

Applause

Volume 23, Issue 10

School of the Arts, North Charleston, SC

June 2022



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Thank you for your support!

From the Editor

Dear Readers,

Thank you for an incredible school year. Artistically, this has been the most memorable year I've had so far at SOA. I'm proud to have played with violinist Francisco Fullana in the Sinfonietta, in the Symphony playing great works by Tchaikovsky, Sibelius, Beethoven, Verdi, Rossini, Lalo, Dvorak, and Holst, and in *Les Miserables*, just a month and a half ago. Of course I'm so excited for next year, but what we accomplished this school year is unbelievable.

As you'll see in the photo on the right, I'm very excited to graduate... in a year. The mythical yellow lanyard is finally in my future, and I can't wait for the first day of school, where I can wear it as a legitimate Senior.

On top of yellow lanyards and seniority, I'm also really looking forward to meeting the new *Applause* staff in August. A real comradery had been established this year in Dr. Cusatis' classroom, and I'm certain next year will be the same. Lauren and I need editing apprentices, so I'm hoping any underclassmen who have signed up for Journalism are interested in learning how to lay out the paper and manage incoming articles.

I hope you enjoy this final issue of *Applause*, Volume 23. The ten issues we published this year have been chock-full of excellent writing and quality journalism. Thank you, Julia and Lauren, for all of your work helping lay out this 64-page (!!!) paper with me, in only two weeks. See you in Volume 24, SOA!

Your Editor-In-Chief,

Peter O'Malley



Applause

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Assistant Editors:

Lauren Holladay, Julia
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Kayla Herrman, Lauren Holladay

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

soa-applause.com

Cover by Lauren Holladay

Congratulations to SOA's 2022 Valedictorian and Salutatorian!

Valedictorian Elaina Gable, Strings
Salutatorian Miles Kendrick, Theatre



Applause Presents Reelin' in the Years, May 17th 2022



Left to right: Seniors Ryan Hinske, Natalie Holland, Liam Murphy, Miranda Hartnett, and Tripp Carrington

SOA Arts Majors Reflect on 2022

Creative Writing

This year, the Creative Writing majors at SOA have continued to cultivate their voices, hone their skills, and garner recognition on the national stage, earning hundreds of awards in some of the country's oldest and most prestigious writing competitions including the University of South Carolina's High School Writing Contest, the Atlantic Institute's essay competition, and the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards where students won nine national medals (including a portfolio and American Voices award) as well as 173 regional awards.

The sixth grade began their year with poetry. Each student wrote several imagist poems as they explored the importance of concrete imagery, metaphor, simile, and symbol. They also wrote a novel in verse inspired by Sharon Creech's *Love that Dog*, and they enjoyed taking part in an ekphrastic poetry unit with sixth grade Visual Arts majors which involved a day trip to Bulls Island where both artists and writers were inspired by local flora and fauna. In the spring, students were introduced to fiction. They studied Toni Cade Bambara, Kurt Vonnegut and Pat Conroy, and wrote two short stories and several vignettes, centered around secrets, lies and real human conflict.

Seventh graders focused on fiction during the first semester. They studied plot structure, pacing, conflict, dialogue, point of view, flashback, and characterization within a short story and crafted four extensive pieces that explored these techniques. They also enjoyed a Bulls Island ekphrastic poetry unit with seventh grade Visual Arts majors. In the spring, they studied poetry, creating works that employed sensory imagery, allusion, pop culture, and persona. They researched the work of a selected contemporary poet, engaging in critical analysis as well as writing a poem in their chosen poet's style. They sent letters to the poets, conveying what they admired about their work and what they learned through close analysis of it.

Eighth graders began the year studying fiction, particularly the works of Gabriel Garcia Marquez, Mark Twain, Aaron Sorkin, and Tim O'Brien, and wrote two full-length short stories, centered around experience and perspective, narrative voice, folklore and magical realism, as well as ways in which writers plant their endings early on in a story. The second half of the year they studied poetry and experimented with various forms: an epistolary poem, a Golden Shovel, a pantoum, a palindrome poem, and finally, a prose poem. They analyzed a wide range of examples and the different ways to approach each of these forms, finding their own avenues of expression and creativity through the restrictions and long traditions that these forms offer.

Ninth graders began the year with Advanced Poetry Workshop, studying a range of canonical and contemporary poets. They wrote poems that employed extended metaphors and drew on inspiration from Robert Bly's method of Leaping Poetry as well as from science and scientific metaphor. In Advanced Fiction Workshop, they studied the works of Louise Erdrich, Ernest Hemingway, Daniel Wallace, Andrea Lee, and Raymond Carver, as well as wrote two short stories and several vignettes, focused on a number of advanced fiction techniques like minimalism, crisis of faith, human prejudice, narrative uncertainty, objective correlative, and the role that storytelling played/plays in human evolution.

Tenth graders learned to craft a script for the stage and the screen, as well as how to write and perform slam poetry. In the process, they studied the works of August Wilson and Jonathan Safran Foer, and produced a film script, a play script and a solo slam poem. In Nonfiction Workshop, students wrote essays exploring their personal flaws and prejudices as well as a braided essay about both a talent and a struggle and an extensive essay about the life of someone they admire.

Eleventh graders studied thematic obsessions, form and style in Finding Your Voice, learning to identify their own voice through a thematic series of poems and lyric essays. Finally, each student wrote an artist's statement in order to solidify their creativity achievements and goals. In the Place and Gender course, eleventh graders took an in-depth look at what role

both locus and gender play in the alchemy of creating a work of literature. Students wrote three linked episodic stories based on a fictional place as well as personal essays and stories about the culture in which they find themselves and some aspect of nature in their unique locale. In addition, students wrote a story from the point of view of a differing gender, challenging themselves to see from another perspective. Both tenth and eleventh grade students enjoyed giving a public reading of their work at Kudu coffee house downtown.

The intensive yearlong Senior Thesis course afforded twelve students the enviable opportunity to learn the ins and outs of the writing profession. They each worked one-on-one with a renowned writer to write, revise and publish an original 100-page book, now available for purchase at Amazon.com. The year culminated in a record number of state, regional and national awards, along with a well-attended Senior Thesis Reading titled *If Only You Can Find It*.

For all their hard work and dedication to their craft and for all their countless awards and recognitions this year, the Creative Writers truly deserve a big round of applause.

-Mr. Hammes

Deaf and Hard of Hearing

by Aryana Chinn

The students and teachers of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing program have been making moves this year. One of the team's big accomplishments was participating in the SOA Vocal and Orchestra Holiday Concert at the Gaillard Auditorium, in which they performed a signed verse of "Silent Night" that sent chills down the spines of the audience. The students enjoyed guest speakers, such as director Doug Roland and Deaf-Blind actor Robert Tarango who starred in Roland's short film "Feeling Through." The two, along with Statewide Deaf-Blind Project Director and Statewide Deaf and HH Consultant Robert Hill, talked about the process of creating the short film and the moves they were making in the film industry by having Tarango be one of the lead actors. The department participated in monthly webinars called "Transition Tuesdays," sponsored by South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation, to encourage exploration of careers.

Finally, I will shout out some of the accomplishments made by students and teachers of the department. Marion Major and Charlie Fanetti won the Seal of Bilingual Award in American Sign Language and English. Marion Major also achieved the 2022 SCWork based Learning Student of the Year and Cooper River Center of Advanced Studies Student of the Month. Gaining traction in the workforce, AJ McGlamery earned a Certificate of Completion from CareerSafe for completing a ten hour General Industry course. Finally highlighting some awesome teachers, some Secondary Learning Community Rockstar Teachers are Kathy Amick, Dean Walters, Tracy Duffy. The program wouldn't be the same without them!

Overall, the Deaf and Hard of Hearing program has had a wonderful year. Though COVID made it hard for everyone, they came back swinging and made the most of

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the year. Here's to the wonderful Seniors of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing program and the fun the underclassmen will have next year. Wonderful job, students!

Strings

Hey High School Orchestra Students,

Remember the beginning of this year? We were all wondering if we were going to be able to have live concerts, or would another surge close everything down again? Looking at the Year-In-Review below, I'm both amazed and grateful that we were able to fire up this large, active orchestra program and do as much as we did in the year following the shutdown. It wasn't easy though; inertia is law of nature after all. We—teachers and students alike— all experienced the extra effort and stress to get our students back into the classroom and learning at the level we expect from this school and our academically and artistically talented students.

Some of the amazing accomplishments we achieved this year include having sixty-seven students make Region Orchestra (new school record) and thirty-two students performed at All-State Orchestra in Spartanburg—also a new school record. The Chamber Orchestra performed a holiday concert with SOA Vocal and also earned a Superior at Concert Performance Assessment at Lucy Beckham High School. Here in the RMMT, the SOA Symphony performed four concerts with works by Tchaikovsky, Rossini, Holst, Beethoven, and Sibelius, and they featured three Senior soloists: Elaina Gable, Gracen Herrin and Daphne Tong. The Symphony also performed the Holiday Spectacular with Vocal at the Gaillard Center, and they were the featured High School Orchestra at the State Conference in Columbia, SC, in February. The SOA Sinfonietta performed additional concerts in the Gaillard Lobby, at the Sottille Theater with world renowned violinist Francisco Fullana, and of course, they finished the year performing *Les Mis* with SOA Vocal at the Gaillard.

Next year, my goal is to continue to aim high for our students and music making. We will be hosting Region Orchestra at SOA this fall. There is talk about doing another musical—possibly *Phantom of the Opera*, and the Chamber Orchestra will be included in the Holiday Spectacular in December. The biggest news is that the National Conference for String Teachers and the National Orchestra Festival will be in Orlando, FL next March, and I am looking at ways for all of you to be involved in that national experience.

I want to thank you all for an incredible year, and thank you Seniors for all your kindness and musical efforts. Remember the Ten Rules as you go off to college to help you toward a successful and happy future.

-Dr. Christopher Selby

Visual Arts

by Grace Baker

Middle School

Looking back on his first year teaching sixth and seventh graders at SOA, Mr. Dayton Colie is more than thrilled about their progress and the culture that has developed in the classroom amongst the students. He recalls discovering early on that he was “able to do things with these middle schoolers that [he] couldn't do with other high schoolers” at different schools. The awards these students have received are nothing short of impressive, especially considering the fact that most of the competition was against students beyond local regions.

Seventh grader Quinn Powell won the Judge's Award at the Coastal Carolina Fair, as well as the Charleston Youth Marathon T-Shirt Design Contest. In this year's long list of Scholastic Art and Writing winners, seventh grader Adriana Norales won a Silver Key, an accomplishment hard to achieve even for someone double her age. Some award recipients in the sixth grade include Isaiah Millman and Parker Wilson taking third place in the Federal Duck Stamp Contest, as well as Saya Briceno and Audrey Cen winning second place. Eighth grader Amelia Counts was accepted into the Charleston Pour House Mural painting competition for adult professional artists and won first

place, as well as their People's Choice Award.

Regardless of competitions won, Mr. Colie is beyond proud of his students and cares deeply about the creative environment necessary to be an artist. “People come in here, make art, and they're happy,” Colie says, satisfied with what they've accomplished in just one year and hopeful for the future.

High School

With full classes and no more Zoom, Ms. Barbara Richardson and Ms. Anne Cimballa were thrilled to start the school year with artists ready to succeed. This year, the high school Visual Arts program won more awards and scholarships than any other year since moving into the new building in 2010. Seniors received ten out of sixteen recognitions in the Charleston Artist Guild competition, totaling \$10,000 in scholarship funds, just in the first semester. Sixty-eight students won awards in the Coastal Carolina Fair and five were selected to be in Piccolo Spoleto's Rising Stars program.

These artists not only experienced success within the classroom, but they also used their skill and ambition to make a difference in the community. Juniors Lauren Holladay, Kayla Herrman, and Evelyn Bueschgen were also hired to paint decorative crosswalks in Goose Creek in an effort to beautify the city and to give an opportunity to young artists in the professional world.

Ms. Cimballa was most pleased with the high skill level all of the students possessed throughout the school year, saying “our school uses such a wide range of media and they're ready to explore and master it by their senior year.” She recognizes that traditional schools don't have as many resources and opportunities and she is pleased that her students take advantage.

Recognized at the local, state, and national levels, the high school Visual Artists proved themselves to be prominent members in the Charleston community and as artists ready to grow. The teachers could not be more proud of their students and can't wait to see what they have to offer next year.

Theatre

by Sullivan Eppes

With life getting back to normal from COVID, SOA Theatre has made a huge leap from last year. The sixth graders started off the year with a Greek theatre showcase, demonstrating the origins of the art form, and the freshmen started their performance season with *Ekphrasis - Visual Arts Dramatized*. Both of these shows were performed online. The first “big show” of the year was *Macbeth*, where the junior Theatre majors did a stunning job at showcasing the Elizabethan era of theatre. The seventh and eighth graders performed fall showcases of their respective grades. The Fighting Gnomes performed their first improv show in almost three years (you know why). The sixth graders put on their second show with *The Distracted Scholar's Guide to Literature and Drama*. The seventh graders and Mr. Younts put on *Backpack Holidays*. Then the sophomores join in with not one, but two shows. *The Shadow Box*, a drama, and *The Murderous Mansion of Mr. Uno*, a comedy. The eighth-graders finished their first semester with a Shakespeare Showcase, and the juniors finished their first semester with *Holiday Tales*: a show composed of stories written by the students themselves.

The freshmen started the second semester with their production of *The Alibis*. The Fighting Gnomes started their outreach program with a field trip to Brentwood middle school. The high school Musical Theatre class put on a cabaret in honor of Musical Theatre icon Stephen Sondheim titled *Yours Sincerely, Steve*. The Gnomes did another outreach to North Charleston Creative Arts. And the first school musical in five years, *Pippin*, featured several Theatre majors but was ultimately a collaboration of all majors in the school. Mr. Pickens' student teacher, Ms. Goodman, organized *A Wrinkle In Time* with the seventh graders. Ms. Horn collaborated with Mr. Pickens' Eighth-grade class to put on *A Never Ending Story*. The sixth graders performed *OMG(Opposite Machine Gadget)*. The Gnomes did their final outreach of the year at Cario Middle School. The freshmen performed student-written clown stories titled *Clown Love*. The stage combat elective performed *SmackDown*, another culmination of student-written scenes. The Musical Theatre elective put on the South Carolina premiere of *The Lightning Thief: a Percy Jackson*

Musical. The Fighting Gnomes finished the year with *Gnomecoming*. The stage combat elective did a stage combat showcase to finish their semester. And finally, the Seniors put on their theses. The Theatre major is back in full swing, and I can not wait for next year.

Dance

This year, senior Dance majors completed their last composition assignment on surprise concepts. These concepts included: the use of ten props, staying connected, breaking the fourth wall, and choreographing based on a poem. Senior Dance majors graduating with high honors from the National Honor Society for Dance are Lana Baird, Marley Delvich, and Jaiden Freeman. All other NHSDA students will have blue chords at graduation.

Juniors worked in duets and solos in Junior Composition basing their dances on master choreographers such as Rennie Harris, Twyla Tharp, and many more inspiring choreographers. Eighth grade solos showed their talent choreographing to a photograph they took. The movement filled the stage and complimented the photograph displayed behind them.

Dancing with the Teachers was another huge success! It was a blast watching the real stars of the show boogie on the dance floor to win the mirror ball trophy. Shout out to Ms. Svendsen, Mr. Southwick, Ms. Viscidi, Ms. Healy, and Ms. Small. Wonder who will be next year's winner of the mirror ball trophy. Start getting your dance moves and teams together.

Artist residencies are important because they provide opportunities for our students to learn from different master teachers, choreographers, and dancers from around the nation. Students in our program get to experience a variety of dance styles they don't necessarily learn at our school such as: African, Latin ballroom, Irish step dance, musical theater, Indian dance, and Traditional Chinese dance. This year, middle school had three guest artists and high school had four. Each dancer gets to take class with the guest for a week. Then a piece was set on a specific class to be displayed at the end of the year departmental show, which was held on April 29th.

This is one of a kind for SOA dancers to experience. They walk away with a wealth of information, both creativity and technically, as well as develop a network with artists that are currently in the dance world. This year's guest artists include: Vincent Thomas, Marielle Richardson, Kerry Lee, Steven Vaughn, and SOA alumni such as Christina Slaton, CJ Anderson, and Emily Dail.

Our End of the Year Annual Collection of dance was held on April 29th. This showcased each grade performing two pieces of choreography (one by the guest artist and one by their own teacher). The show was filled with a variety of styles and concepts; such as ballet, modern, contemporary, latin fusion, chinese ribbon dance of empowerment, a piece focused around the Netflix Original *Squid Game*, an Egypt River dance, and a graduation piece that the senior Dance majors choreographed themselves as a goodbye to their time here at SOA. If you want to see this amazing show, please look for the free link on SOAdance.com.

-Ms. Tillotson

Vocal

by Ryan Hinske

Following a school year in which singing together indoors was not allowed by Charleston County, SOA Vocal had one of the biggest years in its history. Fall started off as it normally does with All-State auditions, choir retreats (although this year, it was more of a stay-cation), and the national anthem at the Turkey Day Run, with the holiday concert at the Gaillard rounding out the calendar year for the high school Vocal and Strings majors. Back home at the RMMT, the middle school performers enjoyed a holiday concert of their own.

Although this time of year is always busy for the Vocal department, it was only the beginning. Everyone knew that both the high school and middle

school singers had musicals to perform in April and May, but not many anticipated the amount of work that went into both projects. Luckily, the much-anticipated "Music Down In My Soul" concert was moved to May 20th and 21st, giving the casts and teachers more time to prepare for spring.

The performance of *Les Mis* at the Gaillard was something the high school Vocal department will cherish forever. The combination of an excellent cast and orchestra from all grade levels and the atmosphere and acoustics of the Gaillard made for a breathtaking performance. The emotional nature of *Les Mis* brought down the house, leaving "not a dry eye."

The middle schoolers had big shoes to fill just weeks after *Les Mis*, but their performance of *The Lion King* lived up to the newfound towering expectations brought on by the high schoolers. Overall, this school year has been relieving to the Vocalists at SOA who spent last year wondering if their class would ever be the same again. This year has shown them that not only are we the same SOA Vocal as before, but we're willing to take on challenges that have never been seen.

Band

Middle School

by Ava Wolf, 7th Grade Band

The middle school band has had an exciting year, a shift from the obstacles we've overcome with COVID. We've been able to perform for live audiences this year, which has been exciting for everyone. Throughout the year, major Band events include Region and All State Honor Bands, Concert Performance Assessment (CPA), Solo and Ensemble, and our highlight by far: the trip to Orlando! We had thirty students make Honor Band this year. Both the Concert Band (sixth grade), and the Wind Ensemble (seventh and



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Litigating Throughout South Carolina

eighth grade), earned Superior with Distinction at CPA. While in Florida, we performed at the Robert W. Smith festival and at the Art of Foley, Sound Design Workshop at Universal Studios. We ended the year with our last concert, as well as Solo and Ensemble, where we had several students rank Superior.

High School

Our Wind Ensemble was selected to be a featured ensemble at the SCMEA State Music Educators Conference in February. Our Jazz Lab Band and our SOA Jazz Band received a Superior with Distinction at the State Jazz Performance Assessment. Our Wind Ensemble and our Symphonic Band received a Superior with Distinction at the State Concert Performance Assessment. All twenty-two Band Seniors successfully completed their Senior Thesis! We placed over thirty students in the SCBDA Region Four Bands. We placed twelve students in the SCBDA All-State Band. We placed six students in the SCBDA All-State Jazz Band; more than any school in the state! And, we brought back Jump, Jive, and Wail in May, in downtown Charleston!!

-Mr. Turner

SOA Senior Earns French Seal of Biliteracy

by Norah Bernstein

Most students have a subject or two that they really enjoy, and are usually quite good at. Senior Strings major Malaika Affonso is one of those students. This year, she took the French biliteracy exam, and scored extremely well. According to Malaika, the exam “tests your reading, writing, listening, and speaking abilities in a foreign language,” and it gives those who pass a Seal of Biliteracy used for college credit, scholarships, and employment opportunities. In preparation for the exam, she studied different French accents from around the world. She focused on French Canadian because she “wasn’t as used to it as the mainland accent.” Malaika will be attending the College of Charleston in the fall as a biochemistry and international studies major, with a focus on Europe. She will continue to put her French skills to use, as she states that “[her] knowledge of French will help [her] understand the francophone cultures better.” One can earn a bronze, silver, or gold on the exam. Malaika earned silver, a huge accomplishment for SOA French teacher, Mrs. Bednarczyk. Madame Bednarczyk says that only a French professor or native speaker would be of gold-tier standards, so earning silver as a highschool student is quite the feat.

Malaika grew up in a house where French and English both are extremely prominent. Her mom, fluent in French, has been speaking to her in French since she was young, but she credits her fluency with taking classes at school and an opportunity to fully immerse herself in the language her sophomore year when she studied abroad in France. She states that her knowledge of French “made the transition into living in France a lot easier,” and gave her the confidence to make friends at her new school. Even in Charleston, she still puts her skills to work at Saveur du Monde, the restaurant where she works. The *Applause* staff wishes her the best of luck in her future endeavors. Bonne chance, Malaika!



Where Are They Now?

Applause staff writer Kenya Hines caught up with 2012 SOA Vocal graduate Jon P. Hart, who now makes his living as a vocalist.

KH: What did you value about your experience at SOA, and how did it have a long lasting impact?

JP: One of the things I valued was the liberty of being your own true self.

In my experience, SOA was the place to express yourself and be who you are without any judgment. We respected each other’s differences.

KH: How did your education after high school prepare you for your current career?

JP: Upon graduation at SOA, I attended the University of South Carolina-Beaufort, where I earned a Bachelor Administration in 2016. After college, I completed a two-year apprenticeship for funeral directing. In 2020, I passed the South Carolina Board of Funeral Service and became a licensed funeral director. College wasn’t complicated, but it was rather challenging. You have to be prompt, disciplined, and efficient in all of your studies.

KH: Was becoming a funeral director always the original plan, or did it change over time?

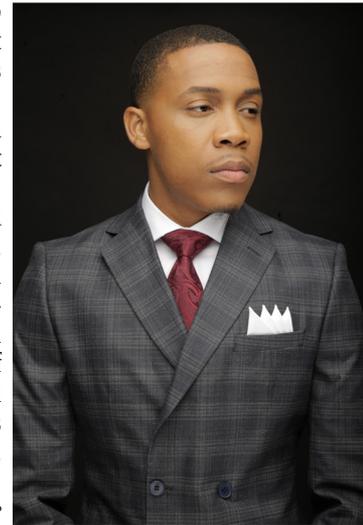
JP: I’ve always had the desire to become a licensed funeral professional. I have been engaged in the field of mortuary science since the age of fifteen.

KH: Was it hard balancing your job outside of school with your work inside while simultaneously working in mortuary services at such a young age?

JP: Balance is important. There were some difficulties, however, I took advantage of all the opportunities. For example, getting to school earlier to go to the library to work on assignments, staying up late to complete projects, etc. I enjoyed it because I had the best of both worlds and loved what I was doing, so I made it work!

KH: What’s the hardest part about your job?

JP: The hardest part of my job is planning a service for an infant. It reminds



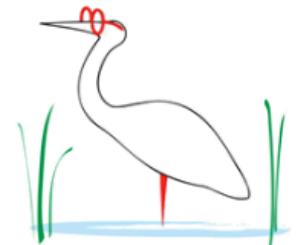
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me that life is precious and shouldn't be taken for granted.

KH: We both attend the same church. What's the most important thing you've learned in your time there?

JP: One of the most important things I've learned since joining church is how important it is to show love to everyone! Jesus is love and as Christians, it is our duty to love everyone. It doesn't matter the ethnicity, we all bleed red.

KH: How have you carried your art from SOA into the real world since graduation?

JP: I am the Minister of Music of First Baptist Church of James Island. I have to conduct rehearsals, teach parts to all choirs/praise team members, and rehearse with the band. I also sing with national recording artist, Jarell Smalls & Company. I am still using my voice and applying what I've learned from SOA.

KH: Do you have any advice for current students graduating from SOA?

JP: Don't settle and become complacent. There's always room to grow and go higher! Remember, the sky's the limit. Keep pushing!

Where Were They Then?

Kayla Herrman spoke with SOA Deaf and Hard of Hearing instructor Ms. Kathy Amick to learn about her life before SOA.

KH: Where did you grow up, and what are some of your favorite childhood memories?

KA: I grew up as an Army brat so I moved around from NC, Germany, Oklahoma, and SC. I loved being a high schooler in Germany and traveling around the world. I graduated from Spring Valley High School in Columbia, SC at sixteen years old and then went to USC, then later I transferred to Converse College in Spartanburg, SC for their Deaf Program. I had a Deaf cousin who

taught me sign language and knew I wanted to become a teacher of the Deaf since I was twelve years old. I started my first job as a Teacher of the Deaf at AC Flora High School in Columbia, SC when I was twenty years old.

KH: What were your high school and college years like?

KA: I met my husband, Rock Amick, in college. He was at Wofford College. We have been married for thirty-eight years, and he is truly my "Rock." We have two daughters: Robbi and Jamie. Both are SOA graduates, Robbi was a Visual Arts major and Jamie was a Vocal major. Robbi is an interpreter at SOA and Jamie is a manager at The Inn at Middleton Place.

KH: What other interests or activities have you enjoyed outside of teaching?

KA: I love reading, traveling, horses, musical theater, and going to the beach. I am on the Board of Directors for Charleston Youth Company and help with backstage make-up.

KH: Where did you work before SOA, and what led you to SOA?

KA: I have taught in Columbia, SC, Frankfurt, Germany, and Charleston, SC. I moved to SOA with the Deaf program in 2010, I was thrilled because both of my daughters went here, and I knew the amazing staff. I loved giving my daughter Jamie her SOA diploma in 2011. I have been teaching Deaf students for forty years and will retire next year.



Ms. Amick in 1979



Ms. Amick works with Deaf kids in Germany, 1989

KH: Do you have any advice that you would like to share with students?

KA: My advice for students would be to relish your time here at SOA, this is a truly unique and special place. Then travel, be happy, and be kind.

6th Grader Aspires for National Spelling Bee Title

by Emma Brubaker

Lhullaillaco.

I bet you had trouble pronouncing this word. What if you were asked to spell it?

This is just one of the words that sixth grader Jordan Mae Bazzle encountered while competing in the South Carolina Regional Spelling Bee this spring. Jordan Mae competed in her first spelling bee as a 5th grader at Ashley River Creative Arts Elementary, going on to win the Charleston County competition.

"It was actually a big surprise because I wasn't known for spelling," Jordan Mae answers questions from the Strings major explained. However, *Applause* staff during her interview. she went on to place third in the South Carolina Region Bee last year.

This year Jordan made it to the Regional Spelling Bee again, but won 2nd place, making her the Region runner up for the Scripps National Spelling Bee. This means that if the other speller is unfit or unable to compete, she will compete in Maryland in June for the national title.

Preparing for this level of competition is not easy. Jordan uses an app that allows her to play games while learning the spellings of the 40,000 words used in the competition. She often studies for three hours in the morning, uses any free time she has, and studies most nights until 10 PM. "Most of the time I eat, breathe and sleep this stuff."

She also consults a "very thick book," that breaks the words down into three classes based on difficulty. A word like *simply* is among the first group but it gets tougher when you tackle the third group of words.

"That's the one I spend most of my time studying," Jordan says. "That list includes words like *lachsschinken*. They're really, really hard words." The winner of the Scripps National Spelling Bee earns a \$50,000 scholarship. And Jordan is hoping to win the region next year so she can compete for that prize. But there are other benefits.

"It's probably the best thing I've ever done. It's a lot of fun, and you get to meet a whole bunch of new people," she says.

She also says that studying creates quality family time: "In the evenings we'll sit down together and spell the words." And some of these words, she said, bring about some interesting spellings, right or wrong. "We do a lot of laughing."

At the final level of competition, Jordan says, competitors are also asked to define the words. So what is *lachsschinken*? A lightly cured pork chop wrapped in bacon, of course.

Lhullaillaco?

"It's a dormant volcano in South America," Jordan explains.

And she can spell it, too.

Jordan says she would encourage any interested students to give the school spelling bee a try next year. Her advice?

"Study, study, study, study, study!"



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Applause presents SOA's Class of 2022 in their own words...

Applause asked the graduating class of 2022 to reflect on their time at SOA through a short essay responding to one of the following prompts: *What would you do differently if you were entering sixth grade again? What do you hope to be doing in 2032? Which teacher has impacted you the most? Reflect on any aspect of your years at SOA. Reflect on the value of an SOA education.*

Grier Abercrombie

There's nothing I specifically regret about my time at SOA, but if I went back to sixth grade and did it all again, I'd probably change a few things. I'd worry less about grades and focus more on the time I have with the people around me. I'd also spend more time doing the things I love and furthering my skills. I think too much time was wasted on mindless activities or just doing nothing when I could've been productive. Procrastination is still an issue I have, but I would have been more disciplined if I went back to sixth grade. I would go on the eighth grade D.C trip, even though I was worried about being car sick during the drive. Maybe I'd do better in geometry, too. I'd definitely start learning a language and try my best to keep up with it through the years. Even with all these changes, I don't regret being at SOA for the past seven years. It's hard to say if I'd even want to go back and relive middle and high school, but hopefully, moving forward, I will have a better idea of how I want to live.



Malaika Affonso

SOA has really taught me the importance of balance in my life and how to juggle many disciplines at once. From schoolwork, to my major, to a job, and sports outside of school, I always had a busy schedule that didn't often budget time for relaxation and sleep. And once college applications were thrown in the mix, I thought I'd drown in the stress. My teachers at SOA were always understanding when I came to them in need, especially Dr. Selby, who'd check in on us seniors whenever we looked particularly exhausted. But throughout my time here, balance has been a prevailing notion. Playing in the symphony orchestra taught me discipline and teamwork, as well as a love for my instrument. My academic classes were rigorous and often had me up at all hours of the night, but I found out what I loved, and also what I didn't love so much. And the students at SOA are friendly, expressive, and inclusive, which is something I really love about our school. Our artistic interests bring us together, and even if we don't plan on pursuing our art in a career, we've now cultivated a passion that has turned us into well-rounded individuals ready to take on whatever life throws at us.



Maria Alexander

Even though high school is a universal experience that most kids have the privilege to partake in, the best memories I made were far outside the classroom. I cannot begin to explain the unit circle or stoichiometry, but I can tell you the impact my friends have made. I made my best friends in a class that was solely based upon worksheets where the answer could be easily found within one Google search. Emily Severance and Gabriella Ollard have taught me how to be a good friend. They taught me how to be nonjudgmental. Whether it be holding my hair as I violently puke Bessingers on the beach, dealing with my questionable taste in crushes, or supporting each new hair color as a result of a breakdown, they have always been there for me. Together we have mourned the loss of loved ones (RIP Mr. Suckerfish 2007-2022), as well as partied while crashing prom. No matter what problem we found ourselves in, we were always in them together, like when we had to jump Emily's car at Whole Foods. You both have shown me unconditional love and the value of true friendship. Even though you guys annoy me to no end by forcing me to watch *Twilight*, Gabriella spamming me with photos of Brownie the pug, and overusing the word "slay," I am so glad we are all (barely) graduating together, and I cannot wait to see what amazing things the both of you will achieve. Goodbye to my favorite shawties :(.



Collin Anderson

I have many plans for my life after graduation. One day sitting in sociology, listening to an orchestra soundtrack from a movie I liked as a kid, I reflected on my life. I loved this school and it taught me many things, like how to socialize and make friends, how to learn and adapt to previously foreign concepts, and how to control my emotions and know when to get serious. With these learned behaviors, I wish to apply them to my life and improve constantly until I physically and mentally cannot due to old age. I decided during this reflection what my path in life will be: a man of many skills. "A jack of all trades is a master of none, but oftentimes better than a master of one." After hearing this, I decided I'd take it a step further and enact it in real life. Putting everything I have into learning as many skills as possible to attain a level of knowledge most humans would be proud to have. I'll miss this school because of how different it is from other schools (although it was my first public school). The teachers are nice and even make learning fun sometimes, they encourage your dreams no matter how far fetched they may seem. My most memorable moment is playing the *The Office* theme song in the cafeteria in eighth grade and everyone clapping afterwards. I almost passed out because I wasn't expecting my first taste of being a true showman right then. I'll be chasing my dreams and failing a lot, but I hope to change the world one day. Kachow.



Lana Baird

Throughout my years at SOA, I have had the opportunity to gain important friendships who have helped me grow into the person I am today. If I did not audition for SOA in sixth grade, I am not sure what I would be doing or who I would be. While at times I despise dancing



at school, many of my closest friendships have been built within that class. Many of us have been attending this school since we were twelve years old, which has allowed our relationships with each other to grow stronger than others. The friendships I have made have helped me exceed my expectations and allow myself to figure out what I want to do. The friends you gain in high school will definitely shape you into the person you are today.

Grace Baker

The hallways and their street names, and the people weaving through them, have had a greater impact on me than anything else in my life. I loved the little things like Collin Anderson balancing a Red Bull on his head while playing the piano in the cafeteria, or Adam Maierle and Aiden Wood mixing beats in our English 2 class. Wesley Smith playing "Teach Me How to Dougie" on full volume in Computer Science Principles allowed us to take a break from coding and burn more calories than in PE class. I consider everyone at this school more than part of my family, and come fall we're all being scattered like white flakes in a snow globe to different parts of the country; several will fall near the Sears Tower, a couple in the Big Apple, and many, like myself, have chosen to stick to the ground of the Palmetto State. I reflect adoringly on the seven years I've spent in a school that has taught countless students with the same talents as us. Now it is our turn to enlighten the minds of others because one thing that SOA has taught me is the power of a voice. I will miss being together with everyone but I know we will all do great things apart as well. Cheers Class of 2022, we did it.



Chapel Barker

I think the class that had the biggest impact on me was my major, Fashion and Costume design. When I started this program four years ago I had no idea what a strong impact it would have on the course of my life. Watching how my fellow classmates and I have grown as designers and as people has been an extremely gratifying experience. We have all overcome so many challenging experiences, like canceling our sophomore year Fashion Show, transitioning between three different teachers over four years, and several other obstacles that the senior Fashion majors will never forget. Throughout my years at SOA the Fashion room has become a safe space where I am able to express my creativity freely without the fear of being judged. I've gained a skill I will be able to use for the rest of my life and found a community that will support me well after graduation. I'm so grateful for this opportunity, and I hope the Fashion major continues to help the next generation of designers achieve their goals.



Brady Bishop

In the four years I've been at SOA, I've blossomed and grown into my true, authentic self. Coming into this school in ninth grade, I hid a lot of things about myself out of fear of not being accepted. Whether it was my thoughts,



sexual orientation, or even the way I talked, I was always scared of the possibility that I'd be mocked for it. However, I met some of the kindest people who have taken me into their hearts, flaws and all. Rather than being judged for those flaws, I was judged for my triumphs. It's a cliché heard all too much here, but the people in my major and beyond have truly become family to me.

I'd like to thank a few people who have been there for me when I was at my lowest and have been there with me when I was at my highest. Ms. Mortensen has been one of the biggest impacts on my life in high school, and I'm so happy to have been able to take her class for biology and marine science. I'm so thankful for everyone in Vocal who have uplifted me and praised my work and I'm very honored to have been around so many talented individuals for four years of my life. Avery Tumminia, Liam Murphy, Maddie McConnell, and everyone else in my little, tight circle of family, I love you all so much and your support has been nothing short of lifesaving. We did it, Joe.

Without being too serious, because that's totally lame... I'd like to quote Barbra Streisand in a lyric that truly sums up my thoughts as I leave one chapter of my life behind to begin another.

"Get ready for me love, 'cause I'm a comer. I simply gotta march, my heart's a drummer. Nobody, no, nobody is gonna rain on my parade!"

Charles Bouknight

The SOA Theatre department has probably made the biggest impact on my life. On the first day of my freshman year when I was immediately tackled because I was mistaken for a different person, I immediately knew I was home. I've made so many lasting memories, and there wasn't a single day where I left class without laughing. I met some of my best friends there and so many other close ones. Theater has helped me "break out of my shell" and be more confident in my life. This department will always remain dear to my heart and serve as a constant reminder to be myself.



Avery Brack

Since coming to SOA in sixth grade, I have grown into someone different. The environment of SOA has always been very welcoming, so this gave me room to socially develop. Since I was a kid I was always pretty introverted, however, the SOA environment offered me friendships that have lasted through my senior year. My SOA education has helped me work up to the upcoming challenge of my college classes. After sitting through a college class at my future college, it helped me realize how well the education here prepared me. SOA has also helped nurture my creativity with my major, in and out of school activities. Since starting SOA I have picked up a different instrument that I now play almost everyday, but without my major I wouldn't have learned how much I like it. Even though I never really liked my major as much as others, it has helped bring out the best in my playing and performance ability. In all, SOA helps nurture creativity and creates an environment that can help lead into your college education.



Zachary Brinegar

There are a lot of things I've experienced in my past four years I could go on and on about, and all of them would be totally valid to write about, but I think what I really want to reflect on before I graduate is the teachers who have changed my life completely throughout my time here.

This includes teachers like Mr. Pickens, who has always challenged me to be the best actor I can and to always stay true to myself and my art.

Ms. Johnson has always shown me nothing but kindness and was an amazing geometry teacher. She has always been there to listen and offer help with anything I asked.

Ms. Mortenson has been one of the best teachers I have ever had in my K-12 journey. She always treated me like a person instead of just a student and always made sure everyone in her classes felt seen and heard, something I really needed when I was a freshman; I'm eternally grateful for that.

I'd also like to mention Mr. Colie. While I've only had him for this past year, his class taught me that I can be amazing at Visual Arts even with little to no experience and that there are countless ways to express myself through art.

There are a lot more teachers I could write about but I only have 300 words so I'll just say one more thing to all of you, teachers and students alike: thank you.

**Kimberly Brown**

I've learned a lot in my seven years as a Vocal major at SOA. I've not only learned how to grow as a singer and a musician, but as a person. In this program I was forced to push myself miles and miles outside of my comfort zone. I often think about the first day of sixth grade when Mr. Rogers made every student sing for each other for the first time and how terrified it made me. Fast forward all the way to my senior thesis where I got on stage to perform, completely unrecognizable from the frightened girl I used to be. Every year had its challenges I had to face, but now, in my last days in high school, I'm proud to look back at what I have accomplished so far and look forward to what's in store for me in the future.

**Eli Bundy**

In the three years that I have played in SOA's Symphony Orchestra, Dr. Selby has made a massive impact on my musical career and life as a student. For all three years I have been in Symphony, we have played incredible music that has challenged me and taught me a ton about music theory and the power of classical music. Dr. Selby's direction motivated me to improve my technique and capabilities on multiple instruments. I was comforted by the knowledge that he truly had our backs and is an extremely supportive teacher. Getting to collaborate with my peers on some truly incredible music (*Les Mis*, Tchaikovsky's Fifth Symphony, and "Hoe-Down" from *Rodeo* were some of my favorites) was so much fun. Often



my favorite part of the day would be looking around and listening to the Symphony playing together from my perch in the back of the ensemble.

Even during very stressful rehearsals, Dr. Selby kept us on track, made us laugh, and helped our ensemble skills tremendously. I thought that I knew how to listen while playing, but I learned so much more from him, especially during the earlier Covid days when we were all very spread out. Symphony gave me a reason to come to school on days that I did not want to get out of bed, and I will miss Dr. Selby and all of my fellow musicians so much!

Madelynn Burt

The friends I've made at SOA are ones I hope to last for a lifetime. My advice to younger students is to make less assumptions about your peers and to be kind.

Although it is a cliché, the saying "you never know what someone is going through" is entirely true. The kid you sit next to in Biology class could be having the worst day of their life, but they're smiling through the lab.

It's possible that the person you are judging for being bad at math, or having an over-involved parent, or saying something you disagree with might be your future best friend. Starting in sixth grade, your peers are who you will be spending the next seven years of your life with, so make the best of it and be kind. It really isn't worth it to hold onto grudges or accept rumors as truth because you'll be a better friend and person without.

**Peyton Cantle**

Before junior year, it had been a long time since I had been on the campus of any school. I dealt with a multitude of issues such as the pandemic and other things I will keep unsaid. But I was ecstatic to be back inside a building with lots of new faces surrounding me encouraging me to get back into the groove of things. I won't lie, this has still been a hard year for me, but with the support of both friends and teachers, it was all made possible. I can't tell you if I would've even graduated this year without entering this school. But now, I will never have to worry like that again.

Tripp Carrington

The first class I took as an SOA student was in the biggest room in the school: the Vocal room. At least fifty people occupied the space, so it was easy to overwhelm myself with concerns of unfamiliarity. Therefore, with every fiber of my being, I hoped for a cool, calming presence to fall over the room to ease my worries regarding being the new kid. However, as soon as Mr. Rogers stepped into class, it was clear that my wish would not be granted, for he remains the biggest personality I have witnessed within the SOA walls. Thankfully, although his demeanor is not usually relaxed, Mr. Rogers consistently finds other (better) ways to make everyone feel at home.

His enthusiasm is contagious and inspiring: I have watched his exuberance lead shy students to summon up the courage to loudly express themselves through song. In fact, I could write a detailed collection of short stories describing each time Mr. Rogers has rallied our Vocal class to perform with "pizzazz" prior to a concert, with a strong emphasis on



“shimmering” and “busting out the ceiling.”

For the reasons I have briefly discussed, it is obvious to me that Mr. Rogers is a great teacher, but it is how he acts in those rare quiet moments that make it obvious how great of a person he is. It is when Mr. Rogers sits the class down to discuss professionalism and kindness, or when he pulls me aside to ask about aspects of my life that have nothing to do with the classroom, that any negative emotional baggage I may have is erased. No matter how sad I may be on a given day, that big Vocal room has a good chance of making me happy, and that all starts with Mr. Rogers.

Elliott Catoe-Griffis

In junior year I took AP Calculus with Ms. Mahoney. I've always liked math; there is a clear cut answer, no debating or subjectivity. But I took the class, not because I'm particularly passionate about calculus, but because it was the next level of math I had progressed to. It was one of the hardest but most rewarding and fun classes I have ever taken. Yes, I was up till midnight doing test prep packets, but I was also slicing homemade pound cake from Ms. Mahoney to learn about volume in class. The energy in class from my peers and Ms. Mahoney made learning about optimizing area perhaps not fun, but at least less mind-melting. And when the day of the exam came I was nervous, but felt prepared. After taking the course I can definitively say that I have no desire to take another calculus class in college, but the class proved to me that I can struggle through something and still have a gratifying experience.



Emily Cecil

The question “what would you do differently?” is such a hard one to ponder. Many say that you should not want to do anything differently because if you did, you would not be the same person you are today. The lessons you have learned would not have been learned. That being said, if I was entering SOA as a sixth grader, I have to admit there would be a few things I would do differently. Entering middle school was a very nerve wracking experience. Sometimes we become so hyper-fixated on things that they don't matter in the long run. I would tell my younger self to enjoy both middle and high school because it really does fly by. I would tell anyone entering middle school to be true to oneself and not let others take away from the uniqueness that you possess. I would also remind myself to live in the moment. Life is too short to focus on the regrets of the past or worries of the future. Of all the things I would want to change, I don't regret how things turned out in the end. Everything that has happened has shaped me into who I am today and I am forever grateful for everything that I have learned and the friendships I have made. It's the people in our lives that shape who we are today. It is important to take the time to thank those that you love. I think that Ferris Bueller sums this spiel up perfectly; “Life moves pretty fast. If you don't stop and look around once in a while, you could miss it.”



Lauren Center

If I were entering as a sixth grader, I think what I would do differently over the next seven years is take it slowly regarding my art

form. I think I was so obsessed with making everything I wrote as a Creative Writing major Nobel Prize worthy that I don't think I focussed enough on the lessons and techniques themselves. I think I would try to absorb what I learned better and treat the exercises as such, and then build off of everything I learned when writing rather than freaking out every time the grand story I tried to write wasn't fully fleshed out.

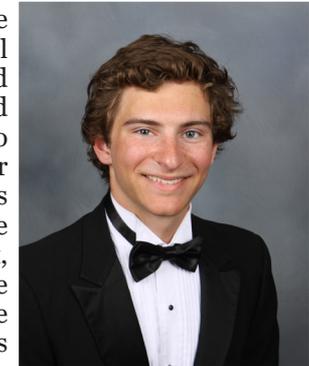


Yosef Chang

In 2032, I hope to have completed my undergraduate education at the University of Virginia, double majoring in commerce and viola performance with a concentration in management. After receiving both of my bachelor's degrees, I would like to obtain a Master of Management Studies at Northwestern's Kellogg School of Management, with a focus in arts administration, and a Master of Music in viola performance at the Bienen School of Music. For my first post-college job, I will most likely accept the job position that offers the highest pay and benefits, though I eventually hope to work as the managing director for a professional symphony orchestra to combine both of my passions. My dream job is definitely to work for the Boston Symphony Orchestra, due to the vibrance of the city, the quality of the music, and the conscious educational and community engagement initiatives that address the undeniably elitist view of classical music.

Andrew Coyle

Attending SOA is a one of a kind type of high school education. Kids in high school sometimes think grades are everything and nothing else matters. While SOA has good academics and some super smart kids, it also has kids that are absolutely incredible in their art form. This has instilled in our students that the arts are beautiful to watch and there is more than one way to be considered smart, because some of the kids that have average grades are breathtaking in their art. These arts also unite the kids in their own major as they push each other to be better, which makes them that much better. The fact that we have multiple arts also exposes kids to different art forms, such as when a Theater major goes to a Strings concert. It exposes them to different art which helps them grow as an artist and person. These all shape SOA students into having a profound appreciation for the fine arts, grades, etc., and allow them to become upstanding members in society.



El Drye

The environment here is really good for creative kids, and does a good job of allowing for that creativity (it kind of has to, as an arts magnet, but still). The students and teachers here as a whole are also just much more tolerant and kind than in many other places. It's a school where kids can create and work on their art without judgment, which is not found in many other places. Since coming to SOA, I've had a much easier time working on my art than I did at my previous school, which is an advantage I



think a lot of students don't realize they have.

Maya Ervin

My symphony class had the strongest impact on me because it was nothing like I had ever experienced before. I came to SOA in the eighth grade and had never studied music or the cello so intensely in the past. I always knew I loved playing, but I never had the opportunity to play with advanced musicians until I came to SOA. When I first set foot into symphony my sophomore year, I was amazed by how many talented players surrounded me. Sitting next to upperclassmen during class motivated me to practice and inspired me to one day be able to perform at their level. Symphony class provided me with new techniques, friendships, and experiences that I will never forget.



Charles Fanetti

I was in eighth grade when I entered SOA, and my initial thought was "Ugh, why do I have to do all this. I could stop showing up and just take the GED test to get my high school diploma." When I entered the Deaf class, I was turning homework in late and did not care about it. Over the years, however, I gained friends and started to love SOA. At my previous school, I felt like things were the same everyday, so I purposely tried to be sick to skip school. But this school makes me want to stay and hang out with my friends. I have classes that I love so much. One of my classes was with Mr. Orvin. His class really knocked the wind out of me. His room was filled with airplanes and various interesting things. He told history and made history very fun to listen to and enjoy. Two other favorite classes are those of Mrs. Honeycutt's and Mr. Phillips. I always find myself having fun in their classes. With these teachers, I never wanted to miss a day of school.



Jada Fickling

A teacher that has had the strongest impact on me in high school was my Algebra 1 teacher, Ms. Fairchild. She was always cheerful and willing to go above and beyond to ensure that her students understood the material. Ms. Fairchild was always able to help her students have fun in the classroom by coming up with new innovative ways to make math more enjoyable. Ms. Fairchild constantly encouraged her students to strive for excellence and to reach their full potential. I would not be majoring in education in the fall if it weren't for Ms. Fairchild's consistent kindness and generosity.



Haley Freeman

As much as we like to joke about SOA, when it comes down to it, there really is no denying the positive impact an arts integrated education has made on our lives. For me, I grew up in the Washington, DC area, and while there were many wonderful opportunities present in DC, it was very

hard for me to find a supportive community where I felt I could express myself and learn. I was constantly surrounded by hundreds of other students all fighting for the same things, and it was so easy to submit to thoughts of self doubt and feel discouraged. When my family decided to move to Charleston the summer before my ninth grade year, I auditioned for SOA because it appeared to be the logical place to continue my dance and academic education. I didn't know then that SOA would offer so much more that has cultivated into an education I could not have gotten anywhere else. From the first convocation where I got to see like minded students accomplishing great feats in their artistic pursuits, to doing stage tech and learning the ins and outs of making a show, I have been able to grow the artistic side of myself and continue to engage with my curiosity and love of artistic creation. I have also been involved in many clubs and collaborated with many amazing people across academics. The same values SOA nurtured these past four years are now what will be driving me through the next four years in college. SOA has instilled in me the confidence to follow my ambitions and therefore will always hold a special place in my heart.



Elaina Gable

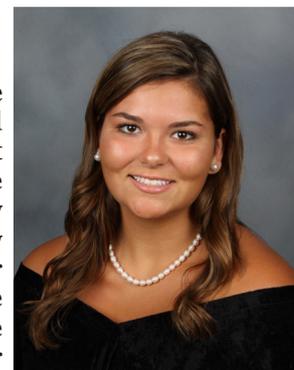
When I think back on my SOA education, my time in the Strings program has meant the most to me. As the only violinist in my elementary school, I was very surprised when I entered SOA in sixth grade and was one of at least thirty talented violinists in the middle school orchestra! Never before had I seen so many dedicated music students in one place and strings instantly became my favorite part of the school day. Being part of the orchestra gave me so many opportunities that I never would have had otherwise.



Although I enjoyed my time in the middle school orchestra, Dr. Selby and the high school symphony really solidified my love for music. In ninth grade, I was thrust into something completely new, playing the hardest orchestral music I had seen so far (Brahms Symphony No. 4), while sitting next to some of the most accomplished players ever to pass through SOA. It was rigorous and demanding - and I loved it. The orchestra thrived under Dr. Selby's leadership and we were able to participate in many incredible opportunities, including performing at the Midwest Clinic in Chicago. The competitive yet supportive atmosphere has pushed me to achieve goals I never would have dreamed of achieving before. I am forever grateful to Dr. Selby for believing in our abilities and leading the symphony with confidence, skill, and kindness.

Ellie Garner

My past seven years at SOA have taught me so much. I have learned a lot, had amazing teachers, but most importantly, met life changing friends. After I auditioned in the fifth grade and got accepted, I immediately connected with people around me. My fellow classmates and I have grown up together for almost half of our lives and made some of the strongest friendships we will ever have. We have all been through more than most other



classes because of the pandemic, but we managed to find a way to learn and get through it together. I am very thankful for the unique atmosphere and the people who have made my time at SOA worthwhile, and I would not change it for anything.

Ashley Gotlib

Ten years from now, I will be either a pediatric trauma surgery resident or a pediatric emergency room physician resident in some big city: probably either New York City, Philadelphia, Boston, or Chicago. I plan to focus on my studies in college so I can go to a leading medical school and get a spot in a top residency, as I want to become the best doctor possible. These are all dreams, but I know they will happen if I work hard enough.



Griffin Hargett

In my seven years at Charleston School of the Arts, one aspect that could encase them all would be privilege. It was a privilege to be at a performing art school with other students of different backgrounds. It was a privilege to learn from the best Vocal teachers in the state and probably the country. It was a privilege to experience all these different trips, from the mountains, to DC, to Winthrop for All-States. The most incredible privilege came my freshman year when the Vocal department performed center stage at Carnegie Hall in New York City. The main theme of my time here has been my appreciation for everything, and if there's one piece of advice I could give to any middle schoolers or underclassmen, it would be to don't take your time, here and with your friends, for granted.



Miranda Hartnett

SOA doesn't just provide an education designed for aspiring artists and students with artistic affinities. It's a school full of kind and open-minded students and staff who value creativity and critical thinking. SOA is an excellent place to feel supported and experience growth through a curriculum of academics and the arts. The majors offered here equip students with intellectual, emotional, physical, and social tools in an artistic context to prepare them for using their talents to contribute to society. I'm deeply grateful to have enjoyed an SOA education for my high school years.



Gracen Herrin

When I look back at my seven years at SOA, three teachers stick out the most in my mind. First, Mrs. Traylor, who taught me seventh grade math. She was the first math teacher in my life who really made sure that I understood what I was learning, not just speeding through lessons, leaving whomever behind. Mrs. Traylor helped me whenever she could and pushed me to strive in high school mathematics. As a freshman, I was terrified of taking Biology. I've



never been much of a science person, but Mr. Short changed all of that. He made Punnet Squares and ecology so easy to follow and fun to learn. This brought me to take AP Environmental Science my junior year, which changed the trajectory of my high school experience. His stellar way of teaching and relating each and every topic that we learned into the real world and various career paths led me to want to major in Environmental Studies in college. If not for Mr. Short, I'd have no idea that this is what I wanted to pursue in my life. And lastly, Dr. Selby. Dr. Selby has been my teacher since freshman year and has made each and every year the best they could be. Even in the COVID pandemic, he did his very best to make sure we could still play as a symphony orchestra and get back on our feet. Dr. Selby is so supportive and caring to all of his students and is the reason behind all of my Strings and academic success at SOA. Thank you Mrs. Traylor, Mr. Short, and Dr. Selby so much for every single thing you've done to get me here!

Ryan Hinske

Top five posters in Dr. Cusatis's room:

5. Johnny Cash - You can find him next to his doppelganger Jack Kerouac, except Johnny seems more engaged in the lectures conducted in the middle of the classroom while Jack stares blankly at the back of the room, likely sick of the constant dripping of the coffee maker and phrases like "that's how rumors get started" and "enough of that." I'm more of a Johnny, clinging on to the sounds that will soon be gone.

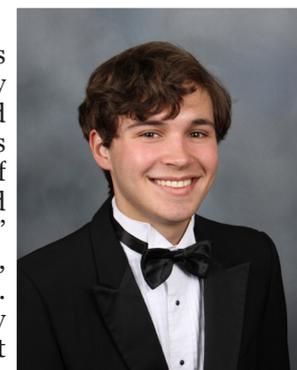
4. *The Applause Wall* - Twenty years of history are on that wall, and it was an honor to be a part of the last column of space available this year.

I've learned many lessons about journalism, which will be useful to me in my dream career of sports broadcasting.

3. "The World of Bob Dylan" - There's too many Bob Dylan posters to count in the room, so I had to choose one. I like this poster because he's so cool, and I wish french fries still cost fifty cents.

2. *Catch-22* - This is now one of my favorite books, and I credit Dr. Cusatis for encouraging my classmates and me to keep reading outside of the classroom. After discovering that analyzing literary works could be fun (again, thanks to Dr. C), reading at home became a necessity.

1. Act 5, Scene 1, *Hamlet* - This play changed my life. Reading *Hamlet* and talking about it in class the next day kindled my wonder for the literary world. When I head off to college in August, I can feel confident in both my writing and reading skills, but more than that, I can finally look forward to the knowledge I will acquire and the lessons I will learn. For that, I thank Dr. Cusatis.



Natalie Holland

My Theater class has had the strongest impact on me. I was in Band in middle school, and although I am passionate about music, there was always too much stress surrounding the art in it, so I auditioned to switch to theater. I was accepted into the program and felt welcomed from my first class and actually looked forward to the class everyday. Some days my face would hurt from laughing. Despite how much we enjoyed ourselves, we also worked really hard; especially during our tenth grade production, *Puffs*. With that show, our class was really focused and dedicated to proving ourselves with the performance. I got to be one of



the main characters, which was so rewarding because I had been craving an opportunity to really be seen and recognized within the major. The validation from that opportunity was so exciting and it was a great feeling to share the success of the show with all of my peers. Everyone was hugging each other and absolutely ecstatic, and the bond between us all was incredible. That bond was unfortunately strained during COVID, but as we are all back together working on senior thesis, we have truly come back to that place of celebration and closeness that we naturally have together. Theater class allowed me to be really creative and have individuality with my expression which I couldn't really do in Band. Performing and even just joking around with my peers in that class has also helped me overcome a good amount of my social anxiety. I'd say before Theater I was 85% socially anxious, and now I'm about 30-60%, depending on the situation. It has certainly built my confidence, made me feel supported and loved, and made me laugh the hardest that I ever have. I will miss my Theater family.

Lauren Huser

My major, Vocal, has easily had the strongest impact on my life. When I transferred to SOA halfway through my seventh grade year, I was extremely insecure about my singing abilities, and I had a terrifying feeling that my classmates would judge every note I sang. Even by the time I started my high school years, I constantly thought that I would never be good enough to be part of my major, and I found myself comparing my voice to all of the other girls in my class. Since my freshman year, however, I have met so many caring and empathetic people through the vocal program.



The friendships and bonds I formed with my classmates made me realize that even the most outstanding singers will still feel insecure about their voices. By receiving a substantial amount of support from my Vocal friends and teachers, I have been able to face and overcome many of my insecurities about my voice. The Vocal program has given me so many opportunities to grow stronger in terms of not only my singing skills, but my personality as well. Throughout high school, I transformed from a timid, awkward introvert into the confident, empathetic, and outgoing person that I am today. I have made so many beautiful memories with such wonderful people, and I could not be more proud of everything I have been able to achieve through my major. I will always be grateful for the connections and relationships I have created in Vocal; they have taught me so much about myself, as well as the world around me. Because of the Vocal program, I can say with confidence that after years of searching, I have finally found my voice.

Gabriella Hylton

If there is one thing that separates SOA from other schools, it's the lasting impression that the teachers have on the students. I believe one of the reasons I'm the person I am today is because of my SOA family of classmates and teachers. One of my most influential teachers I've had at SOA is Mr. Kerr.

I came to SOA in seventh grade, and even as a middle schooler, Mr. Kerr knew my name and what instrument I played, which had such an impression on me for a teacher to know who I was even if I didn't have them. From seeing him conduct the Wind Ensemble as a



middle schooler, I thought he was the coolest person ever and wanted to have him as a Band director. And from my six years at SOA, he has been both my Band director and AP Music Theory teacher!

I have always seen Mr. Kerr as a mentor and a person I can go to about anything and everything. He has always encouraged me to do my best, and constantly told me I'll do great at auditions when I'm stressing out about them. One of the reasons I worked so hard in my major was so that I could be a good musician for him, and be able to tell him that I gave my all each time I performed. And although I'm not majoring in music in college, I intend to keep playing clarinet so that I have more band stories to tell Mr. Kerr about when I come home.

McKenzie Jackson

In 2022, I plan on using my intended degree to find a job I love and feel passionate about while also traveling often and continuing to try out new hobbies. To make this happen, I am currently looking forward to attending The University of Colorado Boulder later this fall, along with meeting new people and creating strong relations.

Aside from academics, I hope that the new activities I will experience over the upcoming years will help guide me to the next ten years of my life. I plan on possibly rushing, catching a good eye through a camera, knitting, baking, and starting to get more involved in catching memories with friends and family through pictures. Through these intentions, it is inevitable that I will become the person whom I want to be.



Madison Jenkins

I can say that my life up to this point has been predominantly occupied by school. Before long, I will be occupied by even more school, but this time around, voluntarily. Instead of reminiscing on the past, I want to look forward to the future. It's exciting and foreign to me even though I have ideas and plans for it. Ten years from now, I hope to be a well known figure in society, working on film sets and preferably working alongside directors to make memorable and inspiring movies. I feel a little embarrassed even writing this because I think everyone has dreamed of fame. I don't want fame, though, that part is what frightens me a little. I wish to not be corrupted by that industry. My hope is to get my messages across with movies; complex ideas and creations that make people love life and open to the possibilities of a new, prosperous, and evolved world from what it is now. Around ten years from now, I hope those who are amongst me in the halls, classes, and cafeteria will watch the movies that I've had a part in or created and have a smile on their face at the end. As for my personal life and where I want to be, or who I want to be with, well I'll leave those presents to be opened in the future.

Leah Katko

My time at SOA has allowed me to further my education, while learning about life. SOA isn't like other high schools in Charleston. We have tight knit groups, especially in our majors, with people whom we have known for almost seven years. The teachers are involved and caring, and do their best to prepare us for college, or whatever other course we choose to take. SOA has also taught me about acceptance and the value of creative minds. Learning in an environment immersed in the arts has been



such a good experience. I am grateful for this privilege and all of the opportunities I have been given. I will miss most the friendships I have made along the way and people who are now like family to me.

Miles Kendrick

Thinking about the person I was seven years ago going to SOA for the first time, there's a lot of things I'd do differently. First off, I would have learned earlier that plaid shorts matched with buttoned up formal wear is not fashionable nor impressive, and that knowing every word to the *Hamilton* playlist was not something to brag about. I also would have given up on girls a lot earlier (specific apologies to Hayes Martini, Sophia Sinor, Natalie Holland, and all of the other girls I accidentally led on. I just wanted to sing Adele with you and hang out with your moms!) More importantly, though, I would have stressed out way less. There was no need to have a panic attack about my sixth grade King Tut project. There's no need to sob to Mrs. Moschella when I don't understand the animal food chain. Mrs. Mitchum doesn't care that I misspelled the word "hodgepodge" in the sixth grade spelling bee. So many experiences were tampered by the fact that I was stressed out for no reason about things that I don't even remember now because they were so insignificant. If I could do it all again, I'd have way more fun, worry way less, and enjoy more of this genuinely wonderful school that has shaped the person I am today in so many ways.



Brooklynn Ladson

In the year 2032, I should be in my sixth year of being an elementary school teacher. I plan to accomplish this by earning a bachelor's degree in early childhood education at Charleston Southern and then a master's degree while working as a teacher. I also hope to be teaching piano to others, because I want to share all of the amazing skills I learned over the years of playing piano, thanks to my wonderful piano teachers. I would also like to be married and possibly have one child. I am not sure where I would be living. I would like to be close to my parents, but not too close. I just hope I'm doing what I enjoy while also being happy, healthy, and living the best life I possibly can!



Clinton Larrabee

School Of The Arts has been a journey I've explored for the past seven years of my life. I've learned a lot throughout my time at SOA, and it has helped craft me into an open minded student. Entering SOA as a sixth grader, I wish I would have embraced middle school, because I'm now realizing those are the good days, and sadly it's over before you know it. I will say one teacher who really helped craft me and took me under her wing was Mrs. Greig. She helped me achieve my goals in and outside of school, and I'm so thankful that I was able to have her as a teacher. In the year of 2032, I see myself owning a successful shoe business in Downtown



Charleston under the name "Solemates." I'm going to miss all of the memories that happened at SOA, and even though I'm leaving SOA, a part of me will always remain.

Sofia Lathbury

I think the biggest thing that sets SOA apart from other schools is how close people are to each other. Both inside and outside of your major, I feel like everyone finds their people and forms a really strong bond with them.

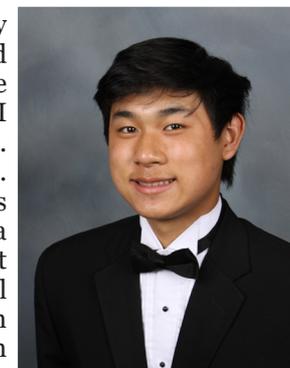
As a Vocal major who has been here since sixth grade, some of my strongest connections are with people from my major. It's given me the chance to really get to know people through concerts, rehearsals, and just the amount of time we spend together every day alone. You've heard the saying that music brings people together, and I think that we can all attest to that. But that's not to say that I don't have great friendships with people outside of my major. It's definitely all about who you choose to associate yourself with.

A really important and valuable characteristic about an SOA education to me is that, because we're a smaller school than most other standard high schools, you're able to connect with your teachers better. I think it's important to be able to have at least one teacher you know you can go to and depend on throughout your time here. I've also found that a majority of the teachers here are not only looking out for their students academically, but also personally, and I think that's special because it's not everyday that you see that in a high school setting.



Ethan Le

Throughout my years of SOA, I had many memories of people and events. As I entered SOA as a sixth grader, I never knew what the future would show me. As I reflect on it, I wish I could have made connections with more people. However, I am happy with the way I turned out. My favorite teacher is Mr. Short because he is really passionate about his class. He is also a really great teacher, probably top three for most students. As I leave this chapter in life, I will continue to do my thing to pursue a career in engineering. Hopefully I will still keep in touch with people I am friends with in the far future.



Sophia Leonardi

One of my most valued and cherished memories at SOA is my time spent riding the bus to and from school. It was on the long drive to the Docshers bus stop, legs sticky on the hot seat and hair blowing in the open window, that I formed valuable friendships and developed many iconic inside jokes. Our bus driver, Tony, often reminded us of our two bus rules, "Feet on the floor! Don't look at me," and I will always remember them. I often shared a seat with my sister Roey, which forced us to talk every day, and we became best friends. In all that time riding the bus, I never figured out the bus system. I won't miss the sheer panic and terror of trying to find my bus in time, but I will miss laughing until my stomach hurt with my sister and friends on the



daily commute home.

Nicholas Lindsay

If I were in SOA as a sixth grader, the first order of business would be to figure out how the heck I time traveled six years into the past. If I didn't time travel, I would be trying to figure out how I de-aged or whatever. The secret of immortality does not come cheap, but in this world it would have fallen into my lap by sheer luck.

If I was suddenly put into middle school, the next thing I'd do would be trying to undo whatever put me there. Middle school is the worst type of school to be in. Everyone's annoying or has ridiculous personal drama and you're expected to learn so much in so little time. What's more is that most of the things I learned back then have been happily forgotten. Good riddance, but inconvenient to the circumstances.

The third thing I'd do if I was in middle school again would be to avoid taking French or Animation at all costs. I do not mean this as an act of disrespect to Mme. B, because she tries her best to make class educational and fun. It's just something I had difficulty with and would avoid in the future.



Maristella Lussier

In April of 2032, I will have just turned twenty-eight. Hopefully, I'll have a vacation planned for that summer with friends, a steady job, and a nice apartment in either Charleston or Asheville. I'm going to college at Warren Wilson, so I'll be near Asheville, but I may decide to move back home after graduation depending on what major I choose: Asheville has a better art scene, but if I decide on a different career field, Charleston might be a better fit. I love both cities, so it'll be a hard choice! As for majors, hopefully I'll graduate as either an art therapist or a graphic designer and will get a job as soon as I finish college. By 2032, I'd love to have a pet and plenty of plants; I've wanted a cat since I was little, but my mom is allergic. I'm hoping I'll have nice neighbors when I'm twenty-eight, because I'd love to travel a lot and I'd need someone to water my plants. I'll probably take my cat with me on trips or leave them with family in Flat Rock, depending on where I go.



Alma Lutas

Without the guidance of my Visual Arts teachers and classmates I'd be half the artist I am today. Being around hard working students who love what they do helped me channel my competitive spirit, and my teachers pushed me to try new mediums and explore new ideas. Though Visual Arts is a very independent major, it's your classmates that keep you from becoming stagnant in your development. Thank you to my teachers who were as quick with a compliment as they were with a critique, and thank you to my classmates whose work ethic, diverse styles, and talent inspire me to work harder.



Eloise Lyons

During my time at SOA, I've really enjoyed the friendships I have built with my classmates. This is an aspect that I love about SOA; over the years, I have been able to build strong connections with my friends in Visual Arts and in my academic classes as well. We have all grown up together, helping each other along the way. Even when the pandemic happened and I was online for half of my sophomore year and all of my junior year, I felt supported by my teachers and classmates. When I look back on the time I lost at SOA because of the pandemic, I feel like I missed out on what makes SOA so great: the people. With this in mind, I have really enjoyed my senior year back on campus. My relationships have never been stronger and I feel encouraged in everything I do, especially in my Visual Arts class. The stability of my art class has really helped me, and I am grateful for the time I have spent with my friends in that class. Our friendships have spanned from middle school to highschool, where we have inspired each other to create freely. There are so many moments that have made this year great for me; my first prom and Evan Mercado winning prom queen, the fashion show, all of our Grub on the Greens where we had Moe's and ice cream, my time with my friends in art class, and sitting in the breezeway when the weather was nice. After we graduate, I know these are the moments that I will reminisce about. Not the homework assignments or the pressure of exams. I am so grateful for all of the time I have spent here, as I would not be the person I am today without the connections I have built at SOA.



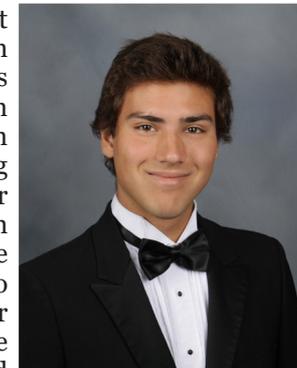
Morgan MacAnanny

In 2032, I hope to have started my own fashion label and opened a storefront in Downtown Charleston. I plan on designing custom gowns and wedding dresses for brides in the Charleston area and to collaborate with other small businesses in the hospitality and fashion industry. But first, I intend on graduating Baylor University with a bachelor's degree in Apparel Design and Product Development, possibly with a minor in Fashion Merchandising or Business Management. I hope to still be participating in fashion shows, releasing collections, and working with The Showroom Charleston. I am so excited for my future and all of the things I hope to accomplish- and could not be more grateful to the SOA Costume and Fashion Design program for making this lifelong dream of mine seem like a real possibility!

Adam Maierle

The focal point of my experience at The School of the Arts has been my education in Visual Arts and the family that our major has created. In my last year of highschool, I sat with the same close friends that I met in the sixth grade studio. Although many more amazing people have come and gone since then, our tight-knit group of artists have always been welcoming and excited to expand our range of personality and talent. We have gotten to know each other and ourselves on a level far from any other classroom environment I have ever experienced. The work we have created in these seven years never ceases to amaze me. Every single person has proven themselves to be professional, creative, and awe-inspiring.

Our companionship here at SOA has been incredibly memorable.



Anyone is welcome in the art studio, and the personality that the room itself exudes is incredible. Decades of dedicated artists have defined our standards for excellence, and with every passing year, Mrs. Richardson and Ms. Cimballa are sad to see another group of friends leave to continue their lives away from SOA Visual Arts. From my day one besties, Grace Baker, Euka Taylor, and Eloise Lyons, to our newer highschool additions, everyone has been supportive, and we are all grateful for our time together.

Marion Major

What I'll remember most about SOA is my friends. We would go to the gym and play basketball every day during lunch, which I really enjoyed. I am Deaf. During lunch, I teach hearing people to use sign language. Blessings to the teachers who helped me in the Deaf program and the interpreters who worked with me in my academic classes. In the future, I hope to be a good father and to work with children. I already have two jobs and I am saving money. Get a goal for the future! Blessing to y'all.



Ivan Mallari

In the seven years I've been at SOA, an aspect I value is the ability to reach out of your comfort zone. We do certain things everyday that don't change because it is something we are comfortable with, hence the name. However, I am referring to quite the opposite, which is doing things that you are not so comfortable with and stepping out of that zone.

Throughout the years, I never made an effort to try and talk to new people and make more friends. I am not comfortable with talking to new people, introducing myself, and public speaking, despite the fact I am a Theater major. For the majority of my middle school and high school years, I've only had a mere handful of people I talked to on a daily basis outside of school. I can almost say that I regret it, because I honestly love meeting new people. I enjoy listening to people and learning about other people's lives, their flaws and strengths, what they like, and whether we have commonalities so we can be friends. Sometimes it's also nice to just sit back and listen, because even if you are not actively engaged in conversations, you still tend to learn a lot about people based on how they talk, their physical expressions, and how they interact with other people.

With all this being said, I am not a very talkative person, especially face-to-face. But I have recently made an effort to confront these lacking skills by pushing myself into conversations and being confident in myself. Being confident in stepping out of your comfort zone is easier said than done, but it is essential to make that first step, because without that mindset, you won't be able to strengthen your weaknesses and may miss opportunities like I have in the past. You tend to meet all kinds of different people from different backgrounds when you step out of your comfort zone. Even if it's just a simple greeting or asking how someone's day has been, it's those small actions that can explode into long lasting relationships.

Hayes Martini

This is lame...but in 2032 I want to be happy. I don't have any

crazy expectations for my future. I know that I will work hard at the career that I decide to go into, but I don't think I want to know what that is yet. I want to be aware of every moment that I have been awarded with. I want to appreciate Charleston more. I want to be careful with my finances, but not let it define me. I hope I stay in touch with the people that mean a lot to me. I want to keep the close bonds that I have with my family. I hope that I will be able to be independent, but not afraid to ask for help when it is necessary. SOA was a very impactful component of my adolescence, and I want to keep up with the skills that I have learned while being a Vocal major. I want to soak in the happy times that will fall between the inevitable bad times. Right now I'm afraid to grow up, but I don't think it has to be that dramatic. I think I'm on the right track to achieve my goals. I'll probably read this in 2032 and laugh because I'll have bills to pay and responsibilities, but maybe this will be a good reminder to go do something that I love. What if I'm married or have children... hahahaha that's so scary because I don't even load the dishwasher by myself right now. Good luck 2032 Hayes, but 2022 Hayes is about to go take my last test of high school, so she's busy. BYE!



Evan Mercado

One of my favorite things to come out of being at SOA is all the wonderful friends I have made. Every year I have loved starting the new school year with a different group of people in my classes and becoming friends with everyone. I have met some of my best friends while attending here. I'm so excited to make future memories with everyone. I can confidently say that some of these people will be my life long friends. It saddens me that we are splitting up, but it also excites me to see what everyone is going to do in the future.



Kiran Narula

I would say every English and Creative Writing teacher I've had at SOA has really had an impact on me, and I largely credit my love for writing to them. My Creative Writing class of course had a major impact on me; I think everyone at SOA can say the same for their individual majors. You really get to grow with people who care about you in your major, and learn from teachers who really care about you. Without Ms. Hart, Ms. DeTiberus, Mr. Hammes, Ms. Foster, Ms. Rink, and Dr. Cusatis, I likely wouldn't be pursuing writing in college like I plan to do, and I am very grateful to them for that.



Mariam Nguyen

An arts-informed education like one of SOA's is incredibly valuable. Not only does SOA provide great academics, it also shapes well-rounded individuals and the future leaders of our society. Through the arts, students are able to develop important life-skills that help them to master their craft, exceed academically, and succeed in life after graduation. However, the greatest gift of an arts education is the ability

to work as a team. From Student Council; working together to organize events for the school, to music majors; practicing for weeks together to perfect their ensemble pieces, and the *Applause* staff; spending hours to write this month's newspaper. The skills that we learn at SOA will last us a lifetime.

Naomi Khue Nguyen

My hope is that by 2032 I'm able to give back to the people who've helped me and help those who need it. I hope to be able to make progress in medicine and science and make it more accessible for people who aren't able to obtain proper healthcare. It's been my dream to help others since I was young, and to be able to achieve that is something I constantly strive towards in my life. I plan to accomplish this by doing the necessary things like education and research to be able to make it happen. As major milestones in my life come, I can see my dream and goal become closer and clearer.



Gabriella Ollard

Obtaining an education is important no matter how or where you get it. Even though most students gain a fair amount of preparation for the "real world" in any school they attend, I have realized in my seven years at SOA that an education including the arts is one of the most valuable things you can gain. I have been in Band during my time at SOA, and through music, I have learned skills I may not have learned if I were the type to attend a school football game every Friday. My major has taught me determination, collaboration, how to deal with healthy competition, etc. I have been able to use these skills in other parts of school when dealing with hard classes or working on group projects. Overall, I believe gaining an education that includes the arts in its curriculum is always the better route to take; and SOA is the perfect place to do that.



Sammy Oronce

Going through my first day of high school was a culture shock for me. As a rising freshman, the atmosphere and the school's outlook on the arts was vastly different than at my middle school. I went to Christ-Our-King Stella Maris School from kindergarten to eighth grade, and while my school did have choirs and musicals, I still felt like the odd one out in comparison to my peers. Most everyone there was into playing football or basketball, while I was more interested in playing Scar in *Lion King Jr.* Even students in the school's choir were not really invested, since some of them were only there because there was no room left in the athletic elective. However, at SOA, all of the students were there because they excelled at a given art form and were dedicated to it. I'll never forget the first few days in Vocal when Mr. Rogers gathered all the guys around the piano to learn "Calendar Girl." The fact that everyone cared about this song and wanted to work together to make it happen made me realize



that this was something special. All of my classmates were as passionate about music as I was, and I had never felt this sense of kinship before. It was liberating to be in a school with other like minded people. I felt I was fully able to express myself. Going to SOA for high school has allowed me to thrive in a creative and accepting environment that I doubt I would have gotten anywhere else.

Jhoseph Perez

What up, my name is Jhoseph Perez, and here's how I reflect on the aspect of life over my six years at SOA. It has been different, to say the least, I guess just coming from a different background as well as very different schools. I didn't know the mass variety of different people, as well as different cultures at SOA and the way art can be translated into many different forms. And through meeting many different people and even a few friends who I've been thugging this journey with since the sixth grade, they showed me the way they express art. I've been able to look at life, the good and even the bad times, and just be able to enjoy it a lot more. From struggling with some classes and a few assignments to having to get to work after school and still do your homework, it's been a real pain. But it's been worth it, and quite frankly I wouldn't change it a bit.



Kaitlin Petersen

Throughout my years at SOA I've had many great teachers. A few that have really stood out are Ms. Horschel, Ms. Nestman, Ms. Foster, Mr. Orvin, Mr. McCauley, Ms. Orchard, Ms. Mahoney, Mr. Short, and Dr. Selby. Each of these teachers took the time to actually create a personal connection with me that made a difference, not only in my school career, but in my personal life also. They took the time to actually ask how I was doing or to ask about things going on in my life and they actually listened to my responses. Some of these teachers have also given my really good life advice. For example, Dr. Selby has his Ten Rules on his wall that not only apply to the music room, but also to life. It can range from things as simple as showing up or breathing to things like practicing happiness and being prepared. Ms. Horschel has given her time to present my Junior class ring, and help me build a garden for low income families on a Saturday. Ms. Nestman is very funny and made Shakespeare interactive and interesting. Ms. Foster is very nice and easy to talk to, she can also sing a great Janis Joplin. Mr. Orvin made history come alive through his stories, and no one ever got bored in his class. Mr. McCauley teaches through examples and makes Psychology so interesting. He also genuinely cared about his students well being. Mr. Short is an excellent teacher and has driven me toward a major in the sciences at Clemson. Ms. Orchard has a great personality and is always open to questions. She always wants her students to do their best and always has time to explain things. Ms. Mahoney made our senior Powderpuff the absolute best. Her passion and spirit made our senior year so much better. Dr. Selby is the reason I not only attended SOA, but is also the reason I never gave up when things got tough. His guidance has been instrumental (get it?) in pushing us all to be our best selves. Believing in us when we didn't believe in ourselves. I believe without him, I would not be where I am today, standing on the stage graduating from a great school ready to start



my new adventures, knowing I have had some of the best teachers and mentors. I am so grateful for these teachers and everything I have learned from them, in and outside of the classroom. Their passion and dedication have made an impact on me that will last a lifetime.

Cassie Phillips

In 2032, I hope to be done with medical school and in residency, or I hope to have gotten my PhD in computer science and to have found a job. In terms of job or residency, I want to land one in a city at a well regarded hospital or computer science company. By the time 2032 comes around, I also want to be living in a big city where I can enjoy life and work towards buying an apartment. In the meantime, I want to be traveling during the summers, or when I get time off of work to see more of the world. I also wish to stay in a pet friendly building, so I can own a cat. I plan to make this happen by studying hard throughout college, so I can get into a good medical school or graduate school. While all of this happens, I also plan to continue doing art on the side.

Aidan Sabine

Music is one of the most important things in my life, and I don't think I would have nearly as much appreciation for it if I didn't go to this school. Being given an hour and a half to play my instrument has given me so much time to explore and understand ways to improve. Without the structure of school forcing me to practice, I think I would have slacked off a long time ago. I have been introduced to many different types of music and styles that have given me a better understanding of the possibilities music has. Finding new types of music and new sounds has also encouraged personal growth beyond music and has influenced the way I look at the world and my place in it. Being able to express myself artistically has led to some of the happiest moments of my life, and it is hard to imagine not being able to have that ability.



Marin Sinclair

As we approach graduation with every day feeling like it flies by faster than the one before, I find myself reflecting on the fact that never again will I be in an environment like this. I won't be surprised regularly by live music at lunch or be with a group of people who care so deeply about gospel music that people will listen to while eating barbeque. Right after our last performance at the Gaillard center, it was like all the seniors had that same realization. We had just managed to pull off a major production that no one believed we would accomplish, and while we were all happy with it, it's unlikely that we would repeat something of that caliber unless we pursued the arts professionally after graduation. Instead, we will have nothing but the memories of past concerts and Tim Fennell's YouTube videos to tie us back to our time as a Vocal major. I have spent the past seven years of my life at SOA, and while many people can't wait to graduate, June 2nd will be very bittersweet for me. The people in my grade have seen me spend my sixth grade year eating lunch with the teachers, figure out how to have a sense of style, and run over and over again for student council. Now, we will all watch each other one last time perform with these families we've created within our majors, and that will be the last time many of us see



each other. While I know SOA was an experience I won't likely get again, I look forward to what the future holds and know that it will always hold a special place in my heart.

Sophia Sinor

Okay. I'm entering SOA all over again. Scratch that... here's some advice I'm giving to the sixth graders. Let them hear this, and read it to them because they probably don't know how to. First thing I would do: not cry over a single middle school assignment. It literally is not that deep. If your classes are still distinguished by grade number (ex. Social Studies 7, Math 6), then I promise you, nothing matters. Focus on creating good study habits and good relationships with your teachers. But do not cry because you got an eighty-nine instead of a ninety on your pre-pre-algebra chapter two quiz. I promise that it'll all be okay. Make friends, and talk to as many people as you can, because who knows what any of your classmates are going to be like once they hit puberty. Don't care about what anyone else thinks about you. Since when has the opinion of a twelve year old been valid in any way (no offense). But seriously, everyone is really weird in middle school and everyone looks back and cringes, so you might as well do the things that you want so you can really laugh it up when you're older. Also shout out to all my ladies: DO NOT ever cry over your middle school boyfriend, he isn't even five feet tall yet and has a roller bookbag. As a wise, wise, freshly eighteen year old once said, "Skyzone is the ideal birthday party venue." Take that with you on your journey. Don't let the oppressive blue walls of the middle school building dim your sparkle. Stick it out to stay at SOA for high school, and I promise eighth grade graduation won't be your best memory here.

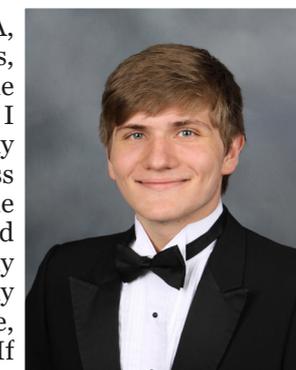


Clara Anne Stavrakis

I have taken so many amazing classes at SOA and have had so many amazing teachers. The most influential teacher I have had at SOA is Dr. Selby, and I am so grateful that I had him as a teacher for four years. He has helped me grow as a musician and has taught me important life lessons. He has Ten Rules that not only apply to the orchestra, but also real life. At first they were something that I did not take seriously, but I now realize how important they are. I know that I will take these rules with me to college and eventually into my career. Dr. Selby has inspired me to work hard and be the best version of myself that I can be.

Gabe Stewart

Orchestra is the reason I am at SOA, and the reason I will never forget it. In Strings, I have been able to better my cello playing while taking a break from conventional academics. I have enjoyed the hour and a half spent everyday playing music, easing the boredom and stress felt sitting behind a desk. I am grateful for the many opportunities that Strings has provided me. Trips to Chicago, New York, and the many Universal getaways have characterized my middle and high school strings experience, creating lasting memories and friendships. If I hadn't made it into SOA, there would be no guarantee that I would still be playing cello, an aspect of my life that has greatly enriched myself and my academics. It has taught me discipline and patience, skills I was very much in need of. Although I am continuing



my cello education in college, nothing will ever quite match my years at SOA.

Claire Teed

An SOA education can be beneficial, but you have to be able to accept that it is not the “normal” high school experience. You will not have team sports and games, homecoming, or boys ranking girls by looks (@magnet); however, you will have performances, Jump, Jive, and Wail, and some of the kindest friends. There is something special about having so many people that are appreciative of art and its beauty in one place. Whether you are a rising senior or a rising sixth grader, savor the acceptance and love SOA offers. I am incredibly grateful for everything SOA has offered me these past seven years. I will miss it dearly.



Avery Tumminia

In all of the six years I have been at SOA, there is no one that made me feel quite as special as Mr. Orvin. The second you walked into his classroom, it was like you stepped into a museum. Anything and everything any student ever gave him was in that room. Wall to wall was lined with history; even the floors and ceilings had something on them. Until I stepped into that room, I never felt like I was smart enough in school. I never felt like I could understand; history, especially. The first class I had with Mr. Orvin changed me. He stood up on a desk and yelled “Friends, Romans, countrymen, lend me your ears,” holding a sword in one hand and a crown on his head. Instantly, I was actually happy to be in class. Never have I seen someone so engaged about teaching a subject. He made me want to learn. For the first time, I was excited about a class. Then, after a few days of being in his class, he called me up to his desk, “Oh boy, he saw my test,” is what I was thinking, because he was holding it. He looked at me, smiled, and said “You are so smart, you do such amazing work. I am so proud of you.” I had never been told that before, especially by a teacher. He made me feel like I could do anything. Like I was smart enough to try. I have never forgotten what he said or what Mr. Orvin taught me. Luckily, I was able to have him before he left. I was lucky enough to be taught by such an extraordinary, outgoing, and theatrical teacher who genuinely cared about every kid in his class. I will always remember Mr. Orvin as a big part of my high school experience.



Amelia Walker

Before SOA, I wasn’t encouraged to do any art or push myself beyond my comfort zone. My first year at SOA was junior year, and I was incredibly nervous to be starting a new school. Everyone made me feel so welcome and they were very personable, which is something I was nervous about. Becoming a part of the Visual Arts class at SOA has been an inspiring experience that has opened my eyes to new opportunities. I have grown and learned so much during my time at SOA about myself and others. The staff, teachers,



and students have inspired me to be a better person and artist. All of the teachers I’ve had found ways to connect with the kids in ways I had never experienced. My short time at SOA has taught me that art is about reflecting emotions and about making mistakes. An SOA education has given me more opportunities and given me a memorable high school experience.

Philia Walker

My major class definitely has had the biggest impact on my education and overall SOA experience. I’ve had access to materials that allowed me to experiment and push outside my comfort zone generally without fear of failure. Most importantly, the classroom has provided an open space for critique. My major teachers have not only been kind to me, but have encouraged me to explore ideas which I wouldn’t have originally. Seeing my classmates’ art continues to amaze me and push me to be better in mine. I owe a lot of my improvement to the art room, and I’ve been blessed with an environment that nurtures my love for art and people who inspire me endlessly.



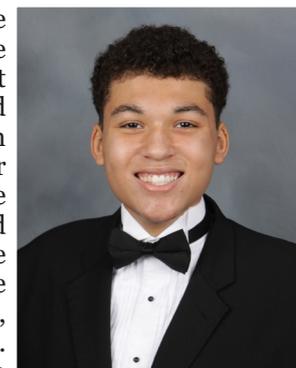
Patrick Whiteside

In my seven years of being SOA, I’ve definitely learned so much that has influenced how I am today. From trying to remember where each individual class was located in sixth grade, to trying to figure out how to submit my college applications on time, and making friendships that will last WAY after high school is over, it has impacted me in so many different ways. I’m glad that these seven years at this school have prepared me for heading into college and my career after that, and I’m glad that my teachers, my friends, and my major have been part of my middle school and high school experience of learning and growing, and have taught me valuable lessons that will last forever



Bryson Wood

I want to preface my essay with the fact that I am so thankful I was afforded the opportunity to be enrolled here for the past seven years. There is no other place that I would want to be than right here. The education here is top-notch, and I feel very prepared for my future endeavors. It was amazing to be surrounded by such intelligent and talented people on a daily basis, and this atmosphere drove me to be better than I already was. These people were also extremely kind and inclusive, and I have been able to make lifelong friends. My teachers were wonderful, and I have so much respect for them. Because of my major, I was afforded many opportunities that people go their whole lives without experiencing. Coming to SOA is one of the best choices I have ever made, and I have never regretted this decision.





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Kiran Narula



Kiran, you make us so proud every single day! Have so much fun at Pitt!

All our love always,
Mom, Papa, Devin,
and Henry

Clinton Larrabee

We are so incredibly proud of you! Watching you grow has brought such joy to our lives. Congratulations on all you have accomplished! You are certain to make your dreams a reality. We will always be your biggest fans! Love, Mom, Dad & Caroline



Gabriella Ollard



“Go confidently in the direction of your dreams. Live the life you have imagined.”

- Henry David Thoreau

Gabriella,
Congratulations, Scooter! We are so proud of you, and can't wait to witness your next adventure. We love you so much!

Mom, Andrew, Camille, Mia,
Aiden



Bryson T. Wood



Congratulations,
we're proud of you
and looking forward
to the great things
you're going to do in
your life.
Much Love, Mom,
Dad & Addison

Patrick Whiteside



Congratulations,
Patrick! Always stay
true to you and keep
smiling! We're SO
PROUD of you!
We love you to
infinity and beyond,
Mom, Dad & Evan

Jhoseph Perez



We are so proud of you. We know it wasn't easy, but hard work and determination made this day possible. This is only the first of many great achievements that we know you will reach. With love and pride, our best wishes and blessings, we love you always.

Sincerely,
Mom, Dad, Rossy and Jhoana



Gus Varallo

Congratulations, G—we're incredibly proud of you and so excited about what's ahead!

With love from Mom, Dad, and Ruby



Isabella “Ella Grace” Sines Thomasson

Congratulations, Ella Grace! We can't wait to watch you write your next chapter. Love, Mom, Dad, Sullivan, and Bailey



Kaitlin Grace Petersen

Our darling daughter,
You are the absolute light of our lives and we are so proud of all you have accomplished. We are blessed everyday by you, and we can't wait to see what you do next at Clemson. Be true to yourself and always remember we are your biggest fans and will always be here cheering for you. All our love now and forever,
Mom and Dad



Ethan Taylor

Congratulations Ethan! We are so proud of You!

Love, Mom, Dad and Brody



Lillian Stackhouse

Dear Lillian,
We are so proud of all you have achieved & the wonderful person you have become.
We love you so much!
Love Mommy & Daddy



Sarah Williamson

We are so proud of all you have accomplished, both in and outside of school. You have grown into an intelligent, compassionate, and talented person. We are excited to see what you will achieve as you head to Clemson!

Love,
Mom, Dad, Aj, Emme, and Francis



Clara Anne Stavrinakis

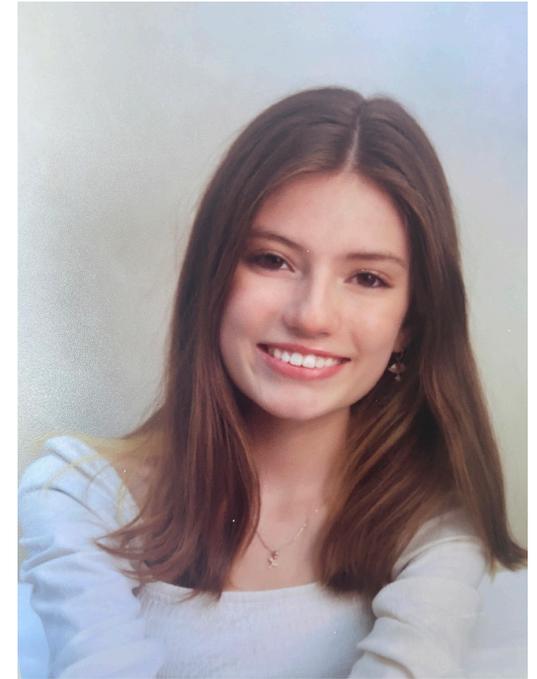
Congratulations! We are so proud of you for all that you have accomplished. You always demonstrate kindness and compassion for others while working hard to achieve your goals. Love you!



Martina Salinas

Congratulations, Martina! We are so excited to see all you accomplish in college. We are so proud of you!

Love you,
Mom, Dad, Fern,
and Mila.



Avery Tumminia

Congratulations, Avery! We are so proud of you. You are going to do great things. We love you forever!

Dad, Mom & Lillian



Gabe Stewart

Gabe. Witty. Intelligent. Friendly. Humorous. Creative. Generous. Your smile is infectious. It's time to share it with the world. We love you.

Mom, Dad, Lauren.



Emily Russell

Congratulations, our sweet Emily! Best wishes to Emily's wonderful SOA friends as well. You have made the last seven years very special!

Sue Ann & Allen



Claire Teed

Congratulations, Claire!

We're incredibly proud of you. Know who you are, and keep saying yes to what matters.

Love,
Mom, Dad, Meg, Gage and
Archer



Cassandra Marie Phillips

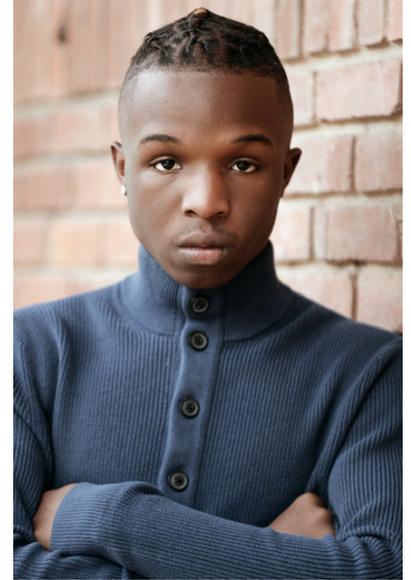
Congratulations, Cassie! We are so proud of you and cannot wait to see who you become. We love you!

Love, Mom, Dad and Chris



Gerard Mikell III

Our heartfelt blessing to you our son. Your high school graduation is an achievement, but you don't have to stop there. The world is yours for the taking. Remember to keep God first, put in the work, believe in yourself, be kind to others, then rest and enjoy the fruits of your labors. We love you, Gerard.



Enuka Taylor

So proud of you, Enuka! Can't wait to watch you play college ball and soar through college. Love - Mom, Dad, Walker, Charlie, and KG



Emily Severance

Remember your first day of preschool, elementary, middle, and high school? Take a moment to look back on your achievements. Realize all that you've accomplished. Each step (even the hard ones) has been a building block for your life. Congratulations on your graduation. We are so proud of you and so excited for you as you head to college! We will be cheering you on always!

Love Dad , Mom, and Nick



Evan Mercado

Evan,
I am beyond proud of the smart and beautiful young woman you've become. You're going to do great things in this world!

Love,
Mom



Nicholas Lindsay

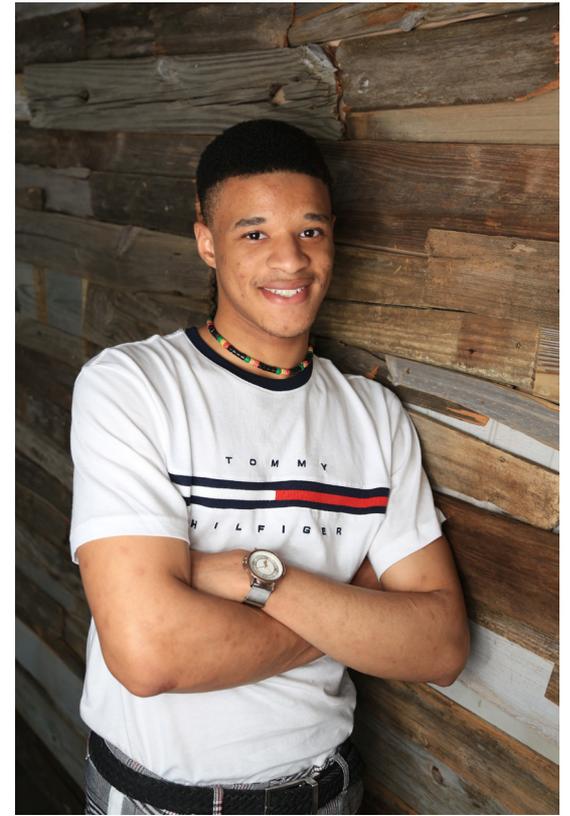
Happy Graduation!
We're so proud of you,
Nick!
"The best way to predict
your future is to create
it." -Abraham Lincoln
Love Mom and Dad



Jahmes Aman Jones



Jahmes!
YOU DID IT! You pulled it through and we are amazed at your determination. We are excited to see you in your future ventures and know you will do well. We wish you the best.
 Love You! Dad, Mom & Jahrell



Kaitlyn Roberts

We wish you the strength to face challenges with confidence, along with the wisdom to choose your battles carefully. We wish you adventures on your journey and may you always listen to your heart and take risks carefully.

“Remember that you may not control all the events that happen to you, but you can decide not to be reduced by them. Try to be a rainbow in someone’s cloud. Do not complain. Make every effort to change things you do not like. If you cannot make a change, change the way you have been thinking. You might find a new solution.” ~Maya Angelou

“Your story is what you have, what you will always have. It is something to own. Never make decisions based on fear. Make decisions based on hope and possibility. Make decisions based on what should happen, not what shouldn’t. You may not always have a

comfortable life, and you will not always be able to solve all of the world’s problems at once. But don’t ever underestimate the importance you can have because history has shown us that courage can be contagious, and hope can take on a life of its own.” ~Michelle Obama

We are extremely proud of you.
 Love, Mama, Cameron and Courtney



Eloise Lyons

Eloise, We are so proud of you and all of your hard work. Chicago, here you come! Love, Mom & Dad & the "brudders"



Brooking Limehouse Eager

"You is kind. You is smart. You is important."

Continue to always dare greatly and you will always continue to shine!

Your very proud Mom & Dad



Saffron Nina Jones

We are proud of the loyal, responsible, talented, hard-working, thoughtful human being that you have become. We love you!

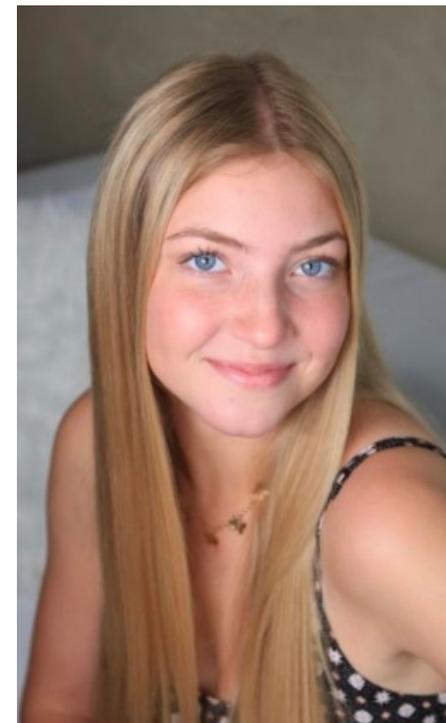
No regrets!!

Love,
Mom, Dad
& Zoe



Leah Katko

We are so proud of you, and we have loved watching your high school journey! Can't wait to see what's in store for you as you move to the next stage. Keep making good decisions and know that we love you so much!
Mom, Dad, Ben and your entire family



Malaika Affonso

Congratulations on your accomplishments. Your music has brought us so much joy! Best Wishes as you embark on new adventures. Love, Mom, Dad, and Amani.



CJ Barnett

Congratulations, CJ. We are so proud of you! Keep it Jazzy! Love, Mom, Dad, and the Fam



Grier Abercrombie

Grier, in the words of others, here are a few things to remember:

“Follow your passion. It will lead you to your purpose.” Oprah Winfrey

“What lies behind us and what lies before us are small matters compared to what lies within us.” Ralph Waldo Emerson

“The only time you should ever look back, is to see how far you’ve come.” BTS

We are so proud of all you’ve accomplished and look forward to seeing all that you will do in the future.

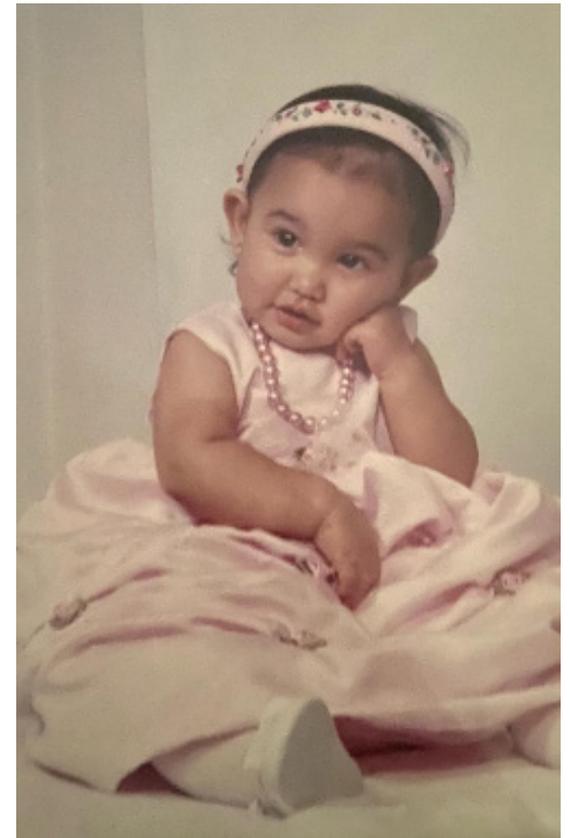
We love you,
Mom, Dad, and Jack (Parker and Rey too)



Lana Baird



Dearest Lana,
I want you to experience a life
you are proud of, and I want
you to meet people with
different opinions. If at first
you don't succeed, I want you
to know it's okay. Just have the
courage to start over again.
Sky is the limit for you.
Love, Mom



Eli Bundy

“What lies behind us
and what lies before
us are small matters
compared to what
lies within us.”
-Ralph Waldo
Emerson

So much lies within
you! Can't wait to
watch you share it
with the world.
Love,
Mom, Dad, Maya &
Sam



Charlie Bouknight

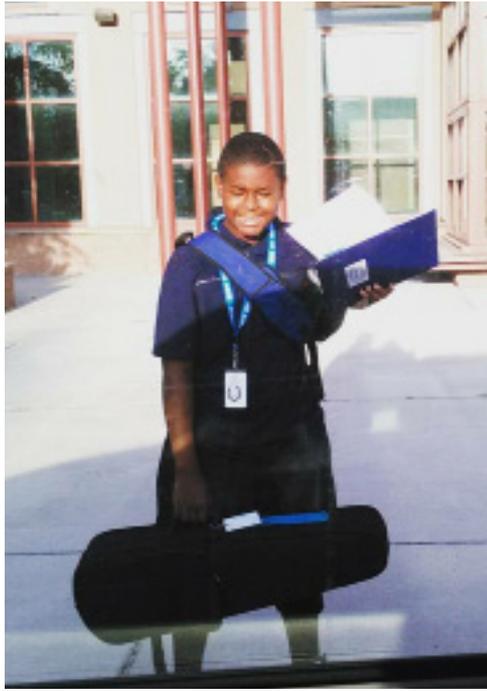
Congratulations,
Charlie!! We are
so very proud of
you, and we are
excited to see what
the future holds.
Love Dad, Mom
and Olivia



Raney Buist-Holmes

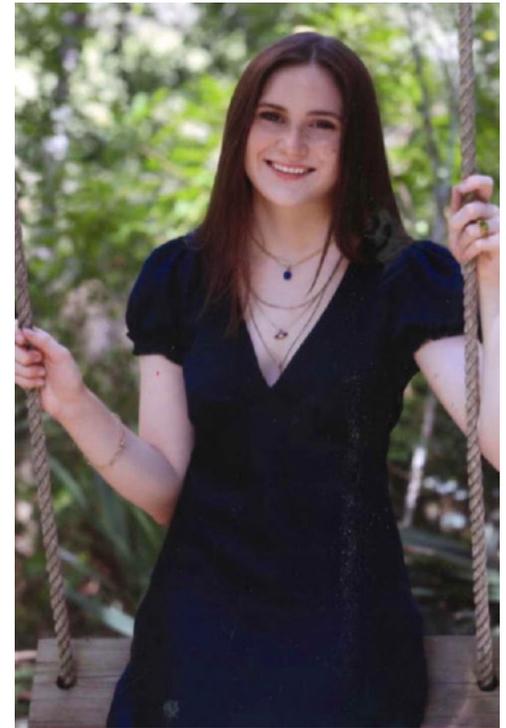
Raney,
We are so proud
of you! You are the
best role model
for your little
brother. We love
you and I know
you will thrive in
whatever you do
in life.

Love, Mama,
Travis, Kenzley
and Granny



Madelynne Burt

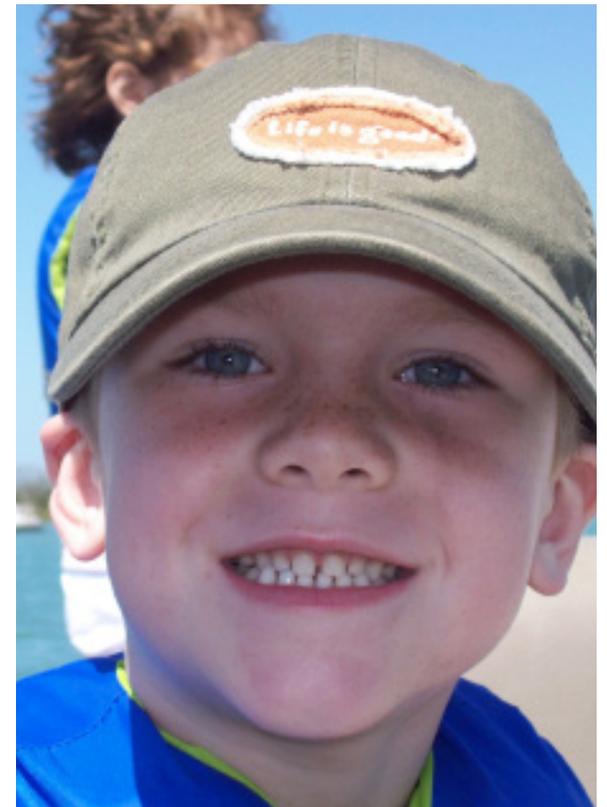
Congratulations
to Madelynne
Rose Burt. We are
so proud of your
accomplishments
and even more
proud of the
amazing person
you've become.
Love, Mommy,
Daddy, Quinn, &
Milly



Brady Bishop

Congratulations,
Brady! We can't wait
to see what the future
brings for you. We
love you very much!

Love,
Dad, Mom, Ava &
Riley



Elaina Hope Gable



Congratulations, Elaina!!
 We are so proud of the talented, beautiful young woman you have become!
 We admire your work ethic, integrity, strength of spirit, and kind heart.
 You are a true inspiration!
 Can't wait to see what you'll do next-your future is bright!
 Love,
 Mom, Dad and William



Aiden Handegan



It seems like just yesterday when we were dropping you off for your first day of Kindergarten. Time sure has flown & we are so proud of you! Congratulations on your graduation!

We love you ~ Mom, Dad & Sayde



Elliott Catoe-Griffis

Elliott, we're so proud of you. Congratulations on completing four years of hard work that will enrich you always.

Love, Dad,
Kristin, Avery
& Audrey



Emily Cecil

Congratulations,
Emily Jean Cecil!
We are so proud of
you! Have fun at
Furman University!
We love you!

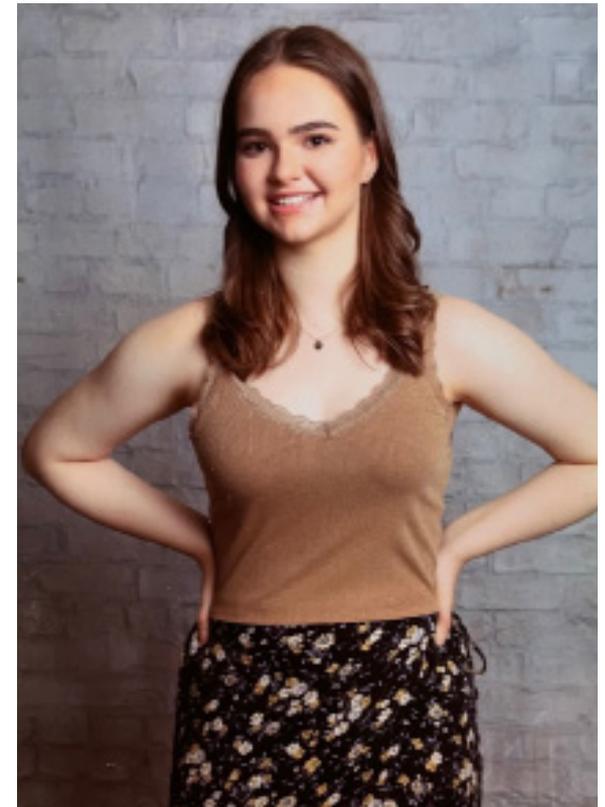
Love,
Mom & Dad Marie
& Henry



Elliott Catoe-Griffis

Elliott!! We love you
so much and are so
proud of you and all
of your hard work.

Love,
Mom, Sandy, Big,
Cake and Dave



Lauren Center

Lauren,

When you came home after your first day at SOA and said, "SANCTUARY!" I KNEW you were HOME!

Your ENTIRE family is VERY PROUD!



Nicholas Cook

Congratulations, Nicholas! It was never easy but you dared not to give up. If you did, you would never be a step closer to your dreams. I'm so proud of you.

Love,
Mom



Marley Suzanne Delovich

You make us proud and we are excited to continue to watch you grow!

We love you -
Mom and Dad



Jaci Elicebeth Dinkins

Way to go! So glad you finished strong and are ready to Fly! Congratulations on all of your accomplishments!

Love you Mucho
Mom and Dad



Haley Freeman

We are so proud of all you have accomplished and the amazing young woman you have become! Can't wait to see what the future brings! Love, Mom and Dad



Jaiden Reese Freeman

You are a light that shines so brightly, we glow in your presence. Congratulations!

With pride and love, Mom, Clifford, Nana, Papa, Granddaddy and Uncle Gerald.



Lauren Huser

We are so proud of you, Lauren! We love the beautiful, compassionate, and joyful young woman you have grown to become. Your kindness, creativity, intelligence, determination, and talent will take you far. Shine brightly at Clemson and beyond!

All our Love,
Mom & Dad



Ellie Garner

Congratulations!
You have made us
so proud, and we
cannot wait to see
where your dreams
take you!

Love,
Mom, Dad, and
Hunter



Ashley Gotlib

Congratulations,
Ashley!
You've made us all
so proud!
We can't wait to see
where life takes you
as you continue to
follow your dreams
at Loyola Chicago.

Love, Mom, Dad,
Grandma, Josh, &
Matt



Miranda Hartnett

Your compositions take our breath away! Music
growing inside out, Mirandaful & overflowing.

Thank you for so much joy
and so much more to come!

Your biggest fans!
Love, Mama and Papa



Brooklynn Ladson

Brooklynn,
We are so very proud of the young woman that
you have become. We pray that you will continue
to let God direct your path and we know that you
will do great things! Congratulations,
Brooklynn!! Well Done!
Love, Mom and Dad



Griffin Hargett

Congratulations,
Griffin! The best is
yet to come. The
world is waiting –
go get it!
We love you! Mom,
Dad & Kelsey



Ryan Hinske & Tripp Carrington

Congratulations to Class of 2022 graduates
Ryan Hinske & Tripp Carrington. We are so
proud of you both!! ~ Nikki, Joe & Jack



McKenzie Jackson

You're on your way
to excellence and
witnessing your
success has been one
of our greatest joys.
We will always be
cheering for you.
Love, Mom, Dad, and
Gemma
“There are far, far
better things ahead
than any we leave
behind.” — C.S. Lewis



Aiden Johnson

Congratulations!
Pages just aren't long
enough to express
how much I love you
and how proud I am
of you!
I can't wait to see
what else you'll
achieve in the future!
Just know that I'll
always be your
biggest fan!
Love, Dad

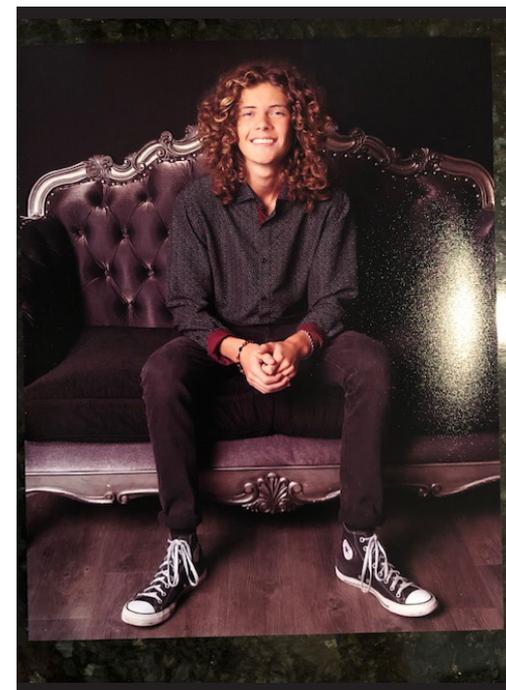


Sophia Hope Leonardi



Congratulations,
Sophia! We are
so proud of you.
Barbz stay in
school, don't you
ever be lazy!

Aidan Rix



Congratulations,
graduate! We are
so proud of you.
Be sure to aim
for the moon
to make your
dreams come
true! Love,
Mom & Dad



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What is the most important thing you've learned at SOA?

Grier Abercrombie: I've learned that having good friends with you makes any situation better.

Malaika Affonso: I've learned how important relationships with your peers and teachers are and where these connections can take you

Collin Anderson: I learned how to write print and how to play jazz.

Lana Baird: How to have an undefeated football team since 1995.

Grace Baker: People from different schools will say you're weird but that just means you'll be more successful, because you're not like everyone else.

Chapel Barker: The most important thing I've learned is how to wear platforms at school all day long without my feet hurting.

Brady Bishop: I've learned that embracing who you truly are and being your authentic self will carry you through some of the toughest battles in your life.

Charles Bouknight: To have confidence in myself.

Avery Brack: I learned how to prioritize my time between my major, academic classes, and personal life.

Zachary Brinegar: Definitely Tai Chi.

Kimberly Brown: I learned that you can't always rely on others to be happy. It has to start in you.

Eli Bundy: The most important thing I've learned here is being enthusiastic about things makes them so much more fun! Whether moving percussion equipment, putting up the shell in the theater, or playing a concert, being excited about whatever I am doing makes it much more enjoyable and less stressful.

Madelynne Burt: It's worth it to try to make a difference.

Peyton Cattle: I've learned a lot about being more independent and striving for things I need to get accomplished. They will simply not be handed to you.

Tripp Carrington: There is a subliminal message in the FedEx logo. Look between the E and the X.

Elliot Catoe-Griffis: I learned that school is important, but it's not everything, and balance is key.

Emily Cecil: The most important thing I've learned at SOA is to embrace your uniqueness.

Lauren Center: The most important thing I've learned is to be myself. I've really developed and changed as a person throughout my seven years here and that I've learned to be comfortable with myself and my art form

Yosef Chang: Cody will never share with me his fancy Pepsi drinks.

Sophia Consentino: Staying true to yourself is far more important than worrying about superficial things.

Andrew Coyle: Be yourself.

Jaci Denkins: To surround yourself with the right people.

El Drye: It's important to have a good support system.

Brooking Eager: The most important thing I've

learned is that good things come to those who wait

Maya Ervin: The most important thing I've learned at SOA is that working hard pays off.

Charles Fanetti: In SOA has taught me communication skills with the other Deaf students and hearing students and how to respond and translate to have an understanding with each other.

Jada Fickling: If SOA has taught me anything SOA has taught me, it's how to be responsible, organized, and resilient.

Haley Freeman: The most important thing I've learned at SOA is the value of an arts education and the importance of pushing yourself out of your comfort zone.

Jaiden Freeman: The most important thing I've learned at SOA is to let your creativity show and never let other people get to you.

Elaina Gable: At SOA, I've learned to appreciate and accept people from all backgrounds and walks of life. The environment here is so open and welcoming that people can be themselves and know they will not be judged.

Catherine Garner: Everything is normal if you let it be.

Ashley Gotlib: Friends are the people who make you feel welcome at all times, not the people who you have to try to feel welcome around.

Laura Granger: That procrastination is not a good thing.

Aiden Handegan: In ninth grade I was taught how to harness into the magic power of the almighty Chi, in order to create the ancient and most powerful energy sphere and energy pole. This, along with the lesson of never to drop the dragon pearl, is a skill that I think will take me pretty far in life.

Griffin Hargett: The most important thing SOA has taught me, and more so SOA Vocal, has been professionalism. There are many instances at work or other places where people are shocked to hear I am as young as I am, and I think most of that is due to my professionalism and maturity in certain situations.

Miranda Hartnett: I've learned the importance of individuality and authenticity at SOA. It's incredibly fulfilling to be true to one's imagination and cultivate an appreciation for beauty and originality.

Jon Henrikson: What not to focus on in life.

Ryan Hinske: Embrace great teachers. We are extremely lucky to have such a vast collection of excellent teachers that work for our knowledge, not what goes on the report card.

Natalie Holland: Most important thing I've learned here is the subjunctive mood in Spanish.

Lauren Huser: The most important thing I have learned at SOA is that I should never pretend to be someone I'm not. By being myself instead of trying to act cool or fit in, I've been able to surround myself with people whom I genuinely enjoy talking to and spending time with.

Gabriella Hylton: The most important thing I've learned at SOA is that talent never comes easy.

I've been with most of the same classmates since

seventh grade (when I came to SOA), and most of our majors don't really have much interaction. But after seeing my classmates perform, whether that's singing, acting, writing, dancing, or drawing, my eyes are completely wide open, and I feel so incredibly proud of these people because what they have spent their high school making is art! They spend their time working to make something beautiful, and to see that work and result makes me so happy and want to work as hard as they do!

McKenzie Jackson: The most important thing I've learned at SOA is that time goes by fast, and to enjoy it while you can. Not only have I learned from great academic and art teachers throughout the years, but I have also learned life skills that will take me far enough to succeed. Being able to be around those also heavily influenced around the arts each day has shaped me into the person I am today.

Madison Jenkins: I've learned patience, as well as to keep your schedule organized; to work ahead or with the homework and assignment schedule will give you good results, more often than naught.

Mekhi Jenkins: The most important thing I learned at SOA was accepting. Being able to accept failure, change, and time will not only show, but reward you with the ability to accept the most cherishable moments. *Words from your worthy Prom King :)*

Saffron Jones: The most important thing that I've learned at SOA is how to communicate my ideas to other people especially through my major.

Leah Katko: Smile and wave.

Miles Kendrick: It's better to fail together than succeed apart. That and thermodynamic favorability.

Sophia Kozlowski: You don't always suck as much as you think you do.

Brooklynn Ladson: You should surround yourself with good people that won't get in your way from achieving your goals.

Sofia Lathbury: The most important thing I've learned at SOA is that surrounding yourself with a great group of friends helps you grow as a person. I think the best thing about SOA is that you're surrounded by a lot of people with common interests and beliefs, so it's easy to find people you can get along with. Even if this is a small group of people, it's important to associate yourself with people who bring out the best in you, and people you can depend on to be there for you when you need support. You don't need to have a huge group of friends or "popularity" to be happy.

Ethan Le: The most important thing I learned is how to be myself in this school.

Sophia Leonardi: The most important thing I have learned at SOA is Kabuki Theater (iykyk).

Ashley Limehouse: The most important thing I learned at SOA is to never give up and never feel alone, because there are plenty of teachers who would do anything to help out.

Nicholas Lindsay: Anything worth doing is

worth doing badly, unless it's a nuclear reactor.

Maristella Lussier: Don't judge a book by its cover.

Alma Lutas: Sometimes you just need to grow up and bite your tongue.

Eloise Lyons: The ability to connect all forms of art to academics is an essential skill I learned at SOA, which I know will be useful in college and future careers.

Adam Maierle: The responsibilities of managing your time during school and out of school.

Ivan Mallari: In the seven years I've been at SOA, there's one really important thing I've learned: be confident in yourself and love yourself for who you are and who you want to become, regardless of others' opinions. For us seniors, adulthood is something completely different, and is honestly scary when we don't know what the future holds. Being stuck up on what you want to do in life will only make it worse, so do what your heart desires. On the bright side, adulthood opens new opportunities for us and expands our opinions for what we want to do/be.

Kendall Martin: I've learned how important your community is and how being able to be loved and appreciated for who you are is the most fulfilling feeling.

Hayes Martini: I started going to SOA a month after I turned eleven years old. In seven years, I learned that success, like art, is subjective. I realized that I don't need fame or fortune to feel successful, all I truly need is to feel content with myself and work hard for the things that I want and the rest will fall into place.

Evan Mercado: A very important thing I learned while being at SOA is teamwork. In classes and especially our majors, we constantly do our work in teams, pushing us to learn how to work better with each other.

Anais Robledo Murillo: The most important thing I learned at SOA was how much people can

surprise you! I only ever see my classmates that aren't in my major in academic classes, so it's always really surprising to see how talented they are!

Liam Murphy: I learned how to really accept myself for who I am and find people who accept me too.

Kiran Narula: The most important thing I've learned at SOA is not to overthink too much; things will get stressful, but there's always a light at the end of the tunnel.

Mariam Nguyen: The most important thing I've learned is to delegate! I have struggled with this skill for years. As the Student Body President, it's crucial to delegate work onto other members of STUCO.

Naomi Khue Nguyen: I feel like I learned most about being open to new things and ideas.

Gabriella Ollard: The most important thing I've learned at SOA is that it is important to respect each other's differences and talents.

Sammy Oronce: Hi over Ho. If you know, you know.

Jhoseph Perez: You become who you surround yourself around.

Cassie Phillips: The most important thing I have learned at SOA is how to balance both school, art, and personal life.

Aidan Sabine: How to be part of a diverse community.

Marin Sinclair: To not be afraid to put myself out there, because it tends to result in some pretty cool things that would've never happened.

Sophia Sinor: If SOA has taught me anything, it's how to step out of my comfort zone. I came here as a shy, insecure, and anxious little twelve year old (which is the worst age ever, btw). Now, as gross as it sounds, I feel like I'm leaving as a confident and brave person. Something that I feel encapsulates everything that SOA taught me is my relationship with stage fright. In my first years at SOA, everytime I would think of performing

in front of anyone I could instantly become overwhelmed with anxiety, desperate to make any excuse to get out of being on stage. Now, I rarely if ever experience pre-performance nerves, and I am genuinely so excited to be on stage with all of my friends!

Clara Anne Stavrinakis: I learned the importance of time management and balancing school with my major and my personal life.

Gabe Stewart: I have learned the magical power of friendship.

Claire Teed: How to discreetly eavesdrop.

Avery Tummunia: The most important thing I have learned at SOA is probably to be yourself; don't care what other people think of you and don't judge yourself based on other people's accomplishments.

Amelia Walker: I've learned to push myself with my art and to not be afraid of mistakes you make along the way.

Philia Walker: There are many classes that you shouldn't take.

Ned Walpole: The most important thing I learned at SOA was to disregard everyone's opinions about you. Don't worry about what others think about you. Do you. If you want to dance your heart out at the Eighth Grade Dance, the Winter Dance, or Prom, do it. I encourage you to. That's what I did. If you want to branch out and wear a cool outfit next week, do it. It'll be drippy or hard or fire, whatever the cool kids say these days. If you want to try something new in your major, do it. Don't waste your time trying to please other people. Please yourself.

Patrick Whiteside: How to manage my time wisely and have fun at the same time.

Andrew Wise: How to act as a person and what life will turn out to be.

Bryson Wood: I learned to believe in myself more.

What quote do you want to be remembered by?

Grier Abercrombie: "Wherever you go, go with all your heart." - Confucius

Malaika Affonso: "Whether you think you can or you think you can't, you're right." - Henry Ford

Maria Alexander: "No matter where life takes me, find me with a smile." - Mac Miller

Collin Anderson: "A jack of all trades is a master of none, but often better than a master of one."

Lana Baird: "You're annoying." - me

Grace Baker: "Grace, put that down."

Chapel Barker: "The Collegeboard better count their days."

Brady Bishop: "We all die. The goal isn't to live forever, the goal is to create something that will." - Whitney Houston

Charles Bouknight: "You're gonna fly, You're never gonna die, You're gonna make it if you try, They're gonna love you" - Pink Floyd

Avery Brack: "gm fans I have normal thoughts about movies."

Zachary Brinegar: "Magic doesn't come from talent, it comes from pain." - The Magicians

Kimberly Brown: "You never really know the true value of a moment until it becomes a memory." - Spongebob Squarepants

Eli Bundy: "He never went out without a book under his arm, and he often came back with two." - Victor Hugo, *Les Misérables*

Madelynne Burt: "Commit to the bit."

Tripp Carrington: "Education makes some men wiser, others more ridiculous and foolish!" - Norm MacDonald

Peyton Cattle: I don't really care as long as it's not tourette's related.

Elliot Catoe- Griffis: "I believe that if, at the end of it all, according to our abilities, we have done something to make others a little happier, and something to make ourselves a little happier, that is about the best we can do." - Roger Ebert

Emily Cecil: "Life has no meaning. Each of us has meaning, and we bring it to life. It is a waste of time to be asking the question when you are the answer." - Joseph Campbell

Lauren Center: "Do not kill the part of you that is cringe— kill the part of you that cringes."

- Unknown

Yosef Chang: "Inspiration does not always respond to the first invitation...We must be patient, and believe that inspiration will come to those who can master their disinclination." - Pyotr Tchaikovsky

Sophia Consentino: "Just because you like my stuff doesn't mean I owe you anything." - Bob Dylan

Andrew Coyle: "This pacifier represents Finn because he is a baby." - Michael Morelli

Jaci Dinkins: "To live is the rarest thing in the world. Most people exist, that is all." - Oscar Wilde

El Drye: "Be yourself."

Brooking Eager: "Ignore the haters and do what you do best."

Maya Ervin: "Everyone has a creative impulse, and has the right to create, and should." - Patti Smith

Charles Fanetti: "The path of the righteous man is beset on all sides by the iniquities of the selfish and the tyranny of evil me. Blessed is he who, in the name of the charity and good

will, shepherds the weak through the valley of darkness, for he is truly his brother's keeper and the finder of lost children. And I will strike down upon thee with great vengeance and furious anger those who attempt to poison and destroy my brothers. And you will know my name is the Lord when I lay my vengeance upon thee." - Pulp Fiction

Jada Fickling: "Don't lose yourself to win the approval of others."

Haley Freeman: "We keep moving forward, opening new doors and doing new things, because we're curious and curiosity keeps leading us down new paths." - Walt Disney

Elaina Gable: "Life is like a dogsled team. If you ain't the lead dog, the scenery never changes." - Lewis Grizzard

Catherine Garner: "You may not always end up where you thought you were going. But you will always end up where you are meant to be."

Ashley Gotlib: "Don't let anyone tell you who you are. Let yourself decide that on your own."

Aiden Handegan: "Let us bow our heads in prayer. With the power of the RMMT, the spirit of Kimmy Z, and the magic of the mighty, mighty, mighty, mighty, MIGHTY, Pegasi, may we be blessed with a great performance! Amen!!!" - Amira Frazier

Griffin Hargett: "You know the problem with drawing lines in the sand? With a breath of air, they disappear." - Raymond Reddington

Miranda Hartnett: "Forget about trying to compete with someone else. Create your own pathway. Create your own new vision." - Herbie Hancock

Jon Henrikson: "Discipline is doing what you hate but doing it like you love it."

Ryan Hinske: "I know that guy, he's Tripp's friend."

Natalie Holland: "Maybe we could express ourselves more fully if we say it without words." - Patricia from *The Darjeeling Limited*

Lauren Huser: "You must always have faith in people. And, more importantly, you must always have faith in yourself." - Elle Woods

Gabriella Hylton: *I have two quotes!!*
"I think your self emerges more clearly over time"

- Meryl Streep

"You just have to keep doing what you do... Keep

going. Start by starting." - Meryl Streep

McKenzie Jackson: The quote I would like to be remembered by is "You Are Good Enough To Be Everything You Want To Be." It encourages anyone to get through it, work through it, and move on. These are all very important during senior year when you just want to give up.

Madison Jenkins: "The tall but kind giant."

Mekhi Jenkins: "Ain't no way....I really stayed at this school for all 7 years...." - Mekhi Jenkins

Leah Katko: "Maybe I'll stay the full school day today."

Miles Kendrick: "You can't spell smiles without Miles!"

Sophia Kozlowski: "We tried to poison you because you are an insane, degenerate piece of filth, and you deserve to die." - Walter White

Brooklynn Ladson: "I was built this way for a reason, so I'm going to use it." - Simone Biles

Sofia Lathbury: "It is not what we think or feel that makes us who we are. It is what we do. Or fail to do so." - Jane Austen

Ethan Le: "I wanna sleep."

Sophia Leonardi: "And such as..." - Miss Teen South Carolina 2007

Ashley Limehouse: "what?"

Nicholas Lindsay: "Hubris, Spite, Determination."

Maristella Lussier: "If you look at what you have in life, you'll always have more. If you look at what you don't have in life, you'll never have enough." - Oprah Winfrey

Alma Lutas: "Respectfully, if you have to put 'hot' after an actor's name when you Google them, they're not hot."

Eloise Lyons: "If I were a train, I'd be late." - Roger Waters

Adam Maierle: "There's 106 miles to Chicago, we've got a full tank of gas, half a pack of cigarettes, it's dark out, and we're wearing sunglasses." - Elwood, *The Blues Brothers*

Ivan Mallari: "Sometimes you just gotta take life as it is. You can't have control over everything, but that's okay."

Hayes Martini: "I'm not trying to be a downer, I'm just thinking of all the things that can go wrong." -me

Evan Mercado: "Slay girl!"

Anais Robledo Murillo: "I think we agree, the

past is over." - George W. Bush

Liam Murphy: "Oh man he looks like Jesus."

Kiran Narula: "Kiran is my favorite student." - all my teachers

Mariam Nguyen: "All I do is Nguyen."

Naomi Khue Nguyen: "The most beautiful part of your body is where it's headed."

Gabriella Ollard: "You will face many defeats in life, but never let yourself be defeated." - Maya Angelou

Sammy Oronce: "You see, sometimes friends have to go away, but a part of them stays behind with you." - Ash Ketchum.

Jhospeh Perez: "I can't change the world, but I can change your perception"

Cassie Phillips: "The most difficult thing in life is to know yourself." - Thales

Aidan Sabine: "You teach a child to read, and he or her will be able to pass a literacy test." - George Bush

Marin Sinclair: "Marin, are you sure you're not a narcoleptic?" - Sophie Sinor

Sophia Sinor: "I don't like sunglasses, they make the world dark and sad." - me

Clara Anne Stavrinakis: "Even the smallest people can make the biggest difference."

Gabe Stewart: "High school is but a stepping stone laid immediately after middle school and directly before college."

Claire Teed: "That's show business, *witches." -me *w=b

Avery Tumminia: "Even the smallest people can make the biggest difference"

Amelia Walker: "I wish there was a way to know you were in the good old days before you actually left them." -Andy Bernard, *The Office*

Philia Walker: "If there's one thing a bisexual girl wants, it's a weird looking man."

Ned Walpole: "Thank God I'm a country boy." - John Denver

Patrick Whiteside: "Criticism can bother you, but you should be more bothered if there's no criticism. That means you're too safe." - Kanye West.

Andrew Wise: "No matter where life takes me, find me with a smile." - Mac Miller

Bryson Wood: "Be nice because you can be, not because you have to be."

What will you miss most about SOA?

Grier Abercrombie: I'll miss the people I've grown up with over the past seven years and seeing them every day.

Malaika Affonso: I'll miss sunny days at lunch with the band playing in the courtyard.

Collin Anderson: The environment and good memories.

Lana Baird: My besties.

Grace Baker: I will miss the smell of Mrs. Richardson's essential oil diffuser in the art room.

Chapel Barker: I'm going to miss seeing all my besties everyday.

Brady Bishop: I'm definitely going to miss the people, but I think I'll miss the nachos on Wednesday the most.

Charles Bouknight: My friends and teachers.

Avery Brack: The friends that I made and my major.

Zachary Brinegar: The feeling of community. Everyone who is here is supposed to be here and everyone is aware of that. There is mutual respect between all the students here. I will mostly miss the feeling of family within my major.

Kimberly Brown: I will miss the accepting community. There are so many creative and unique individuals here who aren't afraid to be themselves.

Eli Bundy: I will miss walking down the halls of the arts building and hearing music from every door. I will miss Dr. Selby's incredible conducting and direction. I will miss playing music with my friends every single day.

Madelynne Burt: I will miss all of the people I have met: my teachers, friends, and classmates.

Peyton Cattle: The teachers and the comfortable environments they created for us.

Tripp Carrington: Being able to sing in the hallway without getting strange looks.

Elliott Catoe-Griffis: I will miss being able to dance everyday with my friends.

Emily Cecil: I am going to miss all of the friends I have made over the years I have been here.

Lauren Center: I think what I'll miss the most about SOA is the group of people I've gotten to know over the course of my time here. I'll miss seeing the same awesome people every day. With that being said...

Yosef Chang: All the times Cody didn't share

Pepsi or Swedish Fish with me.

Sophia Cosentino: I'll miss the satiric wit of the Creative Writing teachers.

Andrew Coyle: The friends I've had since sixth grade and the more I made along the way.

Jaci Dinkins: I'm going to miss my group I sit with at lunch and some of my teachers.

El Drye: The environment here is really good, especially for creative people like a lot of us are.

Brooking Eager: The relationship with my teachers and my good friend Tara, better known as Momma, our favorite lunch lady.

Maya Ervin: I will miss traveling and performing with my major class.

Charles Fanetti: Having fun interacting with others in classes that I'll miss a lot in this school.

Jada Fickling: The teachers and friends I've made.

Haley Freeman: I will really miss the campus, especially the Rose Maree Myers Theater, and being able to go outside every day while at school.

Jaiden Freeman: I will miss the feeling of being able to be free and not being judged at SOA the most.

Elaina Gable: I will miss the orchestra the most because of the friendships I formed and the supportive community.

Catherine Garner: The friendships I have created over the past seven years.

Ashley Gotlib: I will miss the friends that I have made over the many years of being here.

Lauren Granger: My friends.

Aiden Handegan: Baby geese season.

Griffin Hargett: The opportunities to perform in front of parents and colleagues.

Miranda Hartnett: I will miss how inspiring the ambition of my peers has been and the resources and opportunities that have encouraged my creativity and involvement in learning and playing jazz.

Jon Henrikson: Not seeing my friends everyday.

Ryan Hinske: The Vocal family. This year especially, with *Les Mis* in production, we became closer than ever.

Natalie Holland: I will miss the Theater games and rehearsals the most.

Lauren Huser: I'm really going to miss the friendships I have made in Vocal. We've all formed such close bonds with each other; my classmates have become my second family. We're always very supportive of each other no matter the circumstance, and we try to make everyone feel included and appreciated. I am so grateful to have had the chance to sing with such beautiful, talented people.

Gabriella Hylton: If there is one thing that I will absolutely miss about SOA, it will be the people. Everyone from SOA is so unique and distinct with different backgrounds, and since our school is very small compared to Wando or West Ashley, I feel as though I know everyone pretty personally in our grade, so I've been finding it really hard to saying goodbye to these people who I've grown and matured within for so many years. Even though we're all saying goodbye, I'm really proud of us all for sticking through to the end and I know that it won't be the last time I see my fellow graduates (We've made it guys!).

McKenzie Jackson: Looking back on the years, what I will miss most about SOA is the steady environment and ability to express ourselves freely. Some of the people I have met here are friends for life, and the teachers will be mentors I will never forget.

Madison Jenkins: I will miss all the stares as I walk down the aisles, as well as the occasional comments "Wow, she's tall." But I think I'll still get that by walking anywhere.

Mekhi Jenkins: I had great relationships with most of the SOA faculty, but I think I'm DEFINITELY gonna miss the people for sure! I really only came to school for my peers if we're being honest (unless Ms. Derrickson is reading this, then I'm lying of course).

Saffron Jones: I think I am going to miss seeing my friends everyday and all of us being together all the time.

Leah Katko: My besties.

Miles Kendrick: The fart smells :(

Sophia Kozlowzki: The downstairs highschool girls bathroom with three working stalls.

Brooklyn Ladson: I will miss MOST of the teachers I had. Just kidding!!! I will miss all of them!!!

Sophia Lathbury: I'll definitely miss the Vocal concerts. While rehearsals and preparation for concerts are always hard to get through, the end result is so rewarding, and there's nothing better than performing with friends and great musicians. It's been a long journey for me from my first performance with SOA in sixth grade to my last this month, and I credit a lot of who I am today to music, so it's definitely a bittersweet goodbye. I'll also miss Senior Field Day and Powderpuff. Those were so fun, and I got to connect with people I've never talked to before.

Ethan Le: I will miss my seven-year friendship with certain people.

Sophia Leonardi: I will miss lunch with my squad and banter with my fav teachers.

Ashley Limehouse: A few teachers and my favorite lunch lady, Mrs. Tara, and the activities we did in my major.

Nicholas Lindsay: My fellow Theater majors.

Maristella Lussier: How accepting and diverse the school is.

Alma Lutas: The good lighting in the art room.
Eloise Lyons: I know I will miss my art class the most after I am gone. Knowing that I won't have a space to create freely with people like me is jarring, and I appreciate that experience SOA gave me.

Adam Maierle: Preparation for my Senior Thesis art show and showcasing all of the amazing, hard work my classmates and I have put in throughout highschool.

Ivan Mallari: My friends and family I made along the way. I'll miss the memories we made and all the fun times we had on field trips and during performances. It's sad to think that most of us might not see each other for the rest of our lives, but it's always nice to look back and think about those memories and how much fun we had.

Kendall Martin: I will miss the excitement of getting ready for a Vocal performance with all of my friends.

Hayes Martini: I will miss being around my

best friends every day. Although we have a strong bond, I know that things will never be the same after graduation. It's a scary feeling, but I am insanely grateful that I was given the opportunity to share my high school experience with the people that I love most. I am leaving some underclassmen friends behind, and I cannot wait to see what they achieve. I hope they know I will always be there for them.

Evan Mercado: All of the wonderful friends I have made in these four years of being at SOA.

Anais Robledo Murillo: I will miss going to performances the most! I feel like when people think about going to an arts school, they think about growing the specific passion they have and being able to be more involved in their major, but not many people consider what a unique environment we're in! Being able to watch my peers express themselves and seeing the passion they have for their major is priceless. I will also miss Dr. Selby :).

Liam Murphy: Going to NYC with my major. It is still one of my favorite trips ever, and I got to spend it with some of my best friends.

Kiran Narula: I'll miss the people more than anything; I've made some of the best friends in the world here.

Mariam Nguyen: I will definitely miss my teachers and fellow students the most.

Naomi Khue Nguyen: I'll miss being able to see all the cool art and performances.

Gabriella Ollard: The community. The people here are so talented and open minded.

Sammy Oronce: The memories I made with all the people here. From "starting rumors" in Dr. Cusatis' class, to playing Super Smash Bros with William White and Bryson Wood, I will cherish all the memories I made here.

Jhoseph Perez: Just a couple of good friends I made here.

Cassie Phillips: I will miss the people the most and having an art class everyday.

Aidan Sabine: The people.

Marin Sinclair: The second family that was created within my major over the course of seven years.

Sophia Sinor: I have been at SOA since I was twelve years old, and, thankfully, so much has changed since then. For me, SOA feels like my entire adolescence. Looking back on my middle and high school experiences, the majority of my memories, friends, concerts, dances, experiences, lessons learned, stress, sense of humor, accomplishments, and routine are all related to going to middle and high school here. I know that it'll be hard not coming everyday to the place that shaped so much of who I have been the past six years. It is bittersweet moving on from the home that molded me into who I am.

Clara Anne Stavrinakis: I will miss the symphony and my friends, especially the people in my major.

Gabe Stewart: My childhood.

Claire Teed: Dr. Cusatis' supply of Jolly Ranchers.

Avery Tumminia: The thing I will miss most is the people I have met and gotten to know over the years. I will miss the spirit weeks and the after school get-togethers I have with my friends.

Amelia Walker: I will miss seeing all of the creative and vibrant pieces of artwork in my Visual Arts class everyday.

Philia Walker: The art room.

Ned Walpole: What I will miss most about SOA is the connections you make. The friendships

I've made over the past six years will stick with me for a long time. I will never take the personal connections I've made with the faculty for granted. SOA has a star-studded lineup of caring teachers who will talk to you about anything.

Patrick Whiteside: I'll miss both the experience

I've had with my friends, along with the funny moments in class I've had with my teachers.

Andrew Wise: I will miss the teachers, but I think it's time to move on.

Bryson Wood: My friends.

What advice do you have for underclassmen?

Grier Abercrombie: It's best to balance academics and personal interests, but there are times when you need to do one more than the other. Just try to go day-by-day without regrets.

Malaika Affonso: Finding motivation can be difficult, especially later on in high school when you're stressed and tired, but just sit down and start; the beginning is the hardest part.

Maria Alexander: School doesn't matter in the aspect of education, but more of the life lessons you learn along the way and how to be a better person.

Collin Anderson: Don't waste your time, capitalize.

Lana Baird: Have fun! Senior year! Woot Woot!

Grace Baker: Don't let senioritis become fatal, because seat time is very real.

Chapel Barker: Do not get too close to the geese on campus. They are not friendly.

Brady Bishop: Don't take yourself too seriously, life is so dull when you do.

Charles Bouknight: Don't take too many AP classes your senior year.

Avery Brack: Don't take too many AP classes and get late in or early out if you can.

Zachary Brinegar: Never try to conform. What's amazing about art is that it's innovative and a representation of how times change. Don't water down your artistic expressions because of someone else's opinion.

Kimberly Brown: Life isn't about grades and rankings. Though education is important, remember that your happiness and mental health always come first.

Eli Bundy: Go to other majors' performances! It is so fun to see your friends working hard to put on a good show or exhibit, and it feels great to perform knowing that your fellow students took time out of their day to come see your show. Most of them are free and easily accessible, and they are always a great time.

Madelynn Burt: Try not to sweat the small things. It's cheesy, but true. Even if it seems like the end of the world, just remember that it'll all work out for the best in the end.

Peyton Cantle: Give your all to your interest, they might become your future.

Tripp Carrington: Actually brush your teeth twice a day. We can tell if you don't.

Elliot Catoe-Griffis: For underclassmen, I'd recommend building connections with your teachers and not being afraid to ask for help.

Emily Cecil: I would tell underclassmen to take everything with a grain of salt and enjoy high school, because it goes by fast.

Lauren Center: Please...for the love of God... don't date anyone in the same major as you if you have less than twenty people per class. Because

if you break up you have no choice but to see each other every day... and that's awkward for EVERYONE.

Yosef Chang: Lockers are a waste of time, don't get them.

Sophia Cosentino: Enjoy being a kid, and try not to base your self-worth off of a bunch of numbers.

Andrew Coyle: Respect your teachers and they will make great letters of recommendation.

Jaci Dinkins: Do your work but most importantly have fun.

El Drye: Don't give yourself too many hard classes, especially your freshman and sophomore years.

Brooking Eager: It may be hard right now, but it gets easier as time goes by.

Maya Ervin: Advice I would give to underclassmen is to not let fear get in the way and know that it's okay to make mistakes.

Charles Fanetti: Don't let the work stress, instead rely on your friends and have fun at this school. If you don't, the time will hit you. Before you know it, you are here graduating.

Jada Fickling: Keep up with your work and know that it is okay to ask for help.

Haley Freeman: When it comes to applying to college and receiving decisions, there is so, so much outside of your control. Do your best and know that wherever you end up will be a great place for you; plans change, so embrace it.

Jaiden Freeman: My advice to the underclassmen is to try to get your work done as soon as possible so you don't fall behind and enjoy your high school experience while it lasts.

Elaina Gable: You are not defined by the number of AP classes you take! Do not overload yourself with challenging courses that will prevent you from having a life outside of school. Focus more on developing skills and being a leader in the community; this is what really matters on college applications and in life.

Catherine Garner: The foreign language entrance exam into college is basically Spanish 1.

Ashley Gotlib: Do your work early so you will never turn things in late and will have extra time to do what you want to.

Laura Granger: CHILL OUT. Of course grades matter, but highschool goes by fast so have fun.

Aiden Handegan: Don't procrastinate!!!!

Griffin Hargett: With more free time comes less freedom, with more freedom comes less free time.

Miranda Hartnett: For underclassmen planning to pursue their major, I would recommend making it your focus by participating in related extracurricular activities, competitions, and auditions and applying to scholarships to

build your resume.

Jon Henrikson: Don't try to pack your senior year with all the complicated classes and to just enjoy it.

Ryan Hinske: DO NOT take your time here for granted! I came from a middle school that I was miserable at, and my decision to come to SOA for high school was the best I've ever made. The accepting, friendly environment offered here is like none other.

Natalie Holland: Advice for underclassmen: when you are at school dances, don't be too cool to actually dance. You aren't going to regret actually jumping around and having fun.

Lauren Huser: Please try to make the most of your high school years. I spent so much time stressing over my schoolwork and trying to please everyone that I forgot to let loose a little and just have fun. Furthermore, the pandemic caused my junior and senior years to fly by, so I encourage you all to live those last two years to the fullest. Make every memory count!

Gabriella Hylton: There are moments when you feel that everything is happening at once and the whole world is spinning way too fast, but try and appreciate those moments, because they can disappear just as fast as they came. We've learned from the pandemic that normalcy can be taken from us, so take time to appreciate those hectic times and keep in mind that all things work out in the end!

McKenzie Jackson: Advice I have for underclassmen is to enjoy your time here while you can! Time goes by really fast. Get those grades done, hang out with those friends, go to JJ&W, join a club, do all the things you want while you can during your highschool career, because you won't regret it.

Madison Jenkins: Junior year will be your most challenging, but after that you can take your time and relax a little more in Senior year. Be grateful for every day.

Mekhi Jenkins: The only advice I have is for my fellow black underclassmen. Being accepted into a school like this where there's not many people that look like you can already be struggling within itself. It's crazy how we have difficulty uniting and supporting each other. We separately have so much talent in potential to be at this school, but together there's no limit.

Saffron Jones: My advice for underclassmen is to turn in all your work, even if it's late, and to also have as much fun as possible. Make the most of your time here.

Leah Katko: Don't stress out too much, but get your stuff done!

Miles Kendrick: It ain't that serious. My biggest regret is that all of high school (and middle

school, tbh) I worked WAY too hard and tried WAY too hard for literally no reason. Have fun, hang out with your friends, and do things normal highschoolers do because you deserve it!

Sophia Kozlowski: Stop being friends with annoying people.

Brooklynn Ladson: Never give up, trust me, you will get to the finish line.

Sophia Lathbury: It sounds cliché, but soak it up while you can. I never believed people when they said that high school flies by, but it really does. Take advantage of going to events, and participating in things you think would be fun. Live life on the edge, and don't be scared to step out of your comfort zone, no matter how difficult it may seem. Also, don't waste your time on drama. It really won't matter in the long run, and your time is much better spent on more positive interactions.

Ethan Le: Idk, just figure it out yourself.

Sophia Leonardi: Know your place.

Ashley Limehouse: TALK TO YOUR TEACHERS ABOUT MAKEUP WORK!

Nicholas Lindsay: There are some teachers who always turn out to be evil. They are the ones who say that class will only be enjoyable if you put work into it, and they will also seem proud of the amount of people who don't do well in their class. The first statement is them trying to blame other people for the fact that they are utterly boring and irritating people, and the second statement is them trying to frame being terrible at teaching as a good thing. If your teachers say either of these things, drop their classes immediately. It doesn't matter how nice they seem outside of class, it doesn't matter how fun the class has been so far. If they say either of these things, the class will become intolerable the second you are no longer able to change classes. Feel free to add to this list as new patterns emerge, warn others.

Maristella Lussier: Communicate with your teachers! They (mostly) don't want you to fail either, they'll help if you need it.

Alma Lutas: Chill out, the best revenge is usually living your best life.

Eloise Lyons: As Bruce would say, "roll down the windows and let the wind blow back your hair."

Adam Maierle: Handle your needed AP courses ahead of senior year.

Ivan Mallari: Don't be afraid to try new things, get out of your comfort zone once and while. Throughout the years I've been here, I never really went out of my way to talk to new people or try different things from my usual routine. I can almost say that I regret it because I honestly love meeting new people. I enjoy listening to people and learning about how other people think and feel, their flaws and strengths, what they like, and whether we have commonalities so we can be friends. It should be noted that I myself am not a very talkative person face-to-face, but through text, I feel more comfortable expressing myself to people I've met recently. You tend to meet all kinds of different people from different backgrounds when you step out of your comfort zone, even if it's just a simple "hi" or "how are you?" because it's those small actions that can

explode into long lasting relationships.

Kendall Martin: Keep your grades up, stay organized, and make the most out of your high school experience.

Hayes Martini: Don't make choices based on what other people want, because after you leave high school, no one has to live with the decisions you make except yourself. It's important to step out of your comfort zone, but don't go as far as to change who you are. Take your time, sleep in, hang out with close friends who care about you, have conversations that make you think, and stay true to yourself. If you are in middle school... please take a deep breath and stop worrying so much about Mr. Southwick's science class. You'll be just fine, save the energy for later (nothing but respect to Mr. Southwick of course!!!!).

Evan Mercado: Always be yourself. No matter what anyone says, the best thing is to always stick to being you.

Anais Robledo Murillo: My advice to underclassmen would be to relax a little! If you're the type that holds yourself to really high standards, I would say that you can afford to be young and not work so hard! Everything will work itself out.

Liam Murphy: Don't worry about what other people think of you, I promise they care a lot less than you think.

Kiran Narula: Enjoy highschool!! It's not just something you have to get through, it's a time you can really learn about yourself. Appreciate that!

Mariam Nguyen: I would definitely say to run for Student Council! I have had so much fun being the Student Body President and being a part of STUCO for the past three years. Also, don't take AP Chem your senior year.

Naomi Khue Nguyen: My advice would be not to stress about small things; Everything eventually works out.

Gabriella Ollard: Surround yourself with positive people who genuinely care about your success.

Sammy Oronce: Visit the colleges you apply to. If you can physically see yourself attending there, then that is a good indicator the college is right for you.

Jhoseph Perez: Enjoy the time you have right now, because it'll all be over before you know it.

Kaitlin Petersen: It is so important to practice self forgiveness. You need to take time to forgive yourself for not being perfect or living up to the expectations you created for yourself. You will do well at some things and not so well at others, and that is ok. It is important to view mistakes as learning opportunities and to not be too hard on yourself. No one is good at everything, so be kind to yourself, it will make it so much easier to be

kind to others.

Cassie Phillips: My advice would be to not stress about school so much and to enjoy high school. I would also recommend an early out or late in senior year.

Aidan Sabine: Learn to like your major as best as you can.

Marin Sinclair: Enjoy it. It is easy to get caught up in everything that accumulates throughout high school, but take time to have fun and enjoy it before it starts flying by.

Sophia Sinor: Underclassmen... make lots of different friends, take the classes you want to, apply to the colleges you want to, join the club, and, while you're at it, try out for *Spongebob the Musical* next year. Don't let your anxiety or uncertainty stop you from seeking out the things that will make this time memorable and trying new things. While high school definitely should not be the best time of your life, it is such a unique era of your experience and it goes by so quickly. At the end of the day, highschool literally does not matter even a little bit, so do exactly what you want to make it a good time for yourself!

Clara Anne Stavrinakis: My advice is to appreciate your time at SOA and the friends you have in high school.

Gabe Stewart: Do your homework, it is not hard, you will regret it.

Claire Teed: Pimp out and love Sosa.

Avery Tumminia: Don't stop trying just because it's hard, it's all worth it in the end so don't give up just because you think you can't do it.

Amelia Walker: Don't procrastinate everyday like I did.

Philia Walker: Do what you would do because it is what you do that is what you would do with what does.

Ned Walpole: My advice for underclassmen is to enjoy it while you can. I dread the fifty minute drive to school most mornings and I've complained more than I should have, but looking back I wish I had more time. Live in the moment, and have as much fun as you can. I actually encourage you to have a little too much fun, because it'll all be worth it in the end. And, of course, turn in your homework. Believe me, you and your parents will be glad you did.

Patrick Whiteside: Work hard your junior year, party hard your senior year.

Andrew Wise: Be yourself and just focus on getting through, there will be ups and downs but keep your head up kings.

Bryson Wood: Junior year is the most important year, but make sure not to fall off senior year.

COSTA+WILLIAMS
DENTAL HEALTH CARE

What are your plans after graduation?

Grier Abercrombie: I'm going to Utah for game design, and I'm hoping to be able to travel a lot or study abroad. Anything can happen, so we'll see where I go from there :).

Malaika Affonso: I'm going to the College of Charleston for Biochemistry and International Studies, and we'll see where it takes me from there!

Maria Alexander: To pursue a double degree in french horn performance and cinema studies at Oberlin College and Conservatory.

Collin Anderson: Learn as much as possible.

Lana Baird: Go home and go to sleep.

Grace Baker: I am planning on attending the College of Charleston and transferring to study in a large city.

Chapel Barker: I'm planning on attending Sewanee and majoring in sustainability.

Brady Bishop: I'll be majoring in Biology with a focus on conservation at Winthrop in Rock Hill. With that under my belt, I'd like to pursue a career with animals.

Charles Bouknight: To go to UofSC to study History.

Avery Brack: Go to Furman to study biology.

Zachary Brinegar: I plan to pursue a career in theatre! I found that after studying theatre for the past four years, there is truly no other path that feels as right.

Kimberly Brown: I will be majoring in pharmacy at the University of South Carolina's Honors College.

Eli Bundy: I am taking a year off from school and then heading up to Maine to study Earth and Oceanographic Science at Bowdoin College.

Madelynne Burt: I plan to major in Political Science in Lexington, KY, at Transylvania University on the pre-law track.

Peyton Cattle: I plan to go to SCAD and draw all day. It will be so epic.

Tripp Carrington: I plan to attend the University of Southern California as an English major this fall.

Elliott Catoe-Griffis: I plan to attend University of South Carolina Honors College, majoring in Public Health and minoring in Dance.

Emily Cecil: I am attending Furman University in the fall and plan on majoring in Vocal performance.

Lauren Center: I'm planning on attending the University of South Carolina, but after that, I'm not really sure what career I want to go into. I plan on figuring it out as I go (within a reasonable amount of time, of course).

Yosef Chang: I will be attending the University of Virginia and plan to double major in commerce and viola performance with a concentration on management.

Sophia Cosentino: I'll be attending Providence College.

Andrew Coyle: Go to The Citadel, then I don't know.

Jaci Dinkins: I will be attending Western Carolina University in the fall and majoring in Interior Design.

El Drye: I'm going to double major in history and vocal performance at Furman University.

Brooking Eager: I am going to cosmetology school at Paul Mitchell, then I am taking the bridge program through CofC.

Maya Ervin: After graduation, I plan to attend Furman University and major in Health Science.

Charles Fanetti: Well, I'll try and get a job and support my mother, while also learning coding during my free time and teaching myself to be more independent. Then, try to get a coding job and from there, work hard, and then get a home for myself.

Jada Fickling: I will be attending Claflin University in the fall and majoring in education.

Haley Freeman: I hope to travel to Washington DC and/or New York City this summer and visit all of my friends and favorite places I have not seen in four years. After that, I plan to attend the Vail Dance Festival in Vail, Colorado, and shortly after start my freshman year at the University of Utah as a STEM major that also dances, works at the school newspaper, and makes films around campus.

Jaiden Freeman: I plan to attend USC in the fall to major in Psychology and become some sort of therapist or psychiatrist.

Elaina Gable: Over the summer, I'll be attending the Bowdoin International Music Festival, and in the fall I will be starting college as a violin performance major at the Johns Hopkins Peabody Conservatory.

Catherine Garner: I plan to attend the University of South Carolina as a nursing major.

Ashley Gotlib: I am going to Loyola University Chicago for Cognitive Behavioral Neuroscience

Laura Granger: I'm going to go to Trident and get my associates in science, and then go to MUSC for pharmacy, and hopefully not drown in student debt.

Aiden Handegan: Next year I will be a performing arts major at SCAD (Savannah College of Art and Design) and minor in acting for the camera.

Griffin Hargett: To go to college, to work a job in college, make connections, and get a useful diploma.

Miranda Hartnett: I plan to major in Music Composition at Furman University.

Jon Henrikson: Continue through Trident and get my certification in HVAC.

Ryan Hinske: I will be attending DePaul University for the next four years, majoring in sports communications. My dream is to make it big in the sports broadcasting industry!

Natalie Holland: I'm going to College of Charleston to study theater and foreign language.

Lauren Huser: I plan to attend Clemson University as a psychology major. I'll be working towards earning a Master's Degree, and I hope to work in the field of either clinical or counseling psychology.

Gabriella Hylton: I will be working most of the summer, spending time with my friends and family, throwing in a little Doja Cat, and I will be

off to Boston in September! Come visit or grab a coffee with me anytime!

McKenzie Jackson: My plans after graduation include getting to try out many new hobbies in the area where I am attending school. I am really looking forward to going on more hikes, trying out skiing, and overall meeting new people. Colorado is so different from home, and I am excited to start this new journey of self discovery. I also plan on possibly rushing and going to more social events.

Madison Jenkins: I'll be moving to Florida in June, then flying up to NY June 11th and staying there for one month studying theatre at the New York Conservatory for Dramatic Arts. After that, I'm looking into trade schools for finance.

Mekhi Jenkins: To be great...simple.

Saffron Jones: I plan on going to Flagler College in St. Augustine and majoring in either criminology or anthropology.

Leah Katko: Tigers, baby (Clemson).

Miles Kendrick: After graduation, I'll be attending Tufts University in Boston, Massachusetts where I'll be majoring in political science.

Sophia Kozlowski: College.

Brooklyn Ladson: I am going to major in early childhood education at Charleston Southern.

Sophia Lathbury: In the fall, I'll be attending Wofford College as a Sociology & Anthropology major on the Pre-Law track with a possible minor in Music Performance.

Ethan Le: To make my mom proud.

Sophia Leonardi: Focus on building my empire.

Ashley Limehouse: I plan to work as much as I can over the summer and attend Trident Technical College to become a physical therapist.

Nicholas Lindsay: College, then become a theater teacher or someone who takes care of dogs.

Maristella Lussier: I plan on majoring in art therapy and trying to get a tattoo apprenticeship while I'm in college. They're both careers I'm interested in, so I figure I can try them out and still get a degree while I'm at it.

Alma Lutas: Survive.

Eloise Lyons: I will be majoring in Art History at DePaul University in Chicago.

Adam Maierle: I will be attending SAIC to study Architecture and Architectural Design.

Ivan Mallari: After graduation, I plan to attend the University of South Carolina Columbia to major in Nursing and aiming to receive a Bachelor's degree in Nursing, then further for a Master's degree.

Kendall Martin: To go to College of Charleston!

Hayes Martini: After graduation, I plan on attending the College of Charleston as a business major and a possible music/vocal performance minor.

Evan Mercado: I plan to attend Warren Wilson college, majoring in Psychology.

Anais Robledo Murillo: I will be taking a gap year to work and live in Colombia and then travel

around South America before going to Columbia University in New York City in the fall of 2023.

Liam Murphy: I hope to get my teaching degree and then try out for music school.

Kiran Narula: I'll be going to the University of Pittsburgh for English writing.

Mariam Nguyen: I will be attending Furman/UofSC Greenville Medical School for their seven year BS/MD program, and I will major in public health. In the future, I hope to pursue a career as a doctor, working in the government and implementing health policy.

Naomi Khue Nguyen: I hope to complete my undergrad years and go into medicine to better help people.

Gabriella Ollard: I am going to the University of Vermont and majoring in Psychology.

Sammy Oronce: I will be attending the University of South Carolina to pursue nursing.

Jhoseph Perez: I will join the AirForce and study mechanical/electrical engineering.

Cassie Phillips: I plan on going to Clemson and majoring in Biology or computer science and

going to medical school or getting my PhD. I also plan to explore more of the world.

Aidan Sabine: To go to college and hopefully get involved in politics.

Marin Sinclair: I am planning to major in marketing at Clemson University.

Sophia Sinor: After graduation, I will probably go to the Waffle House. I plan on having a supes epic summer and living it up having fun in the sun! This fall I am attending Clemson University, and I am majoring in Language and International Business.

Clara Anne Stavrinakis: I will be attending the University of South Carolina Honors College. I plan on majoring in political science and hope to attend law school one day.

Gabe Stewart: I will begin my collegiate intramural amateur streetball career at the University of South Carolina.

Claire Teed: Rush Oozma Kappa.

Avery Tumminia: After graduation, I am planning to spend the summer with my closest people, going traveling 'till I have to go to school

to become a nurse.

Amelia Walker: After graduation, I want to pursue my dreams of working in a field of psychology.

Philia Walker: Leave the country, live on a homely pasture in Europe. Learn many languages and hopefully marry a rich man.

Ned Walpole: After graduation, I will be attending Clemson University in the fall. Those who know me or have seen how much orange I wear know I've been waiting to stroll into Tigertown my whole life.

Patrick Whiteside: My plans are to go to the College of Charleston for the next four years and major in Communications and minor in either finance or film.

Andrew Wise: Planning on going to Trident for a year and then College of Charleston for Psychology and a minor in biology, then hopefully med school for Psychiatry.

Bryson Wood: I am going to the University of South Carolina Honors College to major in chemistry. I will also be singing in their choir(s).

What was your most memorable moment at SOA?

Grier Abercrombie: The New York trip for Piano majors.

Malaika Affonso: All of Spirit Week this year was so much fun; school spirit was high and everyone looked amazing!

Collin Anderson: The day I played the *The Office* theme in the cafeteria and everyone applauded me and I almost passed out because I didn't expect it. Also everytime I made a class laugh.

Lana Baird: Wearing soda bottles on our feet for a dance show.

Grace Baker: The whole Powerpuff season.

Chapel Barker: That time they gave us cantaloupe in the cafeteria.

Brady Bishop: My favorite moment at SOA has been the recent production of *Les Miserables*.

Charles Bouknight: Ripping my pants Freshman year in English.

Avery Brack: That one time in English 2 when me and my friends Alma and Philia made too intense of eye contact with each other, so we were pulled out of class and asked to stop looking at each other.

Zachary Brinegar: There was one day in freshman year when all the Theater majors piled onto one of our old couches and we took a picture. It's not a super big moment, but it was just a really nice moment that I haven't forgotten since.

Kimberly Brown: Going to New York and singing at Carnegie Hall with the Vocal department during my freshman year.

Eli Bundy: In seventh grade, we performed Mannheim Steamroller's "Carol of the Bells" for convocation, and we got our first ever standing ovation as an ensemble. Parents cheering for you is one thing, but seeing all of our peers going crazy for us was so gratifying and thrilling, and that event really cemented my excitement for future concerts. Also that time Dr. Selby tried to give me a thumbs up and okay hand gesture at the

same time and accidentally flipped the bird was pretty memorable.

Madelynn Burt: Finally getting to walk in the in-person fashion show this year was so incredible! I loved seeing all of my friends' work on display and so many of my peers yassified.

Peyton Cattle: Probably seeing campus for the first time, realizing this will be my last high school I go to.

Tripp Carrington: My most memorable moment at SOA is performing *Les Mis* alongside my best friends at the Gaillard this year.

Elliott Catoe-Griffis: Pi day with Mrs. Mahoney!

Emily Cecil: My most memorable moment at SOA was Powderpuff and the Vocal trip to New York City my freshman year.

Lauren Center: My most memorable moment, while not on campus, was the eighth grade Washington DC trip. I remember having so much fun and spending time with tons of friends new and old, and learning a lot about the country I live in. That trip itself is overall one of my happiest memories.

Yosef Chang: The first Midwest Orchestra Clinic rehearsal before the start of the school year. I fell in love with the school right then and there.

Sophia Cosentino: I can't seem to think of any specific moment.

Andrew Coyle: Performing the *Harry Potter* spoof *Puffs* and being a cheerleader in the Powderpuff game.

Jaci Dinkins: My favorite memory is Mr. Orvin's class. There is no other class like his.

El Drye: Winning senior field day with the other Vocal seniors.

Brooking Eager: Most definitely convocation, we haven't had it in a while but it was a lot of fun.

Maya Ervin: My most memorable moment at SOA would be the String's trip to Chicago for the Midwest Clinic. It was a lot of hard work, but an

incredible experience that I will never forget.

Charles Fanetti: Performing "Silent Night" on stage. At first I was nervous, but I had performed before way back in elementary school; I was set in the role of one of the soldiers who was trying to find the Swamp Fox. In my eighth grade year, I had first joined the school, and then when the "Silent Night" performance had shown up, I was nervous of how big the stage was. It was like I had butterflies in my stomach. After I had performed, I had become less and less scared, and I have now performed "Silent Night" repeatedly in the past four years.

Haley Freeman: I enjoyed participating in guest artist residencies as part of the dance curriculum over the years. Also, many of my most memorable moments come from being a part of Mr. Christensen's tech team and spending time in the theater, and helping set up for shows.

Elaina Gable: Playing as the concertmaster in the pit orchestra for Vocal's production of *Les Miserables*.

Catherine Garner: Any convocations I've attended as well as prom and performing and *Les Misérables* in the symphony.

Ashley Gotlib: Dancing with my friends at prom.

Laura Granger: Getting dropped on my head in sixth grade was fun, and it makes sense why I am the way I am today.

Aiden Handegan: My Sophomore year when we performed *Puffs*, or *Seven Increasingly Eventful Years at a Certain School of Magic and Magic*.

Griffin Hargett: Performing center stage at Carnegie Hall in front of other choirs from around the county.

Miranda Hartnett: Our Piano Senior Thesis was my most memorable moment at SOA because it was the culmination of studying piano here for four years and a special showcase of each student.

Jon Henrikson: Jump Jive and Wail.

Ryan Hinske: Sitting backstage at the end of *Les Mis* taking it all in after all our hard work saw a spectacular result. I can't say enough about what that experience meant to me personally.

Natalie Holland: In sixth grade, Band went to Disney World, and I had a crush on two different boys in the class at the time. One of them had already been spotted kissing a different girl in my class, and the other one just didn't give me the time of day. So I cried in the middle of Epcot in front of a handful of peers. I felt like I was in a heartbreaking movie.

Lauren Huser: My most memorable moment at SOA was when our high school Vocal program performed *Les Miserables* at the Gaillard. We all worked so diligently to make our shows as perfect as possible, and the hard work definitely paid off. It was one of the most fun and exciting experiences of my life, and I will never forget that feeling of true happiness after we finished each show. I would give anything to perform in that show one more time!

Gabriella Hylton: This is actually the hardest one to choose for me! We do so much at this school that there are so many significant moments, but I think the one that stands out the most for me is being able to play in *Les Miserables*. Like I said earlier, I am always so fascinated when my classmates perform, and being able to play with the symphony while my classmates were acting and singing was truly amazing, and I will never forget it. It was so much hard work, but it all paid off and we as students made something really special and memorable!

McKenzie Jackson: My most memorable moments at SOA probably include the Jump, Jive, & Wails, hosted by the Band majors, or any Powderpuff grouping. Aside from the more packed events, some other memorable moments include small, simple moments in the classroom with friends.

Madison Jenkins: I don't have one yet, but I think it will be when my parents come to my graduation, that will be a special moment for me.

Mekhi Jenkins: Rushing to finish this question before it's too late and realizing I wasted my

time...

Saffron Jones: My most memorable moment at SOA is all of the shows that I was able to watch or participate in. Good memories were made during convocation, dance departmentals, and SOA showcases.

Leah Katko: 0-0 tie in Powderpuff.

Miles Kendrick: My most memorable moment at SOA is probably the eighth grade Washington DC trip. So many friendships were made and an equal amount were broken, because everyone was randomly wearing MAGA hats and it made me want to die.

Sophia Kozlowski: The Midwest Conference in my sophomore year.

Brooklynn Ladson: My friend and I were helping with registration and once we were done, we snuck into a classroom where they had leftover drinks and pizza, so we took some drinks. We were caught by Mr. Clark, and he did not care, so he told us to take pizza too. Thank you Mr. Clark!!!

Sophia Lathbury: Powderpuff, hands down. The whole day was really fun. The game, the pre-game prep, practices, and the game itself. It was really fun to play with such a great team. Plus, the cheerleading routine was a solid 10/10.

Ethan Le: The most memorable was the 2022 Powderpuff game, because it was the only time I had school spirit.

Sophia Leonardi: My most memorable moment at SOA was playing Powderpuff with all my classmates and our slay-king coaches.

Ashley Limehouse: My most memorable moment was our last senior thesis in Dance because I cried so much thinking about all of us graduating and leaving our teachers :(.

Nicholas Lindsay: Fights in the dark.

Maristella Lussier: The freshman year fashion trip to New York! It was before Covid, so we were able to do a lot of things that I'm glad I got to do before Covid.

Alma Lutas: Painting the murals at Mr. Clark's jazz club and James Island County Park.

Eloise Lyons: I really enjoyed prom, especially because we didn't have one for our junior year. It was really fun being with everyone again.

**A d a m
M a i e r l e :** Meeting all of my best friends beginning in the sixth grade and all of the new people I have met continuing on through highschool.

Ivan Mallari: I don't think I have a specific memorable moment. but I have had times where I've helped a friend with their struggles, and I think that is

something to be remembered. The most recent incident of this was a week ago at the time of writing this. A good friend of mine was worried about her final exams thinking that she would do badly on them. She was doubting herself, and I told her that she can and will achieve great things in her future and her finals were just small obstacles she would overcome with ease. I felt that I could be someone who was there to support her through her struggles, but also to my other friends who feel troubled.

Kendall Martin: Being a part of *Les Mis*.

Hayes Martini: My most memorable moment at SOA happened just last week. I was in vocal preparing for our "Music Down in my Soul" concert and I took some time to look around and observe. I have been immensely fortunate to be surrounded by a great group of singers and on that specific day, I couldn't help but be filled with nostalgia while watching Mr. Rogers conduct and play the piano while we all sang one of our favorite songs. It is hard to leave something that has been a constant for so long, especially when you have taken it for granted in the past. I will always look back on my experience of being a part of the Vocal department fondly, and I hope I will be able to find a group just a fraction as wonderful as the family I have been embraced by here at SOA.

Evan Mercado: Going to NYC with my major. It is still one of my favorite trips ever, and I got to spend it with some of my best friends.

Anais Robledo Murillo: My most memorable moment at SOA was my senior thesis when my dress broke fifteen minutes before I had to go on stage! I held it together with safety pins for my solo, and then my friend Morgan Macananny came backstage to stitch me into it backstage before my ensemble pieces :/.

Liam Murphy: Carrying Sammy down the breezeway on my shoulders as we blasted "Last Christmas" by Wham.

Kiran Narula: Powderpuff was probably my most memorable moment at SOA, just because so much of our highschool experience was disrupted because of Covid, and that day we really got to experience what we'd been missing out on.

Mariam Nguyen: Definitely my senior Powderpuff game! The only sports game where I have seen students be so happy about ending 0-0.

Naomi Khue Nguyen: Being able to watch every performance at the showcase was something I've always enjoyed.

Gabriella Ollard: My most memorable moment at SOA was definitely playing in the holiday symphony concert at the Gaillard. It was a very cool opportunity.

Sammy Oronce: My most memorable moment would have to be the second semester of my freshman year when I had a study hall instead of an actual class. Liam Murphy and I would always ask our teacher if we could sneak away into a practice room and play guitar. I'll never forget when he played "Everlong" by the Foo Fighters for me.

Jhoseph Perez: It will be walking in on my last day of my senior year.

Cassie Phillips: The events are the most memorable, such as Powderpuff, where I had a lot of fun.



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Aidan Sabine: My senior thesis.

Marin Sinclair: My Vocal class' trip to Camp St. Christopher, because we made great memories, and it was the first time I really got to know the people in my major in other grades.

Sophia Sinor: Powderpuff. It summarized everything at SOA all at once. From spending months trying to work with the cheerleaders, perfecting their facials and hip pops, and making sure that they looked beautiful the day of, to acting absolutely insufferable with the other seniors and bullying the juniors, it was such a memorable almost-last experience at SOA. It was also very fitting that the cheerleading music didn't work and we tied 0-0.

Clara Anne Stavrinkais: My most memorable

moment at SOA was senior thesis. It was a stressful experience but was definitely worth it and I loved watching everyone else in my class perform.

Gabe Stewart: Dancing my little heart out at Powderpuff.

Claire Teed: Watching my boys slay their cheer at Powderpuff.

Avery Tumminia: Performing in *Les Mis* was probably my most amazing and memorable moment.

Amelia Walker: My most memorable moment at SOA was watching the Powderpuff cheerleading.

Philia Walker: Painting in the art room.

Ned Walpole: My most memorable moment at

SOA was publishing *Stories of a Saltwater Soul*, my book that is the product of my creative writing senior thesis. The feeling I got after working so hard on something for so long was like none other. Or perhaps donning my red visor and living out my Dabo Swinney fantasies by coaching the senior girls in the latest powderpuff game. That was pretty awesome.

Patrick Whiteside: Realizing that I put a lot more effort into that Powderpuff dance than I originally thought, (FAB!).

Andrew Wise: Growing up with the people around me and definitely Jump Jive and Wail.

Bryson Wood: Performing *Les Misérables* with Vocal.

A message from SOA Principal Dr. Cook to the Class of 2022

Congratulations! Who would have ever imagined the challenges you would face when you entered SOA as sixth graders in 2015 or ninth graders in 2018? You have learned to practice and perform, write and recite, create and cultivate with masks on and masks off. You pushed through illness and saw success through Plexiglas... and you persevered. We the school community, along with you, grieved the loss of a beloved classmate and found comfort through the connections with each other and the sharing of artwork and music. You have emerged through a global pandemic as accomplished student artists who know who you are and what you want from life, and you will make a difference in our world. We can't wait to hear about the lives that you will lead and the impact you will have on all of us. As you walk across the stage on June 2nd, know that your teachers and administrators are walking with in spirit, cheering you on as you accept your diploma and your new role as high school graduates.



With much respect and care,
Dr. Cook

Applause congratulates SOA Senior Tripp Carrington, who, in the month of May, was awarded the Rose Maree Myers Scholarship for Artistic Excellence, the Optimist International Club State Oratorical Contest, and the Charleston County School District CHAMP Award. Tripp will travel to St. Louis to compete in the Optimist International Club's National Oratorical Contest in July.



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Senior Wins Scholarship from Zeta Phi Beta Sorority



Senior Band major Kaitlyn Roberts was awarded the 2022 Gamma Zeta Scholarship by the Zeta Phi Beta Sorority. Congrats, Kaitlyn!



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Applause Speaks with Simon Hamrick, Senior Creative Writer, on Thesis

by Norah Bernstein

Continued from last issue, where Applause writers interviewed Creative Writing seniors on their theses.

Norah Bernstein: How long have you been working on this thesis?

Simon Hamrick: I've been working on my thesis since last summer, but I included work from as far back as 2020.

NB: Did your final product match your original ideas for the book?

SH: My final product definitely turned out a lot differently than I intended. Originally it was going to be longer, and more focused on pop culture and the ways it has influenced me and helped me grow up. It kind of turned out to be more about the experience of growing up and the way you lose things and then find them as you get older.

NB: How do you deal with artistic criticism? How much do outside influences affect your work?

SH: Criticism is always, always, always a good thing. I never get anything done on my own. I definitely depend a lot on the input of my friends in creative writing.

NB: How has your mentor influenced and supported your writing? What is that relationship like for you?

SH: I didn't meet with my mentor more than once, and we only emailed like three times unfortunately. We were both a little busy.

NB: Do you have any plans for future projects?

SH: No.



Deaf Educator Dean Walters Retires After 35 Years of Teaching

by Aryana Chinn

Aryana Chinn: Where did you grow up, and what were your interests as a child?

Dean Walters: I grew up in Williamsport, Pennsylvania. My parents were both Deaf. I also had a number of extended family members who were Deaf. American Sign Language was my first language. I grew up hunting and fishing. I played soccer, softball, and baseball.

AC: What led you to a career in Deaf Education and how did you prepare for it?

DW: From the time I was in Jr. High School, I knew I wanted to teach Deaf students. I got my Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education and then my Master's Degree in Special Education with an emphasis in Hearing Impairment.

AC: What brought you to SOA and where did you work in the years preceding your arrival?

DW: I taught fourth grade for three years in Greenville, SC. I have taught Deaf Students in Charleston County since 1987. I have taught preschool through high school Deaf students. I teach ASL at Trident Technical College. The Deaf Program was moved to SOA after Charlestowne Academy was closed.



Mr. Walters (middle) in 1987

AC: What have been the rewards and challenges of your time at SOA and your career in general?

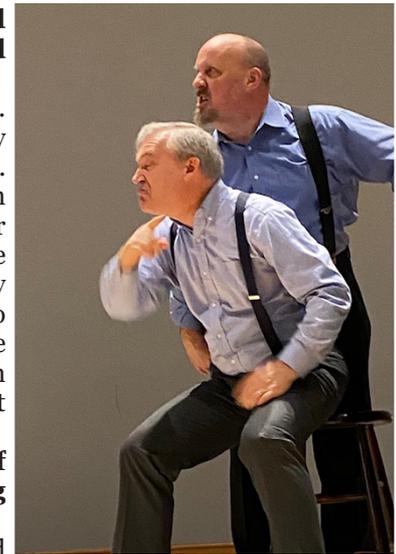
DW: SOA is a wonderful place to teach. I have felt valued and respected by my colleagues and the administrators at SOA. I love my students and team members in the Deaf program. I am a better teacher because I work with great teachers here at SOA. I have learned much from my colleagues in the Deaf program and also from general education teachers in whose rooms I have had the privilege to work when accompanying Deaf students. The biggest challenge: Paperwork!

AC: What developments in Deaf Education have you observed during your career?

DW: Technology has greatly impacted everything we do. Developments in Cochlear Implant technology and communication have impacted the number of students we serve. ASL is now recognized as a language, and students are able to earn a seal of biliteracy for demonstrating fluency in ASL.

AC: What are your plans after retirement?

DW: I plan to travel. We may relocate to the mountains. I will perhaps do some part time interpreting.



Mr. Walters on stage with SOA Theatre teacher Mr. Younts in *A Christmas Carol*

Student Body President Reflects on the 2021-2022 School Year

by Ryan Hinske

Ryan Hinske: What goals did you have for our school when you first began your campaign for Student Body President? How did those goals turn out for you and the student council?

Mariam Nguyen: After being a virtual student for an entire year, I really wanted to help bring back the events we used to celebrate, while also bringing in new ones! I think that my biggest goals were making the council really close and helping plan amazing events! I honestly think that this year has one of the closest student councils we've ever seen. We have held events outside of school and have really bonded together this year!

RH: What challenges have you faced this school year and what have you learned from them?

MN: This year was especially difficult because of COVID. Many restrictions were lifted towards the end of the year, but we were kind of at an awkward in-between stage where it was super serious, but not as severe compared to the previous two years. I think that I have definitely learned how to make the most of the situation this year. I really tried to make use of STUCO's power to decorate, and I think that we were able to transform the high school building rather than having a big event that would spread COVID.

RH: It was relieving to finally see events like Powderpuff and Prom again. How did it feel to shake the dust off and get back into planning these events?

MN: I'll be honest, it was SUPER difficult at first. I felt super nervous about how the year would go on, but I am super happy about how it all came out. It's been a long time since we have had Powderpuff, Prom, and senior events, so it definitely took a LOT of planning and negotiation to get everything together.

RH: Many students have noticed the increase in decorations



during school spirit week and the holidays. Why are decorations important to the student council and what went into decorating the hallways?

MN: This is a huge compliment to me because of how important it was to the council! I think we got super into decorations this year because we were definitely making the most of our COVID situation. Even though I have only been at SOA for four years (one of them being completely virtual), I have never seen many decorations in the hallways during any major events. I noticed a lot of other high schools doing it and it seemed like many students really enjoyed it. I'm very happy that we implemented decorations into our spirit week, and I hope this continues. It was honestly super tough to organize everything together, but STUCO would stay after school and we were able to dress the hallway up with some amaze decorations. I can also say that we really made use of our STUCO budget this year on our decorations, but I am super happy we did because, I mean, will anybody forget what the school looked like on Halloween any time soon?

RH: What do you hope future SOA student councils do to keep the school spirit high?

MN: I think tradition is the most important thing for a strong school spirit. I think that there were a few events this year that we helped to lay the groundwork for, and I hope that the future generations of SOA STUCO keep implementing them! I absolutely loved the singing telegrams we did this year (completely my idea, BTW), and I hope that the following years after ours continue this!

RH: If you could create a new event for the school to enjoy, what would it be and why?

MN: It would definitely be a fall carnival. This has been something that we've wanted to host for a while now, but typically, schools will have fall carnivals if they have sports, which we don't have. I think we could definitely use this carnival to raise money for different donations that help local school communities, an initiative that this year's STUCO has tried to implement!

RH: Any advice for the next student body president?

MN: Being the Student Body President is a lot of work, and when I say a lot, I really mean it. I had like three stress-induced breakdowns a day in the month of October because I was juggling STUCO, college applications, and my extracurriculars. I think the most important skill that you should learn would be the power to delegate. Sometimes it's okay to let the freshmen take over and design a STUCO poster board the way they want to, and it's literally impossible for you to micromanage everything (and this is coming from the queen micromanager herself). The Student Body President has a number of duties that are hard to do alone. Learn to delegate and you will have the power to do that much more.

Congratulations,
SOA Class of 2022



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Sign of The Month: "Sign my Yearbook!"

by Aryana Chinn

Demonstrated by Peyton Freitas, 7th Grade ASL and Deaf Culture



1. With one palm up, take your index finger and middle finger and tap them on your palm.
2. Close your fists and rotate them around each other.
3. Put your palms together and open them like a book.

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Where is the SOA class of 2022 going to college?

by Ryan Hinske



2022 April Trivia

by Jada Fickling

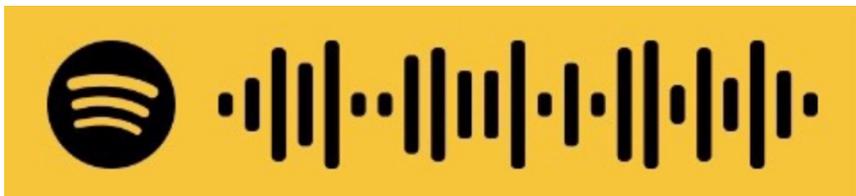
Questions:

1. How many students are in the class of 2022?
2. Many seniors have managed to secure a place in some of the top universities around the world. This includes Anais Robledo Murillo, who is attending which Ivy League school in the fall?
3. This senior's limitless creativity and stunning designs have landed her admission to the Fashion Institute of Technology. Who is this senior?
4. Which incredible pianist is continuing their passion of music at Furman University, where they are majoring in Music Composition?
5. What *Applause* staff member will be attending DePaul Honors College in the fall?
6. Seniors Amelia Dietrich and Stella Lussier will be attending Warren Wilson College, both majoring in Art Therapy. What state is their future college in?
7. What fashionable senior will be continuing their love of fashion at Lasell University, where they are majoring in Fashion Design and production.
8. Which talented Strings major has earned themselves a spot at Johns Hopkins Peabody Conservatory?
9. This Vocal major will be attending University of Southern California; who is it?
10. Seniors Ellie Garner and Sammy Oronce will both be majoring in what at USC in the fall?

Spotify Playlist

by Carsyn Smith and Judith Hamrick

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



**Collin Anderson, Jaci Dinkins,
and Grier Abercrombie,
Senior Piano Majors**



Jada Fickling

9/10

**Cali Brisbin and Brooklynn
Ladson,
Senior Piano Majors**



Provided



Provided

10/10

Answers

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. 154 | 10. Nursing |
| 2. Columbia University | 9. Tripp Carrington |
| 3. Abby | 8. Elaina Gable |
| 4. Miranda Hartnett | 7. Lilly Stackhouse |
| 5. Ryan Hinske | 6. North Carolina |
| 6. NC | 5. Ryan Hinske |
| 7. Lilly Stackhouse | 4. Miranda Hartnett |
| 8. Eliana | 3. Abby Benton |
| 9. Tripp Carrington | 2. Columbia University |
| 10. Nursing | 1. 154 |

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“Patrick Whiteside. He inspires me because I did theater outside of school with him, and seeing him perform on stage shows who he is.”

Mariana Becerra, 6th Grade Vocal



“Madelynne Burt, because her writing and her book is so amazing, and is such an inspiring piece of art.”

Amelia Burt, 7th Grade Creative Writing



“Maya Drake, because they are very artistic, very positive, and they always make me happy. I appreciate their dedication to their major.”

Bella Adore, 8th Grade Theater



“Claire Teed, because she has a super positive attitude, and everything that comes her way, she has a positive solution to it.”

Ms. Molly Morelli, Middle School History Teacher



“Ryan Hinske, because I’ve known him for a long time, and we carpool every day to school. He’s like a brother to me.”

Emma Ladd, 9th Grade Vocal

Who’s an SOA senior that inspires you?

by Julia Dubay, Lauren Holladay, and Kayla Herrman



“Jack Altenbach, because he excels in everything he does, period. And he is always willing to help all of the ensembles at SOA do their best.”

Mr. Kenneth Turner, High School Band Teacher



“Gus Varallo, because he is very encouraging. He is very motivating to everyone around him. It’s kind of like he’s building a legacy.”

Jessie Johnson, 10th Grade Creative Writing



“Amelia Walker, because she has a cool personality and a lot of talent.”

Grace Nelson, 11th Grade Visual Arts



“Aiden Wood, because no matter what happened inside or outside of school, he was always there. He had a lot of obstacles and never let them get in the way.”

Grace Baker, 12th Grade Visual Arts



“All of the seniors, as they have pushed through difficult challenges and stepped on the stage, the page, and accomplished incredible things.”

Dr. Shannon Cook, SOA Principal