. It's Cohen at his best, a culmination of his previous works.

Critics of Cohen's divisive and often explosive comedy have often questioned if his antics actually obscure his message. I've agreed with his detractors before, especially with his grim 2018 series *Who Is America?*, but *Borat 2* seems like just the movie we need right now. Shockingly, it's a movie with a lot of heart and honesty, some well-crafted character arcs. Where *Borat* was nihilistic, *Borat 2* is hopeful. Its ending, with its final shot of Borat and his daughter happily working alongside each other, is the closest to a happy one you can get in the Borat universe; some may even call it sweet.



well. Often, comedies feel the need to use female characters as their "straight men", but Balakova gets some of Borat's biggest laughs; with Tutar, *Borat 2* has gained access to a whole host of situations that Borat himself

could never have managed.

Tutar's evolution from naive peasant to poised reporter is a delight to watch, and her relationship with Borat is surprisingly tender. At its core, *Borat 2* has a strong message of female empowerment, and the filmmakers truly walk the walk by allowing Balakova free reign to play a character just as wild and awful as Borat.

The pacing, often a problem with comedies, is well done, as is the direction from veteran comedy director Jason Woliner, who's clearly in his element here. The amount of planning and dedication it must have taken to create *Borat 2* is admirable; the plot, which almost certainly had to be cobbled together while filming, is clever, finding a way to tackle the horrors of the Coronavirus pandemic in a way that is new, revealing, and remarkably sensitive.

*Borat 2* is both a documentary of American life and a "mockumentary" of a character's experience with it. But beyond that, it's just a really good, really funny movie. We all need a laugh right now; Borat's got it covered.

## Classic Movie Review: *Casino* by Peter O'Malley

Over the weekend, **Peter O'Malley** watched Martin Scorsese's classic gangster film, ***Casino***, based on the novel by Nicholas Pileggi.

Starring Robert De Niro, Joe Pesci, and Sharon Stone, *Casino* is a remarkable film about the management of the Tangiers Casino in Las Vegas from the early 1970s to 1980s. The film highlights the incredible amount of money the casino makes and how operations are conducted. The casino is run very seriously, where cheating in games and saying the wrong things to the wrong people can result in very violent punishments.

The exposition of the movie does an exceptional job allowing the viewer to connect with the characters. It's like going to a party and being introduced to various guests. Various characters are introduced through a voiceover by Robert De Niro and Joe Pesci with spectacular shots of the casino and city. Every Scorsese film has a very personal exposition that makes the viewer feel like they're part of the scene; it's very unique.

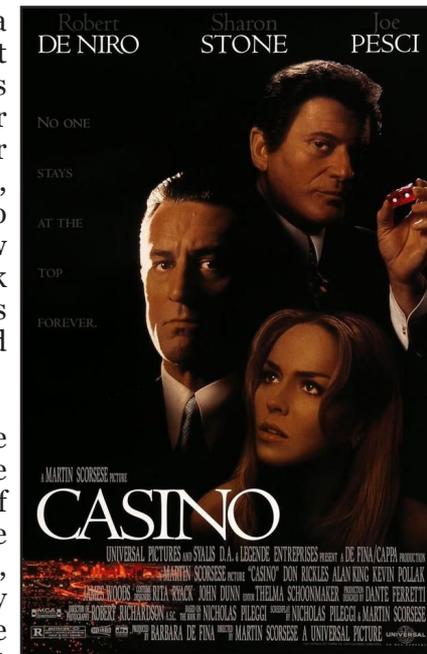
Of course, all Scorsese films are known for their fair share of violence, some of which

happens to be very gruesome. In one scene, Nicky Santoro, played by Joe Pesci, kills a man with a pen because he didn't show respect to Robert De Niro's character. In another scene, a cheating player is served a unique form of justice that left him in a fair amount of pain in his hand. After watching other Scorsese films, I'm proud to say that I know when to look away. That's an acquired trait, for sure.

Another one of my favorite elements of the film is the soundtrack, primarily because of the huge contrast

in music used. Songs used, such as "Gimme Shelter" and "I Can't Get No Satisfaction" by the Rolling Stones, add so much more of an ambiance to scenes that a traditional soundtrack would not be able to offer. Another great example of the music's effect on various scenes is the film's very artistic four minute long opening credits. At the start, the credits are underscored by Bach's St. Matthew's Passion, which is then followed by a totally different song, "Zooma Zooma" by jazz musician Louis Prima. Scorsese has a very unique way of forming the soundtrack for his movies with a specific curated list of musical works from various genres that either relate directly to the time period or to the mood of the scene. I feel that the collection of music used in a film by Martin Scorsese is more of a playlist than a soundtrack.

*Casino* is a great film with many elements that give an accurate, though sometimes disturbing, insight into the hidden world behind a 1970s-1980s Las Vegas casino. With an iconic cast and an incredible director, it's a movie I highly recommend anyone watch.



**Student Council Elections:  
November 18**

## Editorial: November Brings Reminders of the People's Power

It's been a month of watching numbers rise. The most obvious example of that comes from our recent presidential election, which dragged out over the entire week and remains a matter of contention in both Washington circles and our own community. Anyone watching news coverage of the election agonized over the speed at which counts came in, and it soon became apparent that American voters had flocked to the polls in unprecedented numbers, even as COVID cases are reaching new daily highs across the US. It is currently estimated that 148 million ballots were cast, with President-elect Joe Biden winning more than 75 million votes. This record-breaking civic engagement seems appropriate in a year that has stubbornly refused to be ordinary or even marginally predictable. At least this development is a positive one, and one that SOA students and teachers can pride themselves in participating in.

Many SOA seniors voted for the first time or worked at the polls, and this inspiring dedication to our country's democratic process and making positive change through voting, in Charleston and across the United States, is refreshing in a time when it can feel like ordinary citizens have little power to push through the political red tape of our government. This election is a reminder that we, the people, hold the power, and that our politicians and leaders should be humble civil servants dedicated to their communities before all else, not swayed by money, fame, or all the perks that come with such high-responsibility careers.

Our healthcare workers and researchers are endlessly pushing to provide better treatment and, hopefully soon, a vaccine, and we have to ensure that their Herculean efforts are not in vain. With South Carolina's case numbers trending upwards, it is becoming even more important to follow proper social distancing guidelines and wear masks, a responsibility that SOA students are taking seriously. It's going to be a long winter, but, as Dr. Cusatis recently reminded his journalism class, quoting the words of poet Percy Bysshe Shelley, "If Winter comes, can Spring be far behind?" Every day we're inching closer to spring, SOA, and we'll make it through the winter together.

### SOA Schedule

- Mon., Nov. 16-20:** Spirit Week
- Tues., Nov. 17:** Sinfonietta Concert
- Wed., Nov. 18:** Student Council Election
- Mon., Nov. 23:** E-Learning Day
- Tues., Nov. 24:** Teacher Work Day
- Wed., Nov. 25-27:** Thanksgiving Break
- Mon., Dec. 14:** Chamber Orchestra Concert
- Tues., Dec. 15:** Symphony Concert
- Mon., Dec. 21:** E-Learning Day
- Tues., Dec. 22:** E-Learning Day
- Mon., Dec. 23-31:** Winter Break



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### Presidential Trivia

by Charlie Hastings

In the wake of election season, it's time to take a look back on how elections, and the people they brought to office, shaped America. So let's ask SOA students about their knowledge of this fundamental aspect of American democracy.

#### Questions:

1. Who is the wealthiest president ever to hold office?
2. Which president coined the term "White House?"
3. Which president had the most terms in office?
4. Who was the only president to be married in office?
5. Who was the only president to have a PhD?
6. Who was the only president to resign?
7. Who was the first president to travel to China?
8. Who is the longest living former president?
9. Who was the only other president (besides Joe) that was Catholic?
10. Who was the first president to live in the White House?

### Ethan Butler 12th grade

1. Trump
2. Adams
3. FDR
4. Taft
5. Polk
6. Nixon
7. FDR
8. Carter
9. Kennedy
10. John Adams



Photo by Charlie Hastings

6/10

### Ben Hudd 12th grade

1. Reagan
2. Adams
3. FDR
4. Grover Cleveland
5. Clinton
6. Nixon
7. Nixon
8. Carter
9. JFK
10. Teddy Roosevelt



Photo by Charlie Hastings

6/9

### Answers

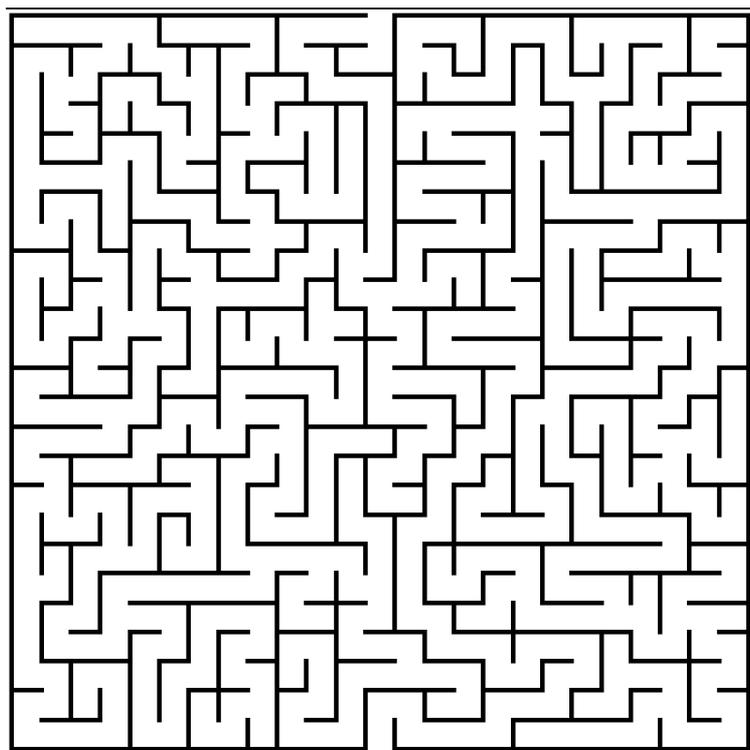
1. Donald Trump
2. Theodore Roosevelt
3. Franklin Delano Roosevelt
4. Grover Cleveland
5. Woodrow Wilson
6. Richard Nixon
7. Richard Nixon
8. Jimmy Carter
9. John F. Kennedy
10. John Adams

**CHAD DIDN'T FIND US  
IN PRINT OR ONLINE.  
THAT RESULTED  
IN A CASE OF  
EXTREME  
BOREDOM.  
DON'T BE  
LIKE CHAD.**

Don't miss out  
on what's happening

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**Help Ms. Greco find her kettlebell!**



**SOA Sudoku!**

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

**Word Search: Presidential Pets**

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

- Taca
- Sunny
- Charlie
- Her
- Socks
- Him
- Bo
- Jameson
- Yuki
- Clown
- Winks
- Meggie
- Doggie
- Mike
- Victory
- Buddy



“I would eat with Boris Pekar and talk about economics.”

-Eli Crowley, 10th grade Theatre



“Little Mix! Even though they are technically 4 people, it would be a dream to meet them and just casually talk with them.”

-Carsyn Smith, 10th grade Theatre



“Hongjoong of Ateez and we’d talk about world peace.”

-Kaitlyn Pickney, 10th grade Dance



“YOU [SOA students] so we would get to know each other and talk about how we can become better friends.”

-Mekhi Jenkins, 11th grade Theatre



“Pentatonix, and I’d love to hear them sing.”

-Savannah Barnett, 9th grade Strings

## If you could have Thanksgiving dinner with anyone, who would it be and what would you talk about?

by Kenya Hines and Ethan Butler



“My grandparents, and I would want to learn about my family history”

-Ms. Ladd, Science Teacher



“C.S. Lewis, and I would talk to him about creation myths.”

-Mr. Hammes, Creative Writing



“I would have dinner with Juice Wrld, and I would ask how I can be a better artist.”

-Bayden Walters, 6th Grade Vocal



“The Obamas, and I would talk about the United States and our history.”

-Lizzie Herring, 12th Grade Theatre



“Van Halen, and ask for guitar tips”

-Helena Meloy, 9th Grade Strings