

Applause

Volume 23, Number 1 School of the Arts, North Charleston, SC September 2021



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Thank you for your support!

From the Editor

Wassup, SOA!

Welcome to a (finally) in-person school year. We're really excited to bring you the latest SOA news and events this year.

Our first issue of Volume 23 features SOA's newest faculty, a spotlight on Visual Arts, and activities students enjoyed over the summer. Make sure to say hi to our new teachers in the hallway, or give them a fist bump since you want to stay covid-safe.

You can always count on *Applause* to keep you updated on our unique culture. But the paper's a whole lot more exciting when we're actually in-person, so keep your masks on!

We have an awesome new staff this year, and it's a great privilege to work with these aspiring journalists. Make sure to check out our Instagram, @soaapplause.

I'd like to personally thank our generous Patrons and Advertisers for supporting *Applause* this year. Without them, this publication would not be possible.

We hope you enjoy the newest issue of *Applause*, and can't wait to publish the next nine of this volume.

Your Editor-In-Chief,
Peter O'Malley

Peter O'Malley



Applause

since 1999, the official student publication of

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**Cover Art by Kayla Herrman
and Lauren Holladay**

SOA Calendar

by Remy Looper

September 20th - 24th: Progress
Reports Distributed This Week
September 24th: Teacher Workday /
Early Release Day

October 22nd: End of First Quarter /
E-Learning Day for All Students
November 2nd: Teacher Workday / No
Students on Campus
November 22nd - 23rd:
Inclement Weather Days
November 24th - 26th: Fall Break



Page 5



Page 8



Page 31

In This Issue

**SOA Middle School Starts
Volleyball Team**
by Giovanni Cusatis

**SOA Alum Joseph Dubay
Talks About his Music
Career**
by Julia Dubay

**Where Were They Then: Ms.
Bednarczyk**
by Sullivan Eppes



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SOA Swimmer is Nationally Ranked

by Giovanni Cusatis

Linnea Ransford, a Junior Vocal major, who swims for the City of Charleston, has garnered state and national attention.



Junior Linnea Ransford, swimming for the City of Charleston, is ranked third in the nation.

When she was one, she learned how to swim, and that was when she fell in love with the water. She started swimming in leagues when she was three, and ever since six years old, she has swum year-round. In the past, Linnea has swum for Fort Johnson and Sha-Mel-Lon during the summer. Her two best events are the 100 and 200-meter backstroke, in which she holds the best times in the state and 3rd in the nation. Her goals this season are to place higher in junior nationals and to better herself as an athlete. Her first meet this year takes place on November 19th through the 21st in Columbia.

Provided

Seventh Grade Creative Writer Cheering for James Island

by Giovanni Cusatis

Amelia Burt is a 7th-grade Creative Writing major who cheers for James Island Charter High School. She started cheerleading because she always had fun tumbling and such, but gymnastics wasn't her thing. The first team she competed for was 77 & Sunny on Johns Island. She practices three times a week and has games on Friday. Practices can be tough, "but when you are doing what you love, doing it doesn't bother you." Her goals this season are to be the loudest she can to hype up the crowd and to have fun. The first scheduled game was August 27th, but due to COVID, Amelia had to miss the first two games. Her first game was September 10th against Cane Bay.



Amelia Burt cheers for James Island Charter.

Provided

Middle School Starts Volleyball Team

by Giovanni Cusatis

There's a new SOA sports team: Volleyball. Most of the players are sixth graders who have never played volleyball on a team before. Sixth grader Madeline Boucher says she wanted to join the team because "[her] mom and aunt played when they were kids, and [she] thought it would be a fun experience."

The team practices on Monday and Friday from 4:00-5:15, and on Saturdays from 8:30-9:45. Practice includes running and other fun activities. Kaylee Anderson enjoys being



SOA volleyball athlete Olivia Short.

chssports.com

able to not only practice but "get a game or two in that has something to do with practice."

Everyone on the team enjoys working together. Mariana Becerra looks forward to "spending time with the girls and winning some games." Their first game got cancelled from a lack of players due to COVID, but they plan to play soon. Cheer them on!

Mr. Martin Remembers Teaching 2021 NBA Champion Khris Middleton

by Ryan Hinske

After a gridlocked 2020 season of cancellations and uncertainty, 2021 saw a strong rebound for the National Basketball Association. Fans from all over the country could finally watch their favorite players back in action. The NBA Finals in July featured the Phoenix Suns versus the unlikely, small-market Milwaukee Bucks.

In a series of 7, the Bucks found themselves tied 2-2 going into a crucial game 5. The consensus around the league was that the winner of the next game would be the team to eventually take the championship home. That game saw Charleston native Khris Middleton score 29 points in a narrow 4-point victory. The Bucks went on to win game 6 and the NBA championship, bringing the historically below-average franchise their first championship since 1971, exactly 50 years earlier. Although this was a shock to most fans, those who surrounded him in high school, like his English teacher, SOA's Mr. Martin, expected this to happen.

Khris Middleton was born in North Charleston in 1991. He immediately became immersed in the game of basketball as he had a very large family with a rich local history in the sport. He has a cousin who played in the NBA and another who played at Wichita State, while his Dad was a local coach in Summerville. Being from such a successful basketball family, Middleton's name held a lot of gravity among high school basketball fans in Charleston.

Middleton's choice to attend Porter-Gaud to play basketball attracted tons of local attention, as fans packed into arenas to watch him play. Mr. Martin taught Middleton English 1 and 3 in 2005 and 2008.

"Khris was an engaged and diligent student. He balanced his academic and athletic commitments exceedingly well."

The consensus among NBA players and coaches is that Middleton has always been one of the most genuine and humble players to know. Mr. Martin confirmed this: "He was kind, hard working, and humble in class and around campus."

As well as being an all-around model student and person, Middleton was a top-tier student athlete. "Most faculty and staff attended the games. I remember he garnered attention from ESPN early in his high school tenure," said Mr. Martin. Many times it felt like all eyes were on him. In his sophomore year, he averaged 12 points and 8 rebounds per game. It was in his junior year, however, that he took it to another level. He took it up to 21 points and 8.6 rebounds per game, and was honored with the state player of the year. By his senior year, he was running opposing teams off the court, averaging 22 points per game and winning the state championship in his final high school match. He earned the 64th spot on the national recruitment list, and



Mr. Martin

Julia Dubay

was commonly considered the best shooter in his class.

“I remember when he arrived in my class his senior year. I was struck by how he had remained the same: an all around good student and humble person. He had achieved so much, but he still came to class everyday ready to engage in literature discussions, write essays, and just seem like any other student,” Mr. Martin said.



cbsports.com

The biggest trait that contributed to Middleton’s unlikely climb to the top of the NBA had to do with his character. Being a high school superstar, yet having little national attention because of living in Charleston must have been hard for him, but claim to fame seems to be very well explained by Mr Martin’s words. Bringing his effort and determination along with his kindness and humbleness had to have an effect on where he landed in his career.

“I keep up with the news about him, and I follow his achievements on his Instagram. I’m not a big sports fan, but he was such a kind and humble person, I’ve enjoyed reading about his well-deserved successes,” Mr. Martin mentioned.

The best way to quantify his success is to look at Middleton’s greatest achievement in his career: he is the only NBA player in its 70 year history to play in the G League - the equivalent of baseball’s minor league - and later on become an NBA all-star. In other words, he has

had the greatest improvement over a career that any NBA player has ever had. He started at the very bottom and worked his way to an all-star appearance, an NBA championship, and most recently an Olympic gold medal.

This is why Middleton is a hometown hero. The city he was born and raised in has no large recruitment programs, no local college powerhouses, and no NBA stars with roots in the city. It’s not about how great he is now; it’s about how he got there. It’s not about him as a player; it’s about him as a person. Mr. Martin’s words help us understand just how much Middleton cared about his game, his schooling, and the people around him, and how he used all of those to get to where he is now. We can all use Middleton’s career as inspiration, no matter what field of work we are committed to going into. If we feel counted out or behind the pack, we should be like Khris Middleton: ceaselessly hard-working, determined, and humble as we move forward.

Art History: A Look at Impressionism

by Aryana Chinn

This month’s issue of *Applause* is focused on the Visual Arts major, so let’s take a look at one of the big art movements that shapes the way we view art today. Impressionism was a huge, and often rejected, movement in the late 1800s



Monet’s *Water Lilies*

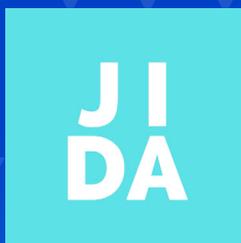
Metropolitan Museum of Art

mainly centered in France. The characteristics of this style of art are focused on the impression the world gives rather than reality.

Painters who used this style would use bright colors and short, choppy strokes to give the idea of reflected light. There were no clean lines or precise details. Unlike the previous realist style, they used color to make highlights and shadows instead of greys and whites. One person who spearheaded the impressionist movement was Édouard Manet. He incorporated all these techniques and gained a following of artists. They created a way of painting outside called *Plein Air* painting, which meant painting outside. In 1841, an American artist named John Rand invented the paint tube so artists could easily transport premixed paint with them when painting *plein air*.

The movement really gained traction when a group of artists who called themselves The Anonymous Society of Painters held an exhibit in a photography studio due to the rejection of the Académie des Beaux-Arts’ Salon de Paris. The problem critics had with the style was that it felt unfinished to them, and they thought of them as impressions, or drawings. Some famous impressionist pieces are *The Water Lily Pond* by Claude Monet, and *The Boulevard Montmartre* by Pissaro.

Overall, this movement inspired artists to paint how things feel, rather than reality. A world is created that mixes natural beauty with the perceptions and emotions of the artist. Hopefully a little look into the world of impressionism can inspire you to try it out!



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A Word with Sarah Crossman

by Aryana Chinn

Last week, I had the opportunity to interview a rising musical artist and quite recently, *America's Got Talent* contestant, Sarah Crossman. She was happy to give me some insight on what it's like being a songwriter and vocalist, and her journey through the process.

Now, the moment you've all been waiting for, the inside scoop. When asked what inspires her singing style the most, Crossman explains, "For me it's not about the notes at all. I love singers who connect. Singers who can go to a spiritual place within and become a conduit for those emotions. So I really try to connect to the song and the lyrics and go within to feel my way through a song." It becomes apparent that the emotional tie to the music is a big part of what makes Crossman's music unique, and it can be felt. She told me about how one of her favorite songs she created was based around shared experiences she and a fellow musician went through.

"Keep on Holdin' is one of my favorites. I had these lyrics from ten years ago, but no chorus. One night, another songwriter and I got to talking about all the setbacks and the moments we thought we would quit. We just really connected on the subject, and we wrote the song."

The journey for Crossman has been exciting, but there have been rough spots and things she has had to work through, as is true for anyone going far in life.

She remarks that she has always felt like she was musically inclined, but there were occasional feelings of doubt chasing this career. "I still have those feelings," she says. "You just push through them and keep doing what you love because you love it. Sometimes you make money and sometimes you don't. But you always have to try to stay positive and put your heart into the work. I don't think I will ever stop feeling that way. No matter how high you climb, you are always looking for more."

Another struggle Crossman had to work through was the lack of representation in the industry. She explains that she didn't really have any good female role models the same age or size as her. Crossman says, "I had to be the representation that I wanted to see." Nevertheless, she continues to impress, and hopefully be a role model for more aspiring singers.

Crossman is working on a performance in Rhode Island with her close friend Katie Kadan. She explained some of the planning steps to me, for those interested in what the business is like. "Well, there's a lot to do. Once a show gets booked you have to create the set list, which for me is also very spiritual. There's an art to it. Then I need to gather all that material, the songs, the charts and all that and send it to the band to learn. I also need to make sure I know the music stone cold too. Then there's the promo. You need to make sure you are getting the word out and selling tickets. So there's a lot of posting and reaching out to news venues." It's going to be very busy for Crossman in the next few months, but she makes the most of it. She says, "Of course the travel plans [are to be created] and my favorite thing.... planning the outfits."



Sarah Crossman performing at America's Got Talent-Episode 1607-July 14th, 2021

tunefoto.com

One of the key parts that makes Crossman's performances unique is her self expression with her style.

Lastly, I asked her for some advice special for us students at SOA, more specifically the vocals. "Just sing in front of everyone you can. Put yourself out there and surround yourself with people who are better than you! Move to a city that has a lot of other musicians in it. A thriving music scene is very important for you. And just keep learning and growing."

There you have it guys, the word from someone in the industry. If you're interested in Sarah's music, she is on Spotify and Youtube, and you can find her on Instagram @iamsarahpotenza. My personal favorite of her songs is "I Work For Me."

Applause Talks with SOA Alum Joseph Dubay

by Julia Dubay

Julia Dubay sat down with her brother, 2012 graduate Joseph Dubay, a local solo artist and TikTok Star.

Julia Dubay: You are an alum of the School of the Arts, and you were a creative writing major. Has the major been a part of your music career in Charleston? How has it impacted you?

Joseph Dubay: Without creative writing, I don't think I ever would have started making my own music. I'd probably still be a musician, but I wouldn't be the one writing the lyrics. My creative writing classes taught me so much about what makes something worth reading, and by that same virtue, what makes something worth listening to. Hammes, Miles, and Scalpaletto taught me how to tell stories and then encouraged my focus on poetry, leading to my songwriting process.

Julia: What do you find attractive about the Charleston setting? What is your favorite part about playing music and growing up here? What are some of your favorite things to do in the area?

Joseph: I have to acknowledge that I have led a more privileged life than many other musicians, and being from Charleston is a huge part of that. Being in a city with music in the water has provided so many people to learn from, places to play, and audiences to reach. I feel like I took this city for granted when I was younger, and I grew bored of it. Now I do my best to appreciate the area and the people and address

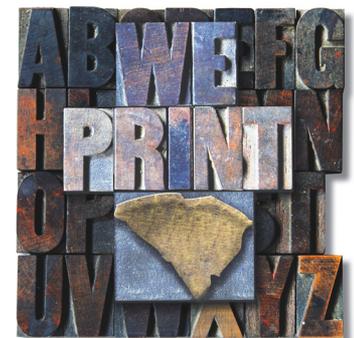


Joseph Dubay, Instagram

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and heal its brokenness. There are so many great organizations (Low Country Orphan Relief, Lowcountry Land Trust, etc.) to help local businesses (Red Rose Vintage, J Stark, etc.). I feel like I'm at a stage in my life where I can sink into being a true Charlestonian and appreciate the city that has given me so much.

Julia: The pandemic is hard for lots of people; in what ways has it affected your performance?

Joseph: I'm very fortunate that I was impacted lightly by the pandemic, especially in the beginning. The hardest part for me was canceling shows and a small tour I had been planning. And while that's nothing major compared to the hardships faced by so many during this time, it was disheartening to have your passion become unsafe.

Julia: Have there been any positive outcomes for your music that came due to the pandemic?

Joseph: I think the best thing that happened was that I found myself with TIME. I ended up releasing my EP, "Loser Boy," and my single, "Mostly Dead," and those are my most successful releases to date! I'm very proud of them and so flattered that people enjoy them.

Julia: What are you looking forward to as more people are receiving the vaccine for your shows? Have you had any recently? What was it like?

Joseph: I'm just so happy and excited to see people again. Having fans online is cool, and I'm so appreciative of it, but nothing beats hearing a room of people singing your songs along with you. I've played a couple of shows, and I've had people come from out of town and out of state to see me play, and that was insane to me, but I was so flattered. People need live music. It's so good for our souls. But I also want to encourage everyone over the age of 12 to get vaccinated if they can. I still have to acknowledge that my shows create a risk of spreading. So get vaccinated, wear your mask, and be smart! We can beat this if we choose to care about each other and not just ourselves.

Julia: Your social media presence on the apps TikTok and Instagram has increased your audience. Did this come to your advantage when you couldn't go out and perform?

Joseph: I never anticipated that I'd do well on Tik Tok, but I always knew that it's important for artists to put time and effort into their social media presence because it's a direct portal to the whole world! I made a few stupid videos thinking, "if people like me, I'll point them to my music," and here I am now with over 560k followers on Tik Tok and 11k on Instagram. It's given me a chance to share my music with people all over the world. There are people in Europe and Australia walking around with my merchandise on. It's WILD to me. I've made so many friends and connections thanks to Tik Tok. The tour I canceled was just going to be close to home, but now I have people all over the country asking me when I will play near them. I am incredibly thankful for all of the amazing followers and fans I have gained, and I can't wait to see them all in the audience one day. Oh, and Hank Green and I are mutuals, so that's amazing.

Julia: What would you tell students here at SOA that are thinking of going into the music industry?

Joseph: Your acceptance to SOA is a tremendous gift. Please don't waste it. Don't ignore the opportunities and connections provided by your time here, especially if you want to pursue a creative career path. When it comes to being in the music industry, in any capacity, your talent is just as important as the effort you put into it. I remember being in high school and thinking, "I'm really good at singing, but no one cares," and do you know why? Because I never sang for anyone. I was mad about something that only I could fix if I was willing to put in the work. Putting in work is scary! Especially when you have other things to work on that are important. So please hear me on this: stop

comparing yourself to others and do what makes sense for you to the best of your ability. If you want to pursue music but also feel like you need to put maximum energy into school or a job that doesn't make you a failure by any metric. That used to make me feel so discouraged, but it's not actually a bad thing! Every step is an accomplishment to be proud of. Don't let someone else's success make you afraid to give it your all.

Julia: Is there anything you can share with us about upcoming songs or exciting news? Where can we find your music and support your art?

Joseph: Right now, I'm working on a couple of projects. One single to release this year and an EP for next winter explores a new genre that I've been really inspired to work in. If you want to keep up with what I do, first of all, THANK YOU, and second, you can find my music by searching Joseph Dubay on Spotify, or wherever you listen to music. If Instagram is still cool, follow me at JosephDubayMusic. And you can find me on Tik Tok and Twitter @EmoJoseph.

Word of advice from alumni Joseph Dubay:

I'm really proud to have been an SOA student, but I know it can be challenging. Remember that you go to the one school where teachers ACTUALLY care about you and that there are people who will listen if you need to talk about anything getting you down. I wish you all the best this school year; thank you for this opportunity, and remember: my sister Julia is cooler than me. And smarter.

Julia: Thank you, Joseph. You're right :)

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Lawson Adams

Senior Theatre Major

Who could I beat in a fight: Godzilla and Batman teamed up without preptime
Favorite superheroes: Mister Miracle, Morpheus king of dreams, and Ultramega

Praise: the sun \[T]/



Grace Baker

Senior, Visual Arts

Favorite Movie: *Sleepless in Seattle*

Loves: afternoon iced coffee

Wants: to be sailing right now



Norah Bernstein

Junior, Vocal

Loves: to watch the sunset and listen to vibey music.

Needs: coffee to survive.

Can't: park.



Emma Brubaker

Sophomore, Band

Likes: *Gilmore Girls* and *Looney Tunes*

Wants: Chick-fil-a

That's: All, folks.



Madelynne Burt

Senior, Creative Writing

clothes: thrifted

always: busy

free: Britney



Aryana Chinn

Junior, Visual Arts

Thinking about: The abandoned building for sale with all the creepy ivy

Really likes: lava cakes with vanilla ice cream

Is planning to: put comics in *Applause* this year!



Giovanni Cusatis

Junior, Strings

Collects: Signed baseball cards

Been a vegetarian: For 16 years

Favorite baseball player: Anthony Rizzo



Julia Dubay

Junior, Strings

Camp: Counselor

Won't: stop talking about it

Over: whelmed

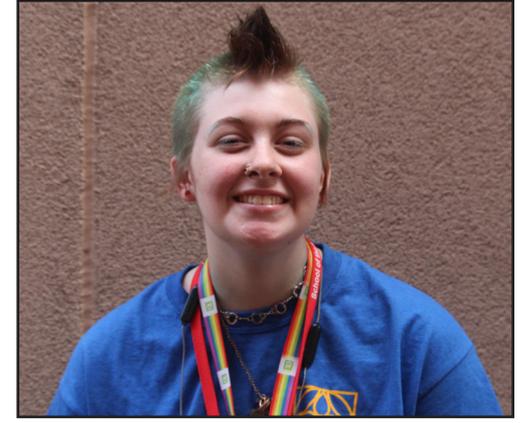
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Can't: fly
Drinks: Iced coffee
Is named after: a blue monster



Jada Fickling
Senior, Piano
Favorite Color: Red
Zodiac Sign: Cancer
Likes: Fall



Kingsley Gainey
Junior, Visual Arts
Likes: frogs, magic rocks, and dinosaurs
Has: 10 bottles of hair dye
Will on impulse: shave my head



Judith Hamrick
Junior, Theatre
Ask Me About: My favorite films
Obsessed with: Spotify and autumn weather
Role Model: Winona Ryder



Kayla Herrman
Junior, Visual Arts
Likes: Helping people
Annoyed by: Lauren Holladay
Obsessed with: Skateboarding



Kenya Hines
Junior, Theatre
Stream: "Deja Vu," by Ateez
Likes: Myself, spotify, and me
Needs to Get: A job



Ryan Hinske
Senior, Vocal
Spread: Peace, love, and joy
Favorite thing: Harmony
Least favorite thing: The inevitable downfall of humanity, when notions of all things good are but mere memories.



Lauren Holladay
Junior, Visual Arts
Likes: sleeping
Annoys: Kayla Herrman
Currently: obsessed with Louis Tomlinson



Remington Looper
Sophomore, Creative Writing
Obscure Interest: Natural filter pools
Ask me about: The Magnus Archives



Carl Macklin
Junior, Band

Likes: Pez dispensers and fake dairy products

Dislikes: actual Pez and fake dairy products

Has: a dairy problem



Peter O'Malley
Junior, Strings

Favorite film: *Kill Bill, Vol. 1*

Ask me about: my cello's tailpiece

Currently listening to: Mahler
Symphony No. 2



Carsyn Smith
Junior, Theatre

Favorite Color: Sage green and black
Fan of: Little Mix, WILLOW, Billie Eilish,
and Little Mix again

Afraid of: *The Muppet Christmas Carol*,
Simon Cowell

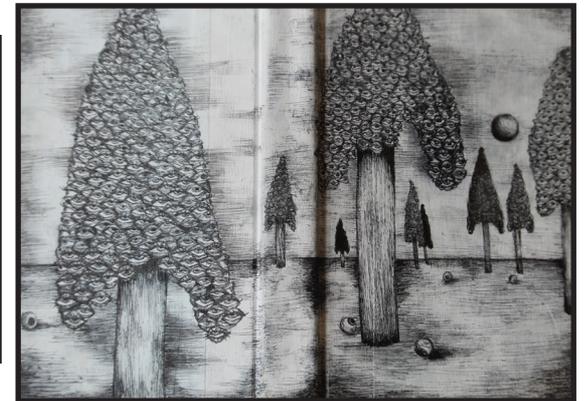
Student Artwork



"Spikey Shoes"
by Abby Short



"Opposing"
by Emily Apostolico



"Optometrist's Garden"
by Eliza Miller



"Liminal Space"
by Maya Drake



"Ćevap"
by Philia Walker



"Enough"
by Hannah Harris



"Lines in the Dirt"
by Evelyn Bueschgen

SOA Welcomes its Newest Teachers and Staff

Ms. Durel Butts, Assigned Supervisor

by Carsyn Smith

Carsyn Smith: What classes will you be in charge of this year?

Durel Butts: I advise the Study Hall class.

CS: Did you grow up in the Charleston area? If not, where did you grow up, and what attracted you to Charleston? And why SOA?

DB: I'm originally from Georgetown, SC. I've been in Charleston for 14 years and I love it! I grew up coming to Charleston to shop, tour the city, dine at restaurants, and attend doctor appointments. I came to Charleston the summer of 2007 to visit my sister for a few weeks and I never returned to NC. I am a "beach bum" and I love seafood so staying was an easy choice. I applied for the position at SOA because I wanted to be a part of a winning team. I desired a new career that was different and challenging. As an athlete, I never experienced the arts much in school but I've always appreciated it. I love to attend my niece's and nephew's dance recitals and performances. I also love to attend Broadway plays and musicals. Like sports, the arts can offer unique learning experiences for students and provide everyone a plethora of possibilities to be successful. Over the summer, I read that SOA was the number 2 ranked school in SC. I searched the CCSD website and there was a job opening. Being at SOA, I can serve the Park Circle and N. Charleston communities. I thank Dr. Cook and Ms. Derrickson for affording me the opportunity to be a member of a great school.

CS: Where did you attend college and what degrees did you earn?

DB: I earned my Bachelors of Social Work degree from Limestone College.

CS: How did you become involved in education as a career?

DB: I love working with children. When I was in high school, I volunteered in the special needs classes as opposed to sitting in study hall. While in the class, I realized how amazing



and loving the kids were. They were alot like us and unique in their own way. The teacher would bring some of the students to my basketball games on Friday nights. They made signs, t-shirts etc..and were my biggest fans. From that experience, I decided that I would work with people with special needs.

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

DB: Prior to working at SOA, I was a clinical counselor with Mental Health America where I counseled adults with mental illnesses. I also worked at Wando High, Georgetown High and NC school system.

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

DB: I loved my early education experience because I had awesome teachers throughout school. They loved and cared about the students and tried to prepare us for the future. The teachers also supported the students' extracurricular activities which boosted students' and school morale. I was sometimes the "teacher's pet" so that helped too.

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

DB: My earlier jobs were Recreation youth sports coach, referee and summer camp counselor. I learned very early that I was on the right career path and I had the opportunity to profoundly impact the lives of children. Working with children taught me patience, teamwork and empathy.

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

DB: Being an educator, I meet hundreds of unique children from various socioeconomic backgrounds. I cherish each encounter and hold a piece of each child in my heart. One of my special needs students was terrified of the pool. Every other week, when we went swimming, he'd sit at the tables and refused to come near the pool. I would gently splash him with water and play toss with a ball. I noticed that he would laugh when splashed with the water. Every week, I'd move his chair closer and closer to the pool. I asked the pool staff to move the chairs so he wouldn't be able to sit. After a while of standing, he sat on the pool floor. I splashed him with water and tossed the ball. This went on a for a few weeks. Finally, I was able to convince him to put his legs in the water. We sat on the side of the pool playing catch and splashing his classmates which he thought was hilarious.

CS: What do you most want students to take away from your presence here at SOA?

DB: I want to build a rapport with my students so they know I genuinely care for them and want them to be successful. I want my students to be confident in everything they do and have respect for themselves and others at all times.

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

DB: My interests beyond education are: going to the beach, traveling, basketball, football, spending time with family and friends

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

DB: My favorite book is Ferdinand. I'm a Taurus and Ferdinand is a family surname. My parents used to read the book to me as a child. When I got older, I read it to them. I've had my book since 1979 and it cost .99 cents. It's still in good condition. The same book costs over \$15 in the book store today. My favorite musical is *The Lion King*, because I love animals and the costumes and music were awesome!

CS: Is there anything else you'd like SOA to know about you as this year begins or any advice you'd like to offer students?

DB: I'm excited to be at SOA and I'm looking forward to having an awesome year!

To the students: Always remember, "It doesn't matter how you start, it's how you finish. But, you must finish!"

Dr. Margaret "Happy" Byrd, Piano

by Jada Fickling

Jada Fickling: Did you grow up in the Charleston area?

Dr. Margaret Byrd: I grew up on James Island.

JF: Where did you attend college and what degrees did you earn?

MB: I attended USC for my Bachelor and Doctorate in Piano Pedagogy/ Performance, and I attended Boston University, where I earned a Master's in Vocal Accompanying.

JF: Prior to SOA, where did you work?



MB: I taught at the College of Charleston Music Department for many years.

JF: How did you become involved in education as a career, and how long have you taught?

MB: I always knew that I wanted to teach piano and perform. I have taught since my Junior year in college.

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

MB: I liked playing piano in my high school jazz band, and also in a private studio band in Charleston called Leonard's School of Music. I admit I didn't like my math courses.

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

MB: When I was 9 years old, I remember being very moved emotionally by the organist at my church. I decided to become a musician then.

Cailin Malinski, Middle School Math

by Kayla Herrman

Kayla Herrman: What classes will you be teaching this year?

Ms. Cailin Malinski: I'll be teaching Math 8 and Algebra 1.

KH: Did you grow up in the Charleston area? If not, where did you grow up, and what attracted you to Charleston? And why SOA?

CB: I was born in Sumter, SC. My family is military and my parents were stationed overseas, which brought me to a small town in upstate New York with my grandparents. I grew up in Johnson City, NY. After I graduated college, I got my dream job offer as a math teacher in Charleston, so I said "Yes!" I believe fate brought me here to SOA. I grew up playing piano and trumpet and loved drawing and singing. I'm so lucky to be here.

KH: Where did you attend college and what degrees did you earn?

CB: I attended Alfred University for my undergraduate and got my degree in Elementary Education with a concentration in Mathematics. I then attended College of Charleston and earned my Masters in Education in teaching math and science.



KH: How did you become involved in education as a career and how long have you taught?

CB: I didn't think I would ever be a teacher, but I spent a lot of time at the YMCA and summer camps as a camper, counselor, and leader. I tried accounting and it didn't go well, so here I am in Education.

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

CB: Before SOA, I worked at Cario Middle School in Mount Pleasant and prior to that, I was at Pinewood Prep in Summerville.

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

CB: My early education was ongoing inside the classroom and outside the classroom. The adult figures in my life had a love of nature, so I was always learning about the world around me (animals, plants, water, etc). The small town atmosphere gave me chances to try anything I wanted with little competition. I'm grateful to have had the chance to try lots of things in my early education.

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

CB: Camp counseling and lifeguarding were my first jobs. I learned to always expect the unexpected and stay calm under pressure. There are so many things in life that we cannot control, so we need to be ready for anything.

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

CB: I do Crossfit (2 years- a new love of mine), swimming (teaching swimming and I swam competitively for 12 years including Masters Swim Team), Track and Field, arts and crafts (jewelry, crochet, knitting, anything with string), and anything outdoors (hiking, camping, fire, biking).

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

CB: Having 2 children of my own and watching them learn and grow from infant, to toddler, to young children has really directed me to knowing that teaching is for me. Every human can offer education in one way or another to another human. Being part of that is why I do what I do.

KH: What do you most want students to take away from your classroom?

CB: Other than feeling more confident in mathematics, I want my students to take away that being a good person and doing good deeds without being asked is essential in our world

today. We take for granted the moments we have with the people right in front of us. Understanding perspective and having empathy for others is what I hope my students will take away from our time together this year.

Mr. Dayton Colie, Middle School Art

by Grace Baker

Grace Baker: Where did you grow up, and what activities did you take part in?

Mr. Dayton Colie:

I grew up on the Northern end of Lake Murray up near Columbia. My family just refers to the body of water we each grew up near. Like my dad will tell you, he grew up in Point Pleasant, New Jersey, sailing up there. So I grew up sailing and traveling to regattas at a young age and continued throughout my life.

GB: What prompted you to move to Charleston?

DC: I came down to visit Charleston to race in a sailing regatta when I was 12, and it was windy. And there is no wind on Lake Murray in the summertime during the day. And I said, "Wow, this is awesome. Is it always like this?" "Yes, every day, at exactly this time, the sea breeze will come in. And I said, "Well, I think I am going to live here."

GB: Where did you receive your college education?

DC: I majored in Theatrical Design at the College of Charleston. I majored in lighting up things to make them beautiful and designing gigantic sculptures that people walk through and interact with. And part of that major was learning to paint. I actually worked on the Hunley film, I designed a set for this band called Jump Little Children at the Dockstreet, and I also designed a set of the B 52's for a private party, which was kinda cool. Basically, what I did was learned to create things that people interacted with on a large scale. College taught me how to think differently about things and how to really give them a good look over. I had to become a creative chameleon.

GB: How do you like SOA so far?

DC: I like it a lot, and one of the things I've noticed is that people here are very kind and positive towards each other. It's a very good vibe, and it's one of these things where



everyone seems to look out to perpetuate that. It's almost like if you throw a rock in the water, you get a ripple, but if you throw two stones in the water, you have two sets of ripples, and sometimes they cross each other. In other words, one ripple of kindness at the beginning of the day will make someone do something kind to someone else. The other thing, too, is the mind-numbing level of talent that's here. It's pretty awesome, and for the most part, everyone is considerate and empathetic. All of that builds together to create this positive, creative energy in the air at all times.

GB: What current projects are you working on?

DC: My 6th graders and Art Appreciation students are creating cartouches and writing their names in hieroglyphs. The 7th graders are creating 3D creatures out of cardboard and eventually painting them with bright colors and patterns inspired by the artist Marius Valdes. I am impressed that they've done this so quickly, and I'm like, 'Wow, what else can they do?' since they've figured out how to make an animal that doesn't even exist into a three-dimensional sculpture out of flat cardboard. Even though we are at such a high level, some kids move fast, and others work slow. Neither one is incorrect, but we have to move at a pace that works for everybody. Instead of saying 'This'll do,' or 'this is great,' how about 'this is epic!'. Ancient Greeks, Picasso, progression. How can we make art out of progression?

GB: At what point in your life did you choose to pursue art?

DC: When I started designing and painting sets, I had a lot of other people that were saying, 'Hey, this is something you should. 'you're very clearly an artist.' I didn't know what I was going to do. My last couple of years of college were spent fully committing to designing stuff. Within a year after I graduated, I had a series of watercolor prints for sale all over the market area. I've always wanted to teach art, and I looked into that career later in life.

GB: What styles of art do you enjoy creating most?

DC: One of my series was a watercolor representation honoring musical culture. This was an experimentation of humanity in general. It was a realization, experimentation, and exploration. That is very intellectually fulfilling to work on. I am really looking forward to painting canal-scapes of Burano in oil. I ran around the island and took probably 100s of photographs. I wasn't there very long, but the second I stepped foot on the island, I said, 'OK, this is my next show.' I also enjoy painting people, but if I had one thing to paint

one thing over and over again, I couldn't even give you an answer because id paint it

GB: What advice do you have or people that aspire to go into the art field?

DC: We call it "full send" in my household. Shinzou Wo Sasageyo means to 'dedicate your heart.' Anyone who has seen *Attack on Titan* will know what that is, and if you're going to do something, you have to commit to it. You have to understand that life's not always going to be perfect. I had to learn to budget my money for a little while seriously, and sacrifices had to be made, but if you just keep going, it's not so much about finding a break, it's just staying true to your heart and staying happy, and eventually, things will line up for you. They won't line up if you halfway do it. At some point, if you see a door that kinda cracks open, you have to push through it.

Ms. Ann-Marie Fairchild, Vocal

by Julia Dubay

Julia Dubay: You taught MS math here for more than two decades. What will you be teaching this year?

Ms. Ann-Marie Fairchild: I'm teaching a high school vocal class with mixed grades 9-12. I also share a class with Mrs. Caffarel of 7th and 8th-grade students. I teach them on the A-day and she teaches them on the B-day.

JD: Did you grow up in the Charleston area? If not, where did you grow up, and what attracted you to Charleston? And why SOA?

AMF: I was born and raised in Charleston. I learned about SOA the year it was opened. Some of the students in my youth choir at church told me about it and encouraged me to look into teaching here.

JD: Where did you attend college and what degrees did you earn?

AMF: I attended Clemson for 2 years then transferred to CofC to study music. From the College of Charleston, I have a Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics, and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Vocal Performance. From the Citadel, I earned my Masters of Education in Secondary Math Education.

JD: How did you become involved in

education as a career and how long have you taught?

AMF: I stumbled into teaching after visiting a friend's chorus class at Drayton Hall Middle School. (Yes, it was originally a middle school and is now an elementary school.) I was the accompanist for the choirs and I fell in love with the students. The next semester I enrolled in education classes.

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

AMF: I taught for five years at Garrett High School. I also taught private voice and piano lessons.

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

AMF: I loved everything about my early education. I was blessed with amazing teachers who cared about me beyond just being a person in their classroom. My teachers inspired me to strive for excellence.

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

AMF: Other than babysitting, my first job was at Chick-fil-A at the Citadel Mall. I worked there for about 3 years, earning the famed Chick-fil-A Scholarship. I learned about time management and I also learned that work can be a blast - all of my friends worked there with me so we had way too much fun.

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

AMF: There are too many of these! Every day, God gives me confirmation that I'm in the right place, doing the right thing.

JD: What do you most want students to take away from your classroom?

AMF: I want my students to see music as a gift. It is a gift we give ourselves as we feed our mind, body, and soul in studying and experiencing music. It is a gift we give to others where we share our talents.

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

AMF: My life has been defined by my faith, my family, teaching math, and making music. I also love to read, cook, and work in the garden. I try to dip into each of these areas every day. I also sing with a local professional choir, The King's Counterpoint. I've travelled with them to sing at Westminster Cathedral and Canterbury Cathedral.

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



AMF: My favorite books are: *A Prayer for Owen Meany* by John Irving, *Cold Sassy Tree* by Olive Ann Burns and *Prince of Tides* by Pat Conroy. All of them make me laugh and cry. When I find a favorite book, I tend to read it over again every few years. I also love the *Harry Potter* series. I think I've read the entire series 6 times. I don't have a favorite movie but I love the action/adventure genre. My favorite band is One Republic.

JD: Is there anything else you'd like SOA to know about you as this year begins or any advice you'd like to offer students?

AMF: I'm really excited about this new adventure. My students are wonderful and have been very encouraging. I love my SOA family.

Ms. Elizabeth Galizia, Student Interventionist

by Emma Brubaker

Emma Brubaker: Where did you attend college, and what degrees did you earn?

Ms. Elizabeth Galizia: I attended Winthrop my freshman year, but it wasn't the best fit for me. I transferred to The College of Charleston to sing in the choir with

my older brother (and Charleston is much more fun than Rock Hill). I earned a B.S. in Elementary Education. I had always found history very boring until my junior year when I had the most interesting History professor at CofC. I decided then that I wanted to teach high school History instead. So I went to the Citadel Graduate College and earned a Masters of Arts in teaching Social Studies.

EB: Where did you grow up?

EG: I grew up in Greenwood, SC, which is in the Upstate. I had lived in Charleston since 2000, when I moved here for college. But I still have the Upstate accent!

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

EG: Most of my jobs have involved working with children and young people. Besides babysitting, my first job was at a daycare. After that, I waited tables and bartended on Shem Creek to pay my way through college and graduate school. I was a writing tutor at the Citadel for the undergraduate and graduate



programs while in school there. I taught middle and high school history for 13 years around Charleston County. The most important lesson I have taken from all my jobs is to be kind and patient with all people no matter what because everyone is fighting some type of hard personal battle.

EB: Where did you work before SOA? How was it different or the same as working at SOA?

EG: I was at Academic Magnet as a history teacher before. It is similar to SOA in that the students at both schools are so kind and so talented. But I love the arts and believe they add so much joy to our lives, as well as balance. Book knowledge is very important, but there is much more to life. I enjoy the diversity and creativity of the SOA campus, students, and faculty. Last year I was actually here as a substitute teacher second semester and am really glad to be here full time.

EB: Is there anything else you'd like SOA to know about you as this year begins or any advice you'd like to offer students?

EG: I will mostly be working with grades nine, ten, eleven, and twelve. The position of Interventionist is new this year, and it's perfect for me because I like to work with and help young people. So if I reach out to you, please don't be annoyed! I'm just here to help you succeed. My advice is to start the year off strong by keeping your grades up (because you know you'll want to slack off a little come springtime). Build good positive relationships with your teachers because your reputation is important and will always precede you in life. Reach out to an adult you trust when you need help. I'm here for all students, Room 1113 in the high school building, and will help you any way I can.

Ms. Meredith Harman, High School Spanish

By Aryana Chinn

Aryana Chinn: What type of classes will you be teaching this year?

Ms. Meredith Harman: I will be doing four classes of Spanish 2, and two classes of Spanish 4 honors.

AC: Did you grow up in Charleston and if not, what attracted you to



Charleston, and why SOA?

MH: I did not grow up in Charleston. I moved here in 2001 for my first big job teaching at Ashley Hall. I've been here ever since at different schools, and when my daughter came to SOA in sixth grade, I knew that it would be lovely if I could also teach here to be with her, and that just kind of happened.

AC: What major was your daughter in?

MH: She was in piano, but she also sings a lot, and now she's at Academic Magnet.

AC: Where did you attend college and what degrees did you earn?

MH: My undergrad degree is Appalachian State, and I have a BA in Spanish, and then my graduate work was at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill with a masters in Spanish literature.

AC: How did you become involved in education as a career and how long have you taught?

MH: When I was in Chapel Hill studying literature, part of my responsibility was to also teach some beginning classes to the college freshman. As I was doing that I realized I was learning so much more about Spanish by teaching it, and I came to like it so much more than, really, the literature part. I enjoyed the literature, but I kind of got attracted away by the teaching part.

AC: Why are you so enthusiastic about teaching Spanish?

MH: Well, it's one of the most spoken languages, I know that it can benefit students financially, and it can also expand their world view. Also, I've always been a language and grammar, type of person, so it's part of who I am.

AC: What do you want your students to take away from your classroom?

MH: I want them to say that it was a fun class and that they learned a lot, and I want them to say that the way that I taught them helped them understand it, maybe in a different way than they had before. I feel like being a non-native speaker, I have the perspective of the learning part that a native speaker kinda forgets.

AC: I see, because you can resonate with the students who are also learning the language. And you kind of have an idea of what it's like to have to learn and what are the hard parts.

MH: Exactly.

AC: How do you think studying Spanish could be helpful and influential to student's lives as artists?

MH: Ooh, that's a good question. Well, for one thing, we learn a lot about Spanish artists in my class, and hopefully that might be an

inspiration for some of them to explore some of the different types of work that they have never seen before. I'm talking about visual art of course, but we also look at music and instruments, we look at customs such as dance that occur in different places around the world, and I'm going to try to provide chances to use their talent in the class. While they're learning Spanish, they get to show off, maybe they learned a new dance or they learn a new song, or they recreate an artistic picture from something that they learned.

AC: They get to create a cultural connection with what they do...

MH: Absolutely.

AC: Any advice you'd like to offer to the students for a last wrap-up?

MH: For my students? I've pretty much told them, the best way to learn is just to show up and participate, and be engaged. As long as they do that, with an open mind and without sort of the fear of trying, that they'll be fine. I think a lot of people are afraid to sound funny if they're trying to speak a different language, but if they can get past that, it's a much easier thing.

Ms. Shannon Horn, Theatre Teacher and Student Interventionist

by Sullivan Eppes

Sullivan Eppes: Where did you grow up?

Ms. Shannon Horn: I moved around a lot while growing up since my dad was a civilian with the Air Force. I have lived in South Carolina for the last 22 years. Before that, I have lived in 6 different states.

SE: Where did you attend college, and what degrees did you earn?

SH: I earned a Bachelor of Arts from Nebraska Wesleyan University in Music Performance and Elementary/Middle Grades Education. My Master of Arts in Theatre Production is from Central Washington University.

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

SH: When I was in elementary school in California, I was part of the G.A.T.E. program. I was lucky enough that this was an all-day,



everyday class and program. My teacher, Mr. Folger, really believed in education. He saw us as more than just students in his class. He cared about us as people. This, more than anything, made the biggest impact on me as a child and is part of the reason I became a teacher. I wanted to do for my students what he did for me.

SE: How did you become involved in education as a career, and how long have you taught?

SH: This year is my 25th in the classroom. Both of my parents started their careers as teachers, so I think I came by it naturally. In addition, I also had an amazing teacher for 4th through 6th grade who inspired me to become an educator. I love sharing my passion for learning and theatre with students every day.

SE: What were some of your earliest jobs? Where did you work prior to coming to SOA?

SH: Early on, I had a lot of different jobs. I babysat, worked at a candy store, and detasseled corn (I grew up in the Midwest). My parents were thrilled that it helped me understand the value of money. Before working at SOA, I worked at the College of Charleston in the Department of Theatre and Dance. Prior to that, I have worked in a local private school, another CCSD school, and a rural school in Missouri.

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

SH: I think my story above about my elementary teacher is probably the best response to this question.

Ms. Alyssa Nestman, Middle School English

by Madelynn Burt

Lauren Holladay: Where did you grow up, and what attracted you to Charleston?

Ms. Alyssa Nestman: I grew up in Idaho Falls, Idaho. And if you are not an outdoorsy person, like me, it's very boring. When I married my husband, he had just been hired as a meteorologist for WCIV here in Charleston. Our honeymoon was a long trek across the country, but we settled into Charleston perfectly.



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

AN: I struggled a lot with math until I was in high school. My sophomore year, my algebra teacher made fun of my failing grade in front of the whole class. I walked out and swore I would prove that the problem was not with me, but with him. For the next two years, I got all A's.

LH: Where did you attend college, and what degrees did you earn?

AN: It took me a while to settle on a college. I went to Idaho State University for a year studying Vocal Performance. When I decided I didn't want to be an opera singer full-time, I transferred to Brigham Young University. Finally, I decided teaching was my calling, and the Brigham Young school in Idaho had the best teaching program. So I transferred a third time and finally got my degree at BYU-Idaho.

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

AN: I used to be a paraprofessional behavioral technician for children and adults with disabilities. I worked with children who had autism, helping them build their skills in school and out in the community, and teaching them social skills. That was my first job in high school, and I worked there for 8-9 years while going to college.

LH: Where did you work before you returned to SOA?

AN: My first job was teaching theatre as a long-term sub at my alma mater, Hillcrest High School. I then worked my first year as an eighth-grade teacher at Rocky Mountain Middle School. That's when I moved to South Carolina and started teaching at SOA. I then had to move to Tulsa, Oklahoma, to work at Jenks Middle School, and by some miracle, I've returned to SOA!

LH: Why did you choose to teach at SOA originally?

AN: The idea of teaching at an art school seemed perfect for me, to have a place that encouraged my artistic, creative style of teaching.

LH: How did you become involved in education as a career, and how long have you taught?

AN: In high school, I was convinced I wanted to be an opera singer. But something about it did not sit right with me. It was too self-focused, and that was not me. I felt more satisfied helping people. I remembered that I loved directing and coaching the freshmen in my drama class, so I decided to major in Theatre Education. My first teaching job was in theatre, but then at the last minute, I switched to teaching 8th grade English language arts.

I've taught 8th grade ELA for five years, and I don't think I would go back!

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

AN: *Into the Woods* is by far the most meaningful work to me. The brilliant writing of both its literature and music has on more than one occasion given light to difficult moments in my life. "Do you know what you want? Are you certain what you wish, is what you want?" Right now, I feel like I'm the baker's wife on a quest into the woods to fulfill my wish to have a child. If only it were as simple as finding a cow as white as milk, a cape as red as blood, the hair as yellow as corn, and a slipper as pure as gold.

LH: Is there any moment or story that stands out to you as one of those "this is why I do what I do" moments?

AN: I have at least a dozen or more, but I always think back to this one student I taught my first year. She had built up these walls and came to my class ready for a fight, and I didn't know how to connect with her. If I'm honest, I was a little afraid of her. I knew I needed to find something, so I started by writing her notes on her writing assignments. I found she was a very strong writer and loved to write poetry. Then one day, I saw her fervently standing up for a student in class who had been wrongfully accused. It suddenly dawned on me what she was fighting for all this time: she just wanted to make sure no one was treated unfairly, especially herself. When I figured that out, our communication improved. The next thing I know, she not only got her grades up, but she was helping other students in the class to get their work in. She taught me to hear students, allow them to communicate their side, and show understanding.

LH: Is there anything else you'd like SOA to know about you as this year begins or any advice you'd like to offer students?

AN: I tell my students every year that we are all the same... we are, but we aren't... but we are... There are moments when we celebrate our differences, and there are moments when we recognize what we all have in common. When you realize that you are not the only one with struggles, though you may be struggling differently, the world does not feel so lonely. And all we really want - what everyone really wants is to belong. That's what I love about SOA. Here, we belong.

Dr. Dustin Ousley, Student Interventionist

by Ryan Hinske

Ryan Hinske: What are your responsibilities at SOA this year?

Dustin Ousley: I'm serving as a student interventionist in the high school building, working with the 11th graders who need assistance academically or emotionally. Whatever our team can help them with in terms of planning, organizing, or rebounding from bad habits stemming from a quarantined year, that is what we're here for.

RH: Did you grow up in the Charleston area?

DO: I'm actually from the Upstate, about 3 1/2 to 4 hours away, so I'm still a South Carolina guy. I moved here 4 years ago to take a job full time as a Professor at Charleston Southern University.

RH: What attracted you to Charleston?

DO: Initially, it was the job, but my wife and I always saw Charleston as the really cool city that was always a little too far to visit from the upstate, so getting to move here for the job was really exciting, and we really love it here.

RH: Where did you attend college and what degrees did you earn?

DO: I graduated from Furman University with a Bachelor's degree for Arts and Music, and then went to University of North Carolina at Greensboro for my Masters in Choral Conducting. Lastly, I went to the University of South Carolina for my Doctorate, also in Choral Conducting.

RH: How did you become involved in education as a career?

DO: Well, I was going to be a teacher no matter what. I had wanted to be a teacher since the 2nd grade (although my mom tried to talk me out of it a lot) so I was accepted to Furman as a Math major with the intention of becoming a math teacher. However, they offered me scholarship money to be in the choir, so I kind-of accidentally joined and fell in love with music, and I have never looked back since.

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

DO: I was and still am the full-time Choral Director at Charleston Southern.

RH: Why did you choose SOA?

DO: I had done group retreats with the vocal



majors in past years and loved working with high school students, so I came to join the vocal department last year for 10 hours a week. Now I'm here for 20 hours a week as an interventionist while still retaining my full-time job at CSU. I saw myself making some headway with some of the vocal students last year, so I was eager to pursue this opportunity because I felt like this type of role, although different, seemed to line up with my passions and philosophies.

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

DO: It all has to go back to my 7th grade math teacher. I had a rough 6th grade year. I was angry and always in trouble, but she was the only one that didn't hold that against me. She gave me a clean slate, introduced me to community theater (I had not done anything musical prior to that), and helped steer me in the right direction. We're still friends who talk to this day and her daughter is my best friend. The older I've gotten, the more I've realized just how much people like that have held me up over the years.

RH: What do you most want students to take away from their interactions with you?

DO: My first statement I have is that it's not about where you start, but where you finish. The second is that the journey of 1,000 miles begins with one intentional step. I have thousands of stories I could say about that first step and what it means to me, so I try to take that and become the voice of reason that helps our students make that step in the right direction.

RH: What is your favorite book and movie?

DO: My favorite book right now is *The Road Back to You* and my favorite movie is *The Green Mile*. I think they bring up a lot of different issues that send a lot of solid moral messages. I love any book or movie that brings up a conflict that we need to be addressing, as they align strongly with my passions.

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

DO: I want students to know that I'm a believer, so if there are ever any students that need religious guidance, I would be more than happy to help. I also want the students to know that I am an extremely accepting person for students of all affiliations and strongly believe that all believers should have the same courtesy.



Jordan Dunne modeled and walked the runway in Hamptons Fashion Week.



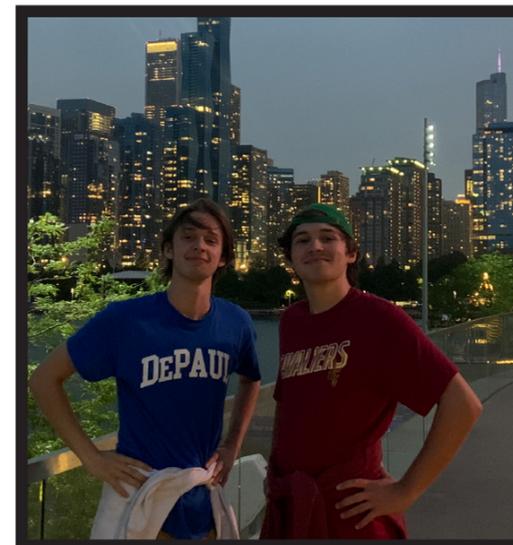
Peter O'Malley attended Green Mountain Chamber Music Festival, studying with Professor Alan Rafferty of the Cincinatti Conservatory of Music.



Ashley Gotlib visited Paris.



Mr. Jon Phillips performed at Forte Jazz Lounge.



Tripp Carrington and Ryan Hinske visited Chicago.



Ada Misenheimer went to Disney Land and Disney World this summer. She met Spider-Man, Tow Mater, and a Loki variant!

What did SOA do over the summer?



Gabriel Eppes worked at a Boy Scout camp called Camp NoBeBoSco in Eerga County, NJ.



Ned Walpole worked as a life-guard at the beach on IOP.



Kenya Hines met her baby cousin, Mayor.



Emily Apostolico went to space camp in Huntsville, Alabama where she learned about science and space, and got to participate in many mock missions.



Jack Phillips went to Universal Studios in Orlando, Florida.



Giovanni Cusatis performed at music events around the state.

Ms. Tiffany Paeschke, Middle School English

by Carsyn Smith

Carsyn Smith:
What classes will you be teaching this year?

Ms. Tiffany Paeschke: 8th Grade English Honors

CS: Did you grow up in the Charleston area?

TP: I grew up in Rogers, Arkansas, and moved to Charleston in 2000 after accepting a teaching position at the College of Charleston. I have had friends in the literary and arts community since I've lived here and have always heard about SOA's rigorous academics and super talented students, and have always been impressed with their general reputation. And, of course, my own daughter began in 6th grade as a theatre major and is now in 9th grade as the same major, so I got firsthand experience at its exceptionality.

CS: Where did you work before coming to SOA?

TP: I worked at Deer Park Middle School, and private schools in the area before that.

CS: Where did you attend college and what degrees did you earn?

TP: I received my BA in English at the University of Oklahoma and my MA in English at the University of Central Arkansas.

CS: How did you become involved in education as a career and how long have you taught?

TP: When I was young, my sister and I would play school in our garage with the neighborhood kids. The deep understanding that learning is fun and keeps your soul young was a part of my life at an early age, and I find one of the rewards of teaching is that it forces me to continually learn, consider new ideas, hear new perspectives. I have taught for over 20 years now, from preschool kids to college students.

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

TP: I have fond memories of my elementary and secondary years; I am pretty competitive, so I always had a friend who challenged me to do better than him or her; I had a great support system through my family and friends. All in all, pretty lucky kid!

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



TP: My first job was at a car dealership where I was the receptionist; I also did this in college. Also, during my undergraduate program, I worked in a restaurant as a server, then moved into a shift leader where I ran the dining room staff. Great responsibilities for someone under 20, but I was successful because I was proactive (could see something that might cause a problem and find a workable solution to mitigate it before it became a bigger deal), organized, and knew how to talk to people. These are extremely important skills I still carry into my own life.

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

TP: I can't think of an exact anecdote, but I will say that already, in my experience at SOA, I've had those moments during class discussions. Those moments happen when I hear students diving deep, considering perspectives they haven't before, making connections to their own lives and to real-world affairs. Those are what I call my "goosebump" moments.

CS: What do you most want students to take away from your classroom?

TP: What I would love for my students to take away from our experience together is that it's okay to fail because integrity matters most; that life is a beautiful challenge and deserves tenacity and grace; and that a passion for learning should exist outside of the classroom walls.

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

TP: I've been known to hijack a few bands to play the tambourine and was a mean spoon player as a kid.

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

TP: The *House of Mirth* always stands out as one of my favorite novels, and I named my daughter after its protagonist. I gravitate toward feminist, Black, or YA lit, or historical fiction (*The Devil in the White City* remains a fav too). I love *Wicked* and *West Side Story* and once saw *Dracula* as a musical and loved it.

CS: Is there anything else you'd like SOA to know about you as this year begins or any advice you'd like to offer students?

TP: I think an effective teacher needs to be organized, flexible, precise in their expectations/goals. I think a good leader needs to establish respect and trust because, without this rapport, all of the intentions are lost.

Mr. Richard Watts, Student Concern Specialist

by Judith Hamrick

Judith Hamrick:
As a Student Concern Specialist, what does your job entail?

Mr. Richard Watts:
As a Student Concern Specialist, some of my responsibilities are

to ensure rules are being followed, help out around the school when needed, and be there for the students if they need something.

JH: Did you grow up in the Charleston area? If not, where did you grow up, and what attracted you to Charleston? And why SOA?

RW: I did not grow up in Charleston. I was born in Baltimore, MD, and lived there until I was about 11 when I moved to Newport Beach, California for 6 years. I moved back to Baltimore for a short time before moving to the Charleston area. I accepted my position at SOA because I want to have a positive impact on the community. Working in this school or any school will allow me the opportunity.

JH: Where did you attend college and what degrees did you earn?

RW: I didn't. I graduated from Wando High School.

JH: How did you become involved in education as a career and how long have you been working with students?

RW: When I retired from my previous career, I started volunteering at my son's school. I was approached about being a substitute teacher, and I started doing that. After two years of subbing, I was hired as a full-time employee. I've been working in education for 8 years.

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

RW: Berkeley County School District.

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

RW: I was always blessed in my early education to have amazing teachers that kept me engaged and interested in the material.

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

RW: I've worked numerous jobs growing up.



I worked in food and beverage, at a bowling alley, and movie theater. I was also a mechanic, a tow truck driver, and before I started working in Education, I was a police officer for 15 years. With all the experience I've had in my professional life, I think the best thing I learned from them is how to talk to people.

JH: What do you most want students to take away from your advisory?

RW: I want them to know that I am here for them, and I want every student to have the best school year and multiple successes throughout the year.

JH: Is there anything else you'd like SOA to know about you as this year begins or any advice you'd like to offer students?

RW: The advice I'd like to share is that life is full of distractions; stay focused on your goals and talk to someone if you're feeling overwhelmed.

Ms. Mary Kate Rumph, High School Science

by Peter O'Malley

Peter O'Malley: Where did you attend college?

Ms. Mary Kate Rumph:

At Clemson, I majored in Microbiology (aka the study of microscopic organisms) and then I went to MUSC for my Master's in Biomedical Sciences. I graduated from Clemson in 2018 and I graduated from MUSC in 2020.

PO: What brought you to SOA?

MR: The students and faculty!

PO: Did you have any other teaching positions before SOA?

MR: I taught Biology at Burke High School last year.

PO: What classes are you teaching this year?

MR: I am teaching Physics, Anatomy and Physiology, and Biology.

PO: Do you have an artistic background?

MR: I unfortunately do not have an artistic background. Does singing in my car count?

PO: Does returning to the Bonds Wilson Campus bring a sense of nostalgia?

MR: It certainly does! I graduated from Academic Magnet in 2014, which to me doesn't seem that long ago, but it really was! I've definitely had some high school flashbacks.



PO: What are you excited to teach students this year in Physics (and other classes)?

MR: I am excited to be able to do labs again! Last year the majority of my students were virtual and it made it difficult to do labs. With all students in-person, labs are much more feasible.

PO: What are some interests you have beyond science and teaching?

MR: My cats (I have 4), Clemson football, hiking, watching garbage reality tv, and eating food at all the restaurants around town. I am always looking for new recommendations!

PO: What advice do you have for students?

MR: Don't be afraid to ask for help! I know I was in high school, and it was something I had to learn.

Mr. Jon Phillips, Computer Tech

by Remy Looper

Remy Looper: Can you tell us about your origins: where you were born, where you went to school, and how you came to Charleston?

Mr. Jon Phillips: Okay, I was born in farm country north of St. Louis, Missouri. I went to college at Southern Illinois

University at Carbondale. I moved to South Carolina after I graduated from college, and wound up on Hilton Head playing saxophone. And then I came to Charleston because I was going to go to MUSC for occupational therapy studies, but I never finished the paperwork because people started calling me to play saxophone and it kind of worked out.

RL: What did you study at Southern Illinois University?

JP: I switched majors about a bazillion times, and I was there for six years before I finally graduated, because I couldn't make up my mind what to do. Six years in school and out of school. I moved to Florida, at one point, moved back. I majored in Journalism; I majored in Advertising; I majored in Math; I



eventually kind of figured out that it was going to be saxophone or nothing, and here I am.

RL: What have you enjoyed most about living in Charleston?

JP: When I first moved here, the beach was everything, and then playing gigs downtown was everything. I still haven't found the world's greatest pizza in Charleston. I'm going to go on record as saying that. I really enjoy downtown because that's where I do all my playing and playing ends up being my social scene.

RL: How often do you play gigs?

JP: I probably play about 150 gigs a year, so probably three times a week, something like that. Sometimes a lot busier, sometimes a lot less.

RL: Wow, that's dedication.

JP: Well, I don't belong to a bowling league, I don't golf. It's my social life; it's my part time job; it's my artistic life. I don't know what I would do without being a musician. But eventually I will have to figure that out because I got my second pair of hearing aids last year. My hearing is going away. I won't be able to continue it forever. I'm kind of making amends and trying to figure out what I'm going to be, post-musician.

RL: How did a professional saxophone player end up teaching computer science at an art school?

JP: I've got all kinds of weird certifications and stuff that I've picked up over the years. I went to work for a company here in town called Blackbaud as a buyer. They're a software company, and I've always been pretty decent with computers, but when I went to work for them, what I found out is that computer programmers are gods at any company where they work. There aren't enough of them, and they just get up and move whenever they want to, and I was like, "you know what, I think I'd like to be treated like that, professionally." So, I started taking some programming classes, figuring that I would become a programmer,


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and I wasn't bad at it. But at that time in my life I didn't have enough time to really apply myself the way I needed to. So I got some background but I never got a degree or anything. So, long story short, when I started applying for teaching jobs, the only school left where I could apply was Academic Magnet, and they needed a programming teacher. So, I brought in this ginormous computer program. It didn't work, it didn't run, it did not compile. It was full of bugs and errors and they didn't know. They just looked at a whole bunch of code and said, "This is great." And that's how I got into the thing. From there I just kind of hustled [laughs]. Back then the Academic Magnet was not the institution it is now. It wasn't a very good place to work, a lot of fighting, lots of disagreements.

RL: You mentioned you have a variety of certifications. Which of those are you most proud of?

JP: I like knowing that I used to know about diamonds. Otherwise they are all just kind of weird. Like the stuff I earned when I was a buyer, professional certificates and stuff. I mean, they're great, but I don't have a love for supply chain management. But the diamond grader thing was pretty cool. I almost took off and went to work in South Africa, one of the big centers of the world's diamond trade.

Really excited about that but I thought, "You know what, I don't think I'd be having much fun after all."

RL: After your time teaching at Academic Magnet, how did your perception of SOA change once you started working here and how do you feel about it now?

JP: I don't know that my opinion has ever really changed. I've just seen its mission and the quality of the students it produced just improve steadily over the years. It just became a more and more impressive art school. In terms of the students produced, and that's the real judgement of what we have here. I just think it's always been an awesome place, and things changed at Magnet, and I was like "You know, I want to try something different" so that's why I came here.

RL: What's something that you want your students and future students to know about both yourself as a person and a teacher, and also the course that you're going to be teaching. What would you consider to be the most important things they should know before taking your class?

JP: One, the student is always more important than the material. You, as a person, are always more important to me than pushing

want to be. So there we have it.

RL: Thank you. And thank you for your time. It's been very nice speaking with you.

JP: Well thank you. I've enjoyed it.

Ms. Tiffany Phillian, French Teacher Intern

by Norah Bernstein

Norah Bernstein: What are you currently studying, and what degree do you hope to earn?

Ms. Abby Phillian: I am studying French, Foreign Language Education, and Anthropology at the

College of Charleston. After graduating in December, I'll have a Bachelor of Arts degree in French Education.

NB: What sparked your interest in French? And your interest in teaching?

AP: I started learning French in 8th grade only because my brother started learning it 3 years before me. But after a couple of years and advancing several levels, I loved being able to communicate in a way that not everyone could. Learning a second language was my own way of "studying abroad" since I lived in a small town with few opportunities to travel. I always knew I wanted to have a job related to teaching. I would seek out leadership opportunities in clubs and tutor my friends if they ever needed help. When I started college, I quickly realized that I never wanted to compromise my language classes for other subjects, so I knew teaching French was the way to go!

NB: What attracted you to SOA?

AP: The College of Charleston placed me at SOA with Mme. Bednarczyk, but when I found out I would be here I was so excited! I've never been to an art school before, but I was always involved in arts programs throughout high school. I couldn't wait to meet students with similar interests!

NB: What qualities do you find to be most important in a good teacher?

AP: I believe a good teacher is personable, knowledgeable, and compassionate. It's really important for teachers to make a connection with their students and to build a rapport in and out of the classroom. Teachers should be knowledgeable, not only in their content area but also in how to best present the material to



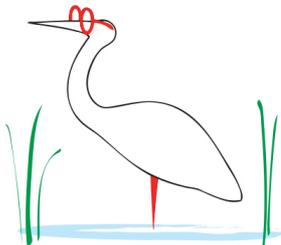
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students with different learning needs. Lastly, I feel like being compassionate is what makes a teacher approachable and inspiring; all characteristics that I hope to embody one day.

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

TP: What I loved about my early education was growing up together with my classmates. Many of the students I had a class with in kindergarten were the same students that sat near me on my high school graduation stage. This isn't always the case, especially with what I've noticed about schools in the Charleston area. But what it showed me, and what I think students here should consider, is how important it is to make friends with the students in your classes. They are the ones you see every day and should be people that you can trust and make memories with outside of the classroom.

NB: What are your goals for the future/ plans after college?

TP: Graduating in December puts my post-graduate plans on a weird timeline. But as of now, I plan to substitute teach for a couple of months, either in the Charleston area or near my hometown in southwestern Pennsylvania. In the spring, I plan to go to France for 1-2 months to complete a course that will certify me to teach English as a foreign language abroad. This fall, I'm applying for a national Fulbright award to teach English in Morocco for the 2022-2023 school year. The award is extremely competitive, so I will be waiting for that decision to figure out the rest of my post-graduate plans.

NB: Do you have any advice or tips that you have picked up during your time in college?

TP: The advice I have for incoming college students is to make as many connections as you can. Everyone says to get involved in clubs and organizations, but your participation in these activities will mean so much more if you make good friends with the people you spend your time with!

NB: What have been some of your favorite activities, clubs, or pastimes while in college?

TP: I was in Chucktown Sound (CofC's athletic band) and Phi Mu (sorority), which are two organizations that brought me many leadership opportunities and fun memories! This past semester, I started substitute teaching for Charleston County which was a great way to get involved in the community and get professional experience. For pastimes, I love trying out new coffee shops and restaurants with my friends, binging a good Netflix series, and taking long walks around the city!

NB: Any secret musical talents?

TP: Yes - I've played the trumpet for about 11 years! I've also played the French horn and mellophone for various events and was the drum major of my high school marching band. My brother inspired me to join a band when he started baritone lessons in middle school. I am so thankful for my background in music and my participation in the arts!

Mr. David Rieder, Social Studies Teacher Intern

by Lauren Holladay

LH: Did you grow up in the Charleston area? What attracted you to SOA?

DR: I grew up in Charleston and have lived here most of my

Fall Election Results Are In!

Freshman Class President: Victoria Hickerson

Freshman Class Representatives: Aaliyah Lemons, Isabella Pineda, Mella White

Sophomore Class Representatives: Grace Dennie, Kennedy Mack, Sunshine Simons

Junior Class Representatives: Aidan Penna, Kenya Hines, Devon Brunson

Senior Class Representatives: Tripp Carrington, Haley Freeman, Ryan Hinske



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life. I was placed at SOA for my internship, and I had no prior experience with SOA. However, I had always heard great things about the school, and it was my first choice for placement. I felt really lucky to end up at SOA and with Ms. Orchard, and my first few weeks here have only reinforced that belief.



LH: Where did you attend college, and what degrees did you earn?

DR: I went to Duke University in Durham, NC, and I was a history major. I have been working on my Master's (MAT in secondary social studies) for the past two years.

LH: How did you become involved in education as a career, and how long have you been involved?

DR: It sort of just happened. Right after college, I initially worked in journalism (and I still do some of that on the side), but I eventually began tutoring middle and high school students and decided to pursue a Master's in teaching.

LH: Where did you work before SOA?

DR: While I have been in grad school, I have worked several part-time jobs. I am a writer for *Swimming World magazine*, and I also coach summer league and high school swimming here in Charleston. In addition, for the past three years, I tutored middle and high school students at Porter-Gaud.

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

DR: I always enjoyed it when I had teachers who were enthusiastic about their subject matter and cared about their students, and that's the kind of educator I want to be.

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

DR: Through my work experiences, I have improved at working on tight deadlines and under pressure, working as a team and learning to trust my colleagues, and figuring out how best to work with students and help them be the best version of themselves.

LH: What do you most want students to take away from your classroom?

DR: I want students to learn the content, of course, and the skills specific to the classes. For example, in social studies, that is how to analyze evidence and create a convincing argument. But aside from that, I want them to be passionate about learning and improving

themselves as students and as people. Finally, I care about showing enthusiasm, and I hope students appreciate that just like I did for many of my teachers growing up.

LH: What interests do you have inside or outside of school, and to what degree are you able to pursue them?

DR: Aside from my side jobs, I love to swim, and I practice every day before I come to school.

LH: How long have you been swimming? How does this affect your day-to-day life?

DR: I've been swimming all my life, and I enjoy getting in a solid workout each morning before I come in. It gives me the energy to go about my day.

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

DR: I am a huge fan of *Star Wars*, the *Marvel Cinematic Universe*, and *The Dark Knight* trilogy. I'm not sure there's anything particular that stands out, but I love rewatching these movies. Great way to relax!

LH: If you were to attend SOA as a student, what major would you specialize in?

DR: I was in the chorus in high school, but I'm not a very good singer, so probably creative

writing. It's definitely different from my background in journalistic writing, but I enjoy writing in general!

LH: How did you get into journalism? Are you planning on continuing that while also being a teacher?

DR: I sort of just started writing about swimming a long time ago (I was in high school, actually), and I just never stopped. It's a passion project, and it's fun to write the occasional article on the side and then more during the summer, so it's definitely something I will continue a little while I am a teacher.

LH: You mentioned that your image was from this past June at the US Olympic swimming trials... How are you involved with the Olympics, and has that affected your teaching career?

DR: I write extensively about Olympic swimming and Olympic-level swimming. I was at the trials, and I wrote day and night during the Olympics (which meant not much sleep that week!). It's something I really enjoy doing on the side, completely separate from my goal to become a teacher. During the week, I want to help my students learn key skills and become passionate about learning social studies, but during the weekend, it's fun to put together a story that I'm really proud of.

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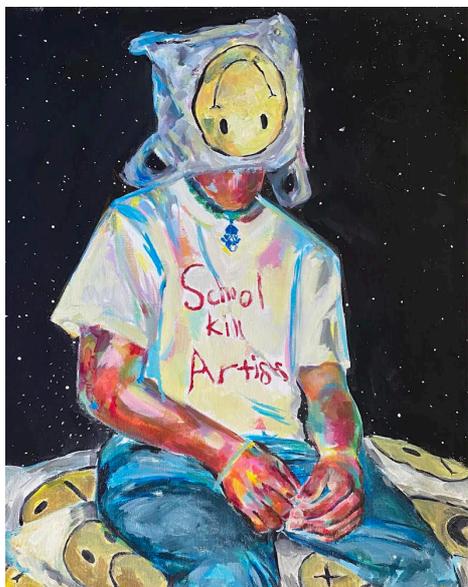
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LH: If you were not pursuing a career in education, what would you be doing right now?

DR: I really don't know, to be honest. I enjoy writing, but it's not something I would want to do full-time.

LH: Is there anything else you'd like SOA to know about you as this year begins or any advice you'd like to offer students?

DR: I am excited to work with awesome students and some incredible faculty as I begin my journey in teaching!



“Dissociation”
Schenayda Salido, 12th
Grade



“The Precipice of an
Eighteen Year Old Boy”
Schenayda Salido, 12th
Grade

Middle School Poetry

“Campfire”

by Micah Howell, 6th Grade

Red and orange tongues
Licking the air
Reaching the sweet marshmallows.

Laughing voices, wicker chairs
Rocking around
The iron pit.

What a joy, but
It must end
As the beast is settled.

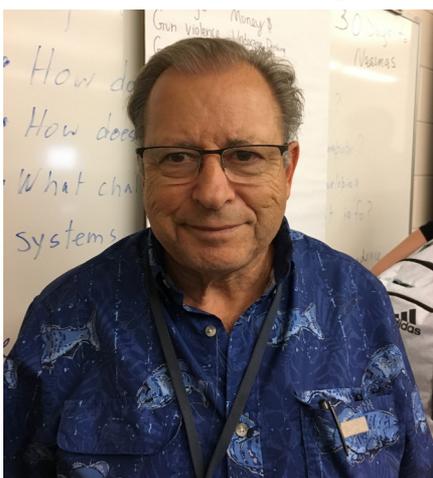
The voices recede, some
Call out
As the night engulfs them.

In the morning
Sweet memories
Fill the brain
As the children beg their parents
To do it again.



Micah Howell

Mr. Naas Quote of the Month



Former SOA Computer Science teacher, Mr. Naas, has shared his wisdom with Applause for many years, and we would like to continue that tradition after his retirement.

“I saw this model to improve your interactions with people on a poster recently. It's an old model but I have put it in use and it has greatly improved my conversations with every one I come into contact with and makes me feel like a better person: In preparing to respond on any topic follow these rules:

1. Is it true?
2. Is it necessary?
3. Is it helpful?
4. Will it make the other person feel good?

Some facts may be true, but contradicting someone about a simple fact that has no relevance may just create hard feelings. For example, if a classmate would say “I got to school at 8:30 am,” and you correct the speaker and say “No, you got here at 8:35 am.” Your response may be true but not necessary or helpful and many make the person feel uncomfortable. Try this model one day and see if it makes a difference in your interactions with others.”

Welcome, New SOA Sixth Graders!

by Norah Bernstein and Julia Dubay

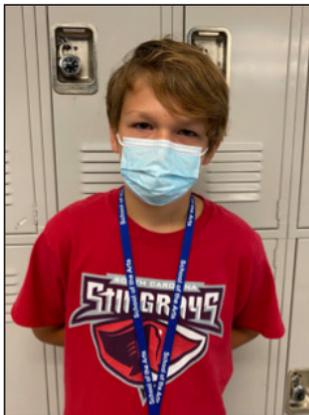
Norah Bernstein and Julia Dubay picked three 6th graders, Irelyn Addis, Annabella Cusatis, and Nicholas Fender, to talk about their first weeks of middle school here at SOA.

Irelyn Addis, Dance SOA welcomes 6th grader Irelyn Addis, a dance major. After a relaxing summer, Irelyn returned to school only to be quarantined after just a few days. She says that it went okay, but she is very happy to be back. When asked about her transition from elementary to middle school she said, "Well, it's kind of scary because not a lot of my friends from my old school go here." Irelyn's favorite part of the day has been her major class. She tells us that it is because, "I can get better at it." Irelyn says that she is not nervous for any upcoming events.



Annabella Cusatis, Strings SOA welcomes 6th grader Annabella Cusatis, a strings major who plays the violin. Over the summer, Annabella spent time at her grandparents' lake house. She says that the beginning of her year has been good, and her favorite class has been science: "I like going to the lab." Annabella says that her introduction to a new middle school during a pandemic has been different, due to having to stay socially distanced and wear a mask. When asked if it was stressful, she says, "I mean, I guess I like it better than elementary school." We agree. Later, when asked if she was nervous about any upcoming events, she says, "Auditioning for regions." We reassured her that it's a little scary but we know she'll do great.

Nicholas Fender, Piano SOA welcomes 6th grader Nicholas Fender, a piano major. "Mostly I stayed home. I had soccer. I went to Georgia," said Nicholas, describing his summer break. Later on, when Nicholas reveals the real reason he enjoys middle school better than elementary school, he says, "I like it more because you have to switch classes and you have different teachers. Because in elementary school the teacher knew me really well, so she would yell at me a lot." I can't help but to agree with him. Although, after just a few days of school, Nicholas was quarantined, switching classes in front of a screen. He explains how it didn't go well, but he is very happy to be back, especially to be immersed in his favorite part of the day, math.



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Where Are They Now: Caleb Smith

by Carsyn Smith

Carsyn Smith sat down with her brother, former Theatre major and 2018 SOA grad Caleb Smith, to discuss his life after graduation.

Carsyn Smith: What college are you attending? What major have you chosen? And how has SOA helped you pursue your major in college?

Caleb Smith: I am currently a Senior at Oglethorpe University where I am Film major and theatre minor. I was also blessed with the opportunity to receive a full tuition scholarship for my acting talents. SOA helped me by providing my classmates and I with a safe, creative space to explore our talents and passions. Teachers such as Mr. Younts, gave students the opportunities to also practice their talents outside the school environment. This therefore helped me, and many others really focus on our passions for the fine arts. That's why SOA is so important, it appreciates the fine arts in a world where the fine arts are usually underappreciated.

Carsyn: How has covid-19 affected your college experience?

Caleb: COVID-19 at first didn't have the best effect on me. I was hopeful and planned for a lot that unfortunately had to be cancelled due to the pandemic. I took the time out to plan and put together my current media company, Avery Media, and work on multiple collections of music that I plan on releasing soon. I had one of the most awesome experiences with my internship at Craft Creative, a black-owned video production company located in North Charleston. I was overall able to really take the extra time the pandemic provided to learn more about my passion for videography, photography and editing. I felt like I took a huge step in the right direction toward achieving my film dreams.



Carsyn: What is the best thing you have experienced in college?

Caleb: The best thing I have experienced in college has been the feeling I get whenever I finish very appreciative feeling for my school, the opportunities it has provided and the enjoyment I get from every step of the process. Aside from the theatre, though, I would say that another of my biggest achievements is crossing the greatest fraternity to exist, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. A fraternity that was founded by 7 great men the campus of Cornell University, December 4th, 1906. I have been able to use my skills in my school's chapter to help fulfill our national programs, and help the public be informed of ongoing societal issues. These may include an interactive video I created to help bring awareness to Drinking and Driving. This enabled the viewer to interact with the screen on the video, navigate through multiple ways of how a night could go right or wrong, and most importantly, learn about the dangers of drinking and driving.

Carsyn: What is the most challenging aspect of college?

Caleb: The most challenging aspect of college I would tell anyone is managing the freedom you're given. It is a major adjustment to be made from high school to college. Time management is very important thing to learn though in life. If done right, and if time is properly managed, and priorities are kept the correct way, then it is impossible to avoid doing what you love and succeeding in the things that universally matter.

Carsyn: What are some cool things you did over your summer break?

Caleb: Over my summer break I came back to Craft Creative after my junior year and had the greatest time. I was able to learn so much about the film industry from pre-production all the way to the delivery of a video to a client. I was also responsible for recording and editing quick social content, behind the scenes and graphic content. I was able to work there from June up until the point when I had to return to College for my senior year. I am very appreciative for the lessons they taught me and the skills I was able to attain to further my passion for film and content creation. I also returned to Palmetto Boys State as a second year Senior Counselor. This is also where I was given the honor of being named the Outstanding Senior Counselor of the year, an award given to one Senior Counselor every year out of the 20+ that come every year. This is a great achievement as the award is named after one of the founders of the program here, Sinclair Lewis.

Carsyn: Have you chosen a career path to explore after college?

Caleb: After my undergraduate years, I plan on pursuing my passions for film, acting, and content creation. I'll either stay here in Atlanta, GA or come back to settle down back where it all started, continuing to do what I love. I plan to have my own studio within the first year of my time out of college, creating content for everyone under the sun, ultimately creating my own version of a creative and safe space for the youth to create and cultivate their artistic passions.

Carsyn: We recently saw that you were a photographer for NYFW, what are some things that you experienced there? How would you describe your experience?

Caleb: NYFW was one of the greatest experiences I have had with videography and I am extremely blessed to have experienced it. I was able to come back to New York City and shoot enough content to last me a lifetime. The experience of just being able to have a Press Pass with my name on it was enough to satisfy me. I was truly happy to not only film and cover Runway shows for multiple designers, but also cover the night life of New York City



HOLY TRINITY
w i n d e r m e r e

brands, media companies, etc. It was a place that I felt like I could thrive in, everyone had a very high level of hustle. It was surreal to be in the same area as so many influencers in today's pop culture and be given the opportunity to film the experience.

Carsyn: Do you have any advice for the seniors?

Caleb: I would tell the seniors what I would tell my senior self. Take in all you can while you have the time you have in school now. Don't take any lesson, or FREE information for granted. It is what you will use to propel yourself forward in whatever field you may choose to pursue. If you dream big, you work hard. One does not come without the other; they are intertwined. Always be confident in your work, and authentic with everyone around you. Respect others how you would expect others to respect you. It is the only way you'll be able to find value in the endeavors you may take on. It'll give you purpose for your work, your talents, your craft, and life. Love everyone. You never know the potential you and another may withhold unless you take a chance. So always bet on yourself and never change for anyone. Be the best you, you can be and never be afraid to fail.



Carsyn: Accomplishments since SOA?

Caleb: I have been able to be a part of multiple shows in college and have made big strides in my passion for film and content creation. This includes getting the opportunity to work with Craft Creative, and many local and globally known influencers. I was named the outstanding senior counselor of the year at palmetto Boys State this past summer. The biggest accomplishment I have had is being able to keep my passion for film and hunger for always wanting to learn more. I hope to continue to work with these influencers and create content that engages anyone that has an interest in pop culture and videography.

Carsyn: What do you miss the most about SOA?

Caleb: I miss being with those who really believe in me every day. When I was at my lowest and highest points. The few teachers, classmates, and friends that I had during the time, that truly wanted the best for me, have influenced me in ways they can't being to comprehend and have in turn, helped me pursue my passions. I would like to shoutout those instructors that have really helped put me in a position to succeed, such as Dr. Cusatis, Mr. Younts, Mrs. Link, Mrs. Crawford, Mr. Pezzeca (Rest in Peace), Mr. Cosgrove, Mr. Orvin and a couple other instructors who really took the time to pick my brain on my passions, and life lessons they knew were important for me to understand. Most of all I miss coming to school every day doing what I love most, and that's creating. Being a student at SOA is really a privilege that students should always remember. That's why I always say to never take for granted the time you have there to pursue your passions.

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“Best wishes for a great school year”

Where Were They Then: Ms. Chris Bednarczyk

by Sullivan Eppes

Sullivan Eppes interviewed Mrs. Bednarczyk, high school French teacher, for a peek into her life before SOA.

Sullivan Eppes: Where were you raised? What are some of your fondest memories?

Ms. Chris Bednarczyk: I was born and raised in Massachusetts. A “fond” memory of my childhood: The very first time my mother let me ride my bicycle in our neighborhood and not in my driveway....I was so excited! I went with my friend Molly, but as I was going down the hill (we have hills in Massachusetts), the bike sped up and I couldn’t slow it down. I only had coaster brakes. So, I quickly decided to turn down the street before our own, but I lost control of the bike and hit a parked car. I broke my leg and was in a cast from hip to ankle for the entire summer! Bummer!!

SE: Do you have any siblings? If so, how have they made an impact on your life?

CB: I have one sister who is younger than me. She will never let me forget how I tricked her into smelling the new shampoo while she was in the shower. While she was smelling it, I squeezed the bottle. It all went up her nose! She started crying, but these huge bubbles started coming out her nose and we were laughing so hard! Well, she was crying too... but it was SO funny. My mother, however, didn’t think so, and I got in big trouble. BTW...don’t try this at home! So, if I didn’t have my baby sister, I wouldn’t have had as many laughs! She’s a great sis :) and put up with a lot from me!

SE: What did life after high school look like for you?

CB: After high school, I went to college... too many colleges to count! I studied in Caen, France as part of my undergrad program and I lived there for about nine months. I graduated with a degree in French and I minored in Secondary Education. I continued my education and moved to Florida because I was sick of being cold! I got my masters in French language and literature and taught English and French for a school year in Reims, France. I worked mostly in a middle school.

SE: What made you want to pursue a career in education?

CB: Why did I pursue education? I don’t really know. I always liked to teach and for whatever crazy reason, I fell in love with French/France and the rest is history....

SE: What kind of work did you do early in your professional career?

CB: When I finally came back to the US, I started applying for jobs from Maine to Florida, and I got my first job at Drayton Hall (it was a middle school back then).

SE: Is there another profession you could you see yourself in?



Ms. Bednarczyk at nineteen months old



Ms. Bednarczyk in her junior year of high school

CB: If I wasn’t a teacher? I think I’d be living in France doing something else fun! Teaching is fun to me (oui, je suis folle!) especially interacting with my students. They are great people! I learn so much from them and every day something new and crazy can happen. I love that! To my students I say, “Chapeau!”

Spotlight on Visual Artist Autumn Bosier

by Emma Brubaker

Emma Brubaker reached out to Senior Visual Artist **Autumn Bosier**, for a spotlight on artists on campus.

Emma Brubaker: What was the audition process like for you?

Autumn Bosier: Initially I auditioned for sixth grade and I did not get in. I was really into art back then and took art classes to perfect my portfolio. I didn’t feel like I was qualified enough when I walked in to see many others auditioning too. When they had the in-person drawing and interview, I was really nervous. I knew I wasn’t probably as good as the person next to me, but I tried my hardest. As soon as it was over, I felt relieved because I put my all into it, so I felt very discouraged when I didn’t make it in. I stayed at the school I was attending up to 8th grade, and I decided to try again for high school. I really wasn’t looking forward to it because if I didn’t get in the first time, why try again? But I had improved my art skills throughout the years and whatever the outcome this time I would just have given up on art completely. I feel like I did way better on the still life drawing that was present during the audition, and the interview went smoothly. The news that I was accepted was such a relief and I knew I could experience new opportunities coming here. My brother was going into his senior year at SOA as a visual art major so I was really excited to spend one more year in school with him.

EB: How would you describe the progress you’ve made since your first day at SOA?

AB: Since I arrived at SOA, I’ve most definitely progressed from 9th to 12th grade. When I first arrived I felt incompetent because everyone around me looked way more talented than me. I knew I had some kind of talent because I was accepted, but walking into it was a whole different level of gifted individuals. My art was not strong starting off ,and I practiced a lot with different media so I could see my strengths and weaknesses. Moving into my 10th grade year, I was really feeling like a talented person because I found mediums I enjoyed and created things I liked. Unfortunately the pandemic cut in and my artwork began to struggle again. I felt like I didn’t have proper materials or any creative thoughts to produce art. I was stuck in many continuous thoughts as I spent the rest of my 10th grade year and all of my junior year at home. I was not motivated and though being on Zoom with my classmates, it still wasn’t the same. Thankfully I can say when I was able to come back my senior year, I was really excited. I collected my thoughts, and I am ready to make works that I will be proud of. My mental state definitely was the big factor of my progression through the years, so I am happy to be in a good place and continue progressing to the end.



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Horoscopes

by Remy Looper



♍ Virgo (August 23- September 22)- Now is the time to turn your creativity into something material. The world is ready to see you. Embrace yourself, and step foot into the morning sun.

♎ Libra (September 23- October 22)- Value connection and harmony - reach out. Appreciate those around you. Security is something that will come to you if you reach for it.

♏ Scorpio (October 23- November 21)- Tradition is not always bad. Routine can create harmony. Create a structure and build your future upon it.

♐ Sagittarius (November 22- December 21)- If adventure does not find you, seek it out. New journeys often reap unexpected rewards. Don't be afraid to take risks - good things are to come from them.

♑ Capricorn (December 21- January 20)- The answers to your questions lie in the self. Look within, and recognize that the solutions you seek have always been right alongside you. You hold your power.

♒ Aquarius (January 21- February 18)- Your self-doubt is hurting no one other than yourself. You alone control yourself. Your actions are your own, no matter how much you may want to place the blame on someone else.

♓ Pisces (February 19- March 20)- Seek both sides of an issue; the truth lies somewhere in the middle, and you will find a comfortable grey. Harmony comes from recognizing that there may not always be a right answer.

♈ Aries (March 21- April 19)- Chance is necessary to grow, and you can only change yourself. Don't allow yourself to fall into the belief that other people can fix you. You are the only person who can fix yourself.

♉ Taurus (April 20-May 20)- It is okay to color outside of the lines. Find what you value most, and cherish it. Understand your priorities and put them to good use.

♊ Gemini (May 21- June 20)- Your endeavors lead you to roads not yet walked. Carve a new path for yourself. Sometimes the best road is the one not yet taken.

♋ Cancer (June 21- July 22)- There is no such thing as someone without fault. To idolize the self is to destroy the self. Humility will benefit you far more than the ego ever will.



Leo (July 23- August 22)- Blind eyes only wound those around you. Seek the truth, and find the harmony you crave. You will never be able to move on if you cannot come to terms with reality.

Thank you for wearing your masks!

Sign of the Month: Welcome Back!

Demonstrated by Katerin Figueroa
8th Grade ASL & Deaf Culture



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Contemporary Movie Review: *The Suicide Squad*

by Peter O'Malley

An absolute bloodbath of a film, James Gunn's *The Suicide Squad* takes a selection of the DC Universe's most infamous bad guys and gives them the center of the screen, presenting viewers with a mix

of both comedy and action. Featuring a star-studded cast, including Margot Robbie, Idris Elba, John Cena, Sylvester Stallone, and Viola Davis, *The Suicide Squad* is an exciting story of a bunch of supervillains sent on a mission to kill a massive zombie-making alien starfish. It's a remarkably enjoyable film, but holy crap is it gruesome.

Even after seeing films like *Kill Bill* and *Goodfellas*, the sheer amount of gratuitous violence in *The Suicide Squad* is almost too much to handle. James Gunn doesn't have much of a portfolio aside from *Guardians of the Galaxy*, so the common themes in his craft aren't yet common knowledge. Unlike notable directors such as Martin Scorsese and Quentin Tarantino, a James Gunn film is new territory. You don't really know how "R" the film will be, if that makes any sense. Throughout the two-hour runtime, you'll see people get their heads blown off, sliced up by boomerangs, and even burnt alive, all in a very disturbingly detailed manner. It's way too much, and it happens so frequently throughout the movie that it's impossible to not see something unsettling, even if you look away. Of course there is an audience for this kind of film, but it just seems so unnecessary. Again, it doesn't even compare to *Kill Bill*, a movie I previously considered to have the most blood in any film I'd seen. But, hey, at least now we know what Gunn likes to implement in his non-Disney films.

Though flawed by its gore, there are many things that make *The Suicide Squad* so good. Like in *Guardians of the Galaxy*, it has an excellent soundtrack featuring hits from the latter half of the twentieth century and *Mad Max: Fury Road* level cinematography. But the thing that stood out the most to me was



its transitional elements. Rather than using minutes of dialogue to explain where or when a scene takes place in the film's timeline, Gunn uses clever visual transitions to establish a scene's setting. So in the movie, you'll see sticks on the ground saying "The Island of Corto Maltese" as the Squad walk through the woods, or fire behind them saying "One day earlier" as they do something cool. It's something rarely done in modern films yet so perfectly placed. Small details like these are what I love about cinema; something so simple can be presented so flawlessly.

The Suicide Squad is not only an excellent superhero movie, but a great piece of modern cinema. Yes, it has flaws, but there are some things in this film that just work. If you'd like to watch *The Suicide Squad*, it's streaming on HBO Max and currently showing in theaters.

Foreign Film Review: *Santo and Blue Demon vs The Monsters*

by Lawson Adams

Wrestling. It's a tradition that spans around the globe, and from its humble beginnings it has become a worldwide phenomenon, especially in Mexico. That brings us to tonight's film, *Santo and the Blue Demon Fight the Monsters*. This film is positively bodacious in its presentation. While the acting in this movie might be hammy and schlocky at best and awkward at its worst this film makes up for it with fantastic fight scenes and a more than easy to follow story.

This film starts us off in the middle of the action as we watch wrestlers in their raw element. Then, we journey off into a funeral home and later the lair of a mad scientist who summons the monsters who Santo and The Blue Demon fight them.

This movie is a beautiful piece of cinema, and you must watch it if you like Mexico, wrestlers, or Mexican wrestlers.



POC Movie Review: *Raya and the Last Dragon*

by Carsyn Smith and Judith Hamrick

Raya and the Last Dragon is a groundbreaking piece starring Disney's sixth princess of color and first Southeast Asian princess. It is, as expected, yet another gorgeous Disney film with stunning animation.

Long ago, in the prosperous land of Kumandra, lived many dragons that kept the world at peace and fought off creatures with petrification called the Druun. One day, when

the Druun became too much for Kumandra to handle, the dragons sacrificed themselves to save the townspeople. Now, 500 years later, the Druun have returned and a brave girl named Raya must embark on a journey to find the last dragon, stop the Druun for good, and bring her father back.

Imagine *Avatar: The Last Airbender* and *Mulan* meet *How to Train Your Dragon*.

There was a lot of skepticism surrounding this movie, as it received very little promotion or public talk. Though, the lack of attention could be chalked up to COVID-19 times and box office closures.

There's so many elements of this movie to praise. The storyline and the characters inhabiting it are unique, and stunning to watch. The CGI is unparalleled, creating little details that will transfix an audience for the full 107 minutes. Kellie Marie Tran and Awkwafina do a terrific job as the titular characters, creating compelling characters that sweep us away into the beauty of the Kumandra.

In terms of worldbuilding, *Raya and the Last Dragon* is probably one of Disney's best. However, due to its fast pace, a good portion of the audience's connection to the mythology and the setting is lost. But it still provides for a wonderful and magical experience. Every scene is entirely injected with elements inspired by Southeast Asia, each land having its own identity.

The cultural and women's



representation is something else worth deeply appreciating. The implementation of Asian culture reaches new heights that were totally unexpected and absolutely brilliant. There's a scene a little ways into the movie where Raya and her friends end up in a market on their journey. It's quite a standout, displaying diverse garments, cuisines, trinkets and more.

However it cannot be without it's faults. The comedy fails occasionally, though there are some slapstick moments including what can only be described as a "ninja-thief baby." It could also be seen as quite predictable with cliches and tropes that can feel rather dull or even frustrating at times.

All in all, *Raya and the Last Dragon* is a truly hypnotizing blast recognizing the importance of trust and hope delighting viewers all over.

Music Review: *Happier Than Ever*, by Billie Eilish

by Carsyn Smith

Billie Eilish's second album, *Happier Than Ever*, is a ride of the emotions she has experienced growing up in front of the world's eyes. From the first track called "Getting Older" to the last track labeled "Male Fantasy," this project is filled with genuine smiles and tears which allows the listener not to know what will happen next. Everyone who listened to this album will appreciate how she switched up her genre multiple times while still talking about serious topics that resonate with listeners, along with amazing production with the help of her brother Finneas. Some of my favorites include the title track "Happier Than Ever," "Halley's Comet," "Overheated," and "Not My Responsibility".

"Hailey's Comet" is a standout ballad about being a person who isn't as in touch with their emotions as they are when they are with a specific person. When the tracklist first came out for this album, this title immediately caught my eye because I didn't understand what "Hailey's Comet" meant. Hailey's Comet is a short-period comet that only comes around every 75 years, making lines like "Hailey's Comet, comes around more than I do," much stronger. Billie



depicts the idea of subconsciously desiring forbidden love so that she doesn't have to face her feelings. Not gonna lie; I may or may not have cried to this song the first "couple" of times listening to it, but either way, they are the most melodic tears I have ever cried.

"Not My Responsibility" is a definite curveball when it comes to the standards of a "song." Billie decides to take a different approach by having soft, almost Lofi-like music in the background of her delivering a spoken word piece about her body. In June, Billie received criticism for her Vogue UK cover shoot, where she famously dressed in various vintage corsets. Personally, these photos were nothing short of empowering. Still, for people who had praised Billie for being the "only female pop star who didn't use their body to sell records," it was a bad influence. Billie decided to clap back in this piece by saying things like, "Would you like me to be smaller, weaker, softer, taller?... Am I my stomach? My hips? The body I was born with? Is it not what you wanted?" which makes the people who criticized her realize the lack of logic of their previous actions and brings to light the value of embracing your given body without others' perceptions and standards.

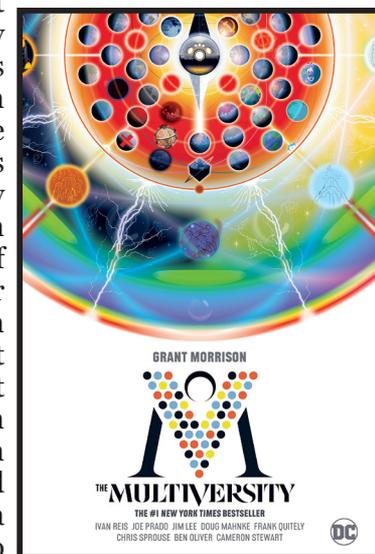
And finally, the one everyone has been waiting for, "Happier than Ever!" "Happier Than Ever" is a phenomenal piece that brings to life why music is so important. Years ago, Billie was in a "hidden relationship" with an older man at sixteen. After Billie's documentary came out earlier this year, the world learned of the mental games they had put her through. Although you don't technically need to watch the documentary to understand and truly feel this song, lines like "You called me again, drunk in your Benz, driving home under the influence" directly relate to the movie's events. Not only are the lyrics based on authentic experiences, but the production of this piece is overwhelming in the best way possible! The first half of the song is a more ballad-like feel that encompasses the aesthetic of the whole 50's feeling album cover. But soon, things take a turn with a subtle pick up into a rock, where you can hear Billie scream multiple times in the end. *Happier Than Ever* is a real beautiful mess, and I can see how this is a majority favorite.

Overall, it is undeniable how much I love this project, from the most exciting production to confident lyrics that will be in my head for years. I genuinely adore everything presented, and I can't wait to see what the future holds for Billie Eilish.

Comic Book Review: *Multiversity*

by Lawson Adams

The year is 1920. A young boy lands in a field in Smallville, Kansas. He's raised by the Kent family until they die. And takes on a career in journalism at the daily star. This was the story of Superman in the golden age of comics but writer Grant Morrison asks what if it wasn't? What if Superman landed in Nazi occupied Czechoslovakia and grew up to become a symbol



of vitriol and oppression. This is no longer the story of Superman but the story of the Overman hero of the third reich and that brings us to the story of *Multiversity*, a wonderful anthology by Grant Morrison about the heroes of the multiverse.

So our first story follows Nix Uotan trying to fight a multiversal evil in an effort to save the Thunderer. Our second story follows the Society of Superheroes (the S.o.S) fighting a multiversal war. Our third multiversal tale follows "The Just", a group of superheroes who are trying to find their place in a world with unending peace. Our fourth adventure follows Pax Americana and it's a mystery as to why one of their members killed the acting president. Our fifth story follows the Shazam family of Thunderworld fighting a Dr. Thaddeus Bodog Sivana who creates an eighth day of the week and obvious pandemonium ensues. Our sixth story follows the aftermath of the thunderworld adventure and chronicles the tale of two batmen, Kamandi, last boy on his earth and his friend prince Tuftan, and the New Gods of New Genesis looking down on all of this. This story also serves as a guide book for the entire multiverse giving us a backstory for all 52 universes in the multiverse. Our seventh story involves Uncle Sam and the freedom fighters fighting off the New Reichsmen of a Nazi ruled earth. Lastly, our final tale involves our Earth and the development of the first real superhero of Ultra Comics.

Now you might be wondering what are my favorite stories in this anthology and the answer to that question is yes. I find this entire book to be phantasmagorical in its theory and presentation. All of the characters feel and appear to be human and as you keep reading their struggles become your struggles as you continue to read into this story. But you're also probably wondering what I didn't like about this story and I have to say is how confusing the in story science can be. But outside of that I loved this book.

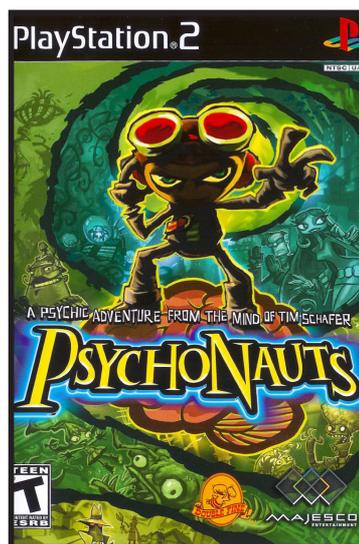
Now would I recommend this comic to you? Well that depends. Do you have the time to read a bunch of crisis events and their tie ins in addition to stand alone stories? If you answered yes then get ready for the ride of your life. But if you answered no fret not dear reader the stories are all contained in their own universe and are loosely tied together through the story narrative so you don't have to read a mountain of comics that rivals the size of the Himalayas its just that reading the stories that leads up to Multiversity give you a lot of "hey I know that guy moments", that you couldn't get otherwise. So to conclude this recommendation station you should really read this story, it's worth the time and effort and it's become necessary reading if you want to get into future DC events like Dark Nights: Metal or Dark Nights: Death Metal. But quit wasting your time here, go out and read this book but before you go let me know what I should review next month. The choices are Tom King's run on Mister Miracle or Neil Gaiman's The Sandman: Preludes and Nocturnes. Email me your choice at adalaw7253@ccsdschools.com. So get out there and get to reading, kids.

Video Game Review: *Psychonauts*

By Lawson Adams

Have you ever wondered what people were thinking? What nuggets of wisdom they might have to share? What emotional baggage they might carry? Whether or not you're emotionally strong enough to help them overcome their trauma? If so, then *Psychonauts* is the game franchise for you! With two games to its name, *Psychonauts* answers each one of those questions.

Our first game follows protagonist Razputin "Raz" Aquato, a phenomenal acrobat and wannabe Psychonaut. In the first game, he has to fight an unassuming figure who wants to steal brains to build brain tanks. Before doing this, though, you explore the minds of camp counselors and psychonauts Sasha, Milla, and Coach Oleander. The entire camp gets brainnapped and you have to find the mysterious figure's hideout at the asylum. This involves riding a mutant lungfish, finding the milkman, helping a bipolar actress finding her limelight, helping a painter defeat El Odio, and helping a man named Fred fight Napoleon. This all might sound bat doo-doo insane, but that's okay



because this all happens in the people's minds. The final level involves sorting out your own mental issues and dealing with the mysterious figure – all after your brains have mix together into a grotesque meat circus that must be drudged through.

My favorite level of the first game is Sasha's mind and the mind of the actress. The level is cold and calculated, reflecting Sasha's OCD and repressed trauma. The actress uses her memories as scripts while altering the memories through the lens of her mania and depression. My favorite level of the second game was the mind of Compton Boole. This level involves fighting his self judgement and competing in a celebrity chef styled competition, fighting off versions of his friends that criticize what he brings to the table.

The question you might be asking: is this game tasteful? My answer is yes and no. In a world where all video games need 2048 pixels per megabit per polygon, psychonauts dares to have an exaggerated cartoon-like art style. Its presentation of mental illness and well-being is done tastefully. Its humor, on the other hand, is another story. *Psychonauts* is a mental epic first and a comedic darling second.

Restaurant Review: *Poogan's Porch*

by Kenya Hines and Carsyn Smith

Kenya:

Now I won't lie. Before I even decided to step foot in Poogan's Porch, my first thought was, "Who in the world is Poogan?" After a bit of research, I discovered that Poogan is a dog who lived in the house where the restaurant was founded. Poogan would always hang on their porch, hence the name "Poogan's Porch." Pretty clever, right? As much as I love dogs, that's enough to talk about it. Now for what you all are waiting for: the actual food review. If you're looking for a Southern restaurant that makes you feel like you're at grandma's house, Poogan's is the place to go. From the amiable customer service to the delectable courses, everything about this place makes you want to go back time and time again. There's a variety of food to choose from, and the serving sizes could last you another full meal. When I walked



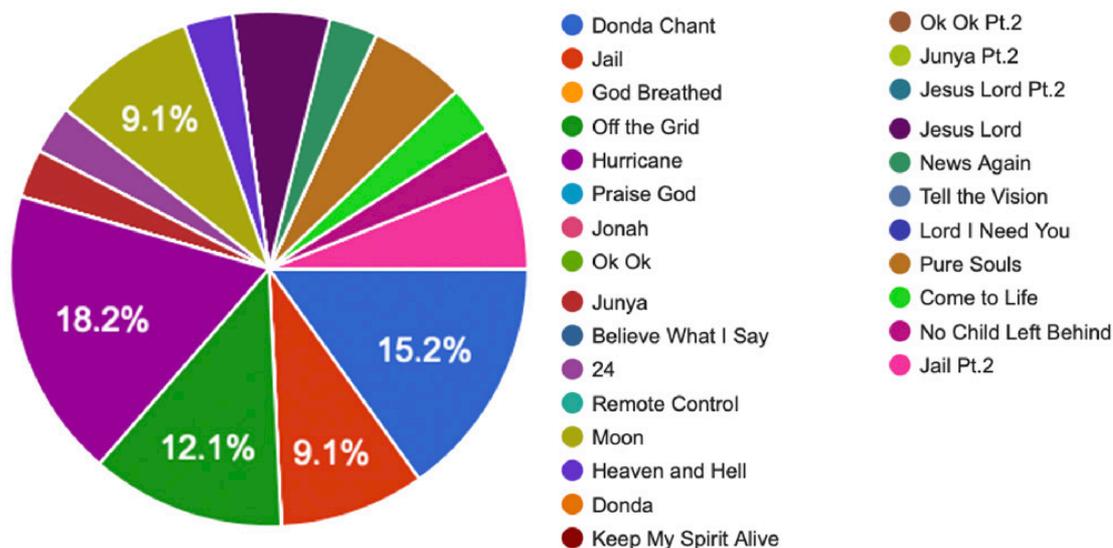
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in, I hadn't eaten all day, so I was expecting the best meal of my life. Boy, was I right? I ordered the Diner Cheeseburger with a side of fries, and respectfully, I tore that burger up. My mouth already watered from the sight of it, and actually getting to eat it? I felt like a little kid getting a bike on Christmas day. The fries were crisp to perfection and were perfectly paired with a side of ranch. If burgers aren't your forte, they have many other options like the Porch Shrimp and Grits or the PSK Fried Chicken Sandwich. If you don't like dinner as a whole, don't fret because they serve breakfast too! I, for one, will definitely go back again to try their chicken and waffles. It's very rare for a restaurant to truly make you feel at home; Poogan's Porch captures that essence perfectly.

What's your favorite song off *Donda*, by Kanye West? by Kenya Hines



Carsyn:

Personally, I would just like to take credit for blessing Kenya with her new favorite restaurant. A couple of years ago, I went to the original Poogan's in downtown Charleston, and I really enjoyed it. Although I did enjoy the experience of having a fancy dinner in a beautiful home downtown, I really enjoy Poogan's Southern Kitchen in Summerville. I have been going to this location for about 3 months now, and I am not ashamed to say I have gotten the same thing every time (which is rare for me). Their PSK Fried Chicken Sandwich is actually delectable! It is a giant chicken



Poogan's Southern Kitchen, Summerville

breast fried to perfection with a seasoned crust that complements the bun nicely. I also believe that the perfect side to go with this masterpiece is their home macaroni and cheese! I'm not really a fan of my mac and cheese having meat in it, especially ham, but this mac and cheese made me rethink all of my life decisions. The subtle cube-like pieces of ham in this dish don't overpower the macaroni, and it brings it all together. When reviewing a restaurant, you should not only mention the food, but also the environment and how you feel when you're sitting down in that place. Poogan's truly achieves a homey, brunch feel and also allows you to feel comfortable and safe. This place is phenomenal to the point where I even had my 16th birthday here, so if you don't think this place is as amazing as it sounds, I think you should go find out for yourself!

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Visual Arts Trivia

by Jada Fickling and Lawson Adams

Questions:

1. Pablo Picasso's real name is actually how many words long?
2. How many times has the Mona Lisa been stolen?
3. What element was carelessly removed from Da Vince's The Last Supper?
4. What artist famously cut off his own ear?
5. What is the main substance used to make a crayon?
6. Which brand of soup featured one of Andy Warhol's most famous pop art pieces?
7. The art of folding paper is known as what?
8. What popular children's cartoon characters are named after Italian Renaissance artists?

Spotify Playlist

by Judith Hamrick

Visit "SOA Applause" on Spotify or scan the code below to listen.



Hannah Harris Senior Visual Arts

1. 10
2. 7 times
3. Disciples
4. Van Gogh
5. Wax
6. Campbell
7. Origami
8. Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles



5/8

Maya Drake Senior Visual Arts

1. 13
2. Idk, once?
3. Jesus' Beard
4. Van Gogh
5. Wax
6. Campbell
7. Origami
8. Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles



6/8

Answers

1. 13
2. Once
3. Jesus' feet
4. Van Gogh
5. Wax
6. Campbell's
7. Origami
8. Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles

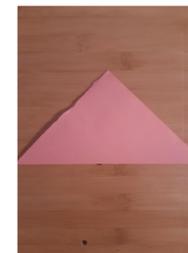
September Origami- Butterfly

by Julia Dubay

1. Obtain a piece of square paper
2. Fold the square in half into an obtuse triangle.
3. Unfold to show the creases.
4. Fold the paper in hair horizontally into a rectangle
5. Now repeat, to make symmetrical.
6. Make sure the creases look like this
7. Fold two of the sides inward
8. Make the triangle and turn it to point towards you.
9. Fold the layers on top towards you slightly outwards, make sure they don't line up.
10. Fold the back piece around to the back, and allow a tip of the triangle to show.
11. Fold the small triangle to the front, fold the butterfly in the middle and fluff out the wings to your liking! And now you've made an origami butterfly!



1.



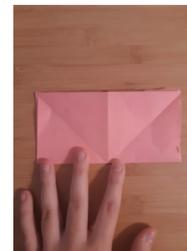
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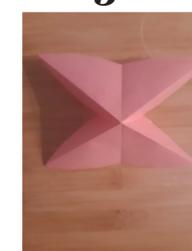
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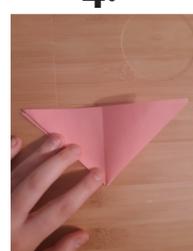
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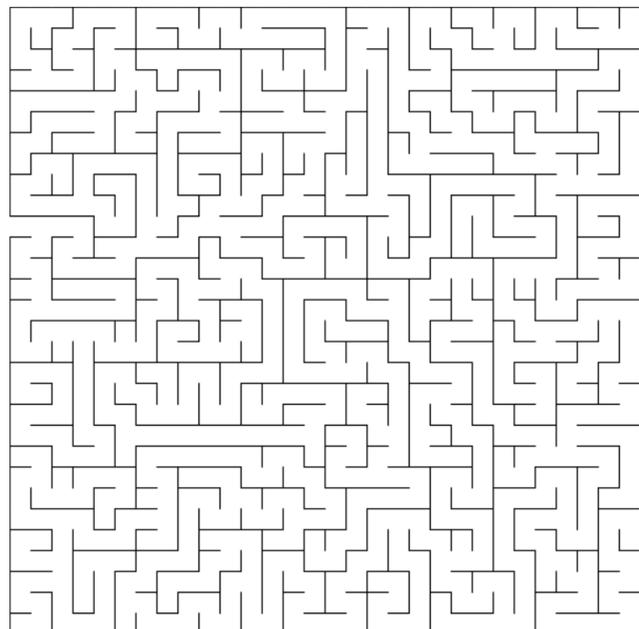
10.



11.



**Help Ms.
Bednarczyk
find the
Eiffel
Tower!**



SOA Sudoku

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



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Pat Benatar

Sydney Kohl, 6th Grade
Dance Major



Sour, Olivia Rodrigo

Kendall Bass, 7th Grade
Band Major



Ctrl, SZA

Norah Green, 8th Grade
Creative Writing Major



Because of the Internet,
Childish Gambino

Gavin Lahmon, 9th Grade
Theater Major

What song, album, or artist did you keep on repeat this summer?

by Kayla Herrman and Lauren Holladay



Nectar, Joji

Jessie Johnson, 10th Grade
Creative Writing Major



The "Attack on Titans"
Soundtrack

Abby Short, 11th Grade
Visual Arts Major



"Machine," by Messer

Eliza "Ella" Valero
12th Grade Visual Arts



Wu-Tang Clan

Mr. Ernest
Custodial Staff



"Freedom," by George
Michael

Mr. Tristan Hill, HS Spanish
Teacher



"El Dorado," by Marcus King

Mrs. Honeycutt
High School English Teacher