

Applause

Volume 24, Number 2 School of the Arts, North Charleston, SC September 2022



SOA Welcomes Billy Collins
U.S. Poet Laureate 2001-2003

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From the Editors

Dear Readers,

Welcome to September! We're excited to cover Club Day, the first SOA/Magnet football games, the October production of *Phantom of the Opera*, and more in this edition of *Applause*. We were proud to release our August paper in just one week, and we're excited for you to read our coming publications this year. After you read this issue, we would love to hear your feedback. Please email Giovanni Cusatis at cusgio3396@ccsdschools.com.

Applause is proud to welcome former United States Poet Laureate Billy Collins to SOA for a public reading and book signing on Thursday, September 15th, and a schoolwide reading on Friday, September 16th, both in the Rose Maree Myers Theatre.

We enjoyed meeting you at Club Day on September 9th. If you'd like to be a guest writer for one of our future publications, email Dr. Cusatis (john_cusatis@charleston.k12.sc.us). See you in October!

Your Editors,
Peter O'Malley, Lauren Holladay, and Giovanni Cusatis

Peter O'Malley Lauren Holladay Giovanni Cusatis

SOA Calendar

by Carolina Agrest

Sept. 15th-16th: Billy Collins visits SOA

Sept. 19th: Progress Reports Distributed

Sept. 23rd: Teacher Workday - Early Release

Oct. 7th: Teacher Workday - Early

Release

Oct. 19th: End of First Quarter

Oct. 20th: Half Day

Oct. 21st: Teacher Workday - No School for Students

Oct. 24th: Report Cards Distributed

Nov. 7th: Early Release Day

Nov. 8th: Election Day - No School

Nov. 23rd-25th: Fall Break

Nov. 28th: Progress Reports Distributed



Applause

since 1999, the official student publication of

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Cover by Eliana Gross



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In This Issue

SOA Joins AMHS Football Team
by the *Applause* staff

Billy Collins and "The Names"
by Anna Garziera

Where Were They Then: Ms. DeTiberus
by Cate Traywick

Sass Attack: Football

by Beatrice Criscuolo

“Sass Attack” was started in 2007 by Applause writer David Sass and has been a column for fifteen years. Our Senior Fashion major, Beatrice Criscuolo, has decided to continue the tradition.

Football. An American passion. An American high school passion. An American doesn't-matter-if-the-team-always-loses high school passion. Football is the topic of conversation this fall. At work, I hear about Porter Gaud and James Island. At school, I hear about SOA and Magnet.

But what makes football more fun to watch than soccer, or field hockey, or any other sport (except curling. Nothing is fun about curling. Too much yelling, not enough curling)?

It isn't the small, sweaty 'student section,' that's for sure. Nor is it the standing for three hours or the lack of hydration. And it isn't the fact that most high schoolers across America are doing the same exact thing every Friday night (creepy, anyone?).

I understand the school spirit; I'm happy to go cheer on SOA athletes. I understand the feeling of being in a crowd, all rooting for the same thing. And it's fun to hang out with your friends, dress up with the themes, and eat overpriced candy bars to raise your blood sugar levels so you don't pass out before you reach the car because it's been too long since your pre-game dinner.

So, moral of the story, I don't like, understand, or support football (so many injuries!). But, if coerced with food and friends, I will go to a Magnet football game, and you might even see me smiling. Clapping is a little much.

In Memoriam: Queen Elizabeth II

by Anna Garziera

The flags were lowered to half-staff as crowds gathered outside Buckingham Palace to mourn Queen Elizabeth II on September 8th. Thousands walked past the gates of the Palace to lay flowers, pay their respects, and commemorate the life of the longest reigning monarch in the United Kingdom.

Last Thursday, as the nation digested the news of the Queen's death, life was put on hold: theaters dimmed the lights, concerts paused the music, and radios played somber tunes and paused ads and other programmes.

Queen Elizabeth, who served seventy years on the throne, will be mourned for the next few weeks, officially until seven days after the funeral. However, this period will also be about paving the way toward the coronation of King Charles III, expected in the coming weeks.

The mourning period to follow will deeply contrast the festivities surrounding the Queen's seventieth anniversary as a monarch that happened earlier this year.

Living in the United Kingdom for seven years made me realize that the love and admiration the British felt for Queen Elizabeth II was deep. Her shadow never escaped me: it was evident in everyday life. Starting in the morning with breakfast, I take two teabags out of the “God Save the



Beatrice Criscuolo

Queen” tin that once held shortbread biscuits, and open a letter from our friends in Kent. The envelope has a red stamp with Her Majesty's side profile. The same queen buys me a croissant at the local bakery- as she is on all the coins and bills. As I walk home, I spot a family of swans on River Severn; each swan is Her property. I get home and open the Atlas, dedicated once again to Her Majesty, because I really don't know where Kent is, and want to find out.

The Queen is one of the core symbols of the British, along with the Union Jack, telephone booths, black cabs, and muddy Wellingtons. Most importantly, she is arguably one of the only still-standing signs of the British Empire. When she was crowned in 1952, the empire stretched from Central America to much of Africa, to Malaysia and nearby islands, to Hong Kong, and so the sun never set on the British Empire. Now, at the time of her death, The United Kingdom is the only substantial territory worth mentioning, and the only thing left from the grand empire is the memory of its beloved Queen.

Queen Elizabeth II truly lived through the ages. She saw the birth of industrialized manufacturing and technology, the rise and development of third world countries, and will forever be remembered as the “million-miled queen” for her dedication to traveling and for her obsession with corgis, but most importantly, she will be remembered as a queen who was loved by her people- and for this reason, she will be deeply missed.

Meet the Film Design and Videography Club

by Gracie Pennington

A film is a project with many contributions from different art forms: acting, costume design, prop design, music design, script writing, storyboarding, editing and post-production, and that's not all. Many people of various artistic backgrounds can come together to make a project great. This is what Ary Chinn, president of the new Film Design and Videography Club, loves so much about films: “There are so many positions to fill in the production process, and it is always easy to tell when a team of filmmakers has poured one hundred percent of their skills and interest into a film.”

This love for films struck an idea; what about a club where people of all skills can come together to create a film? This concept is the backbone of the Film Design and Videography Club. All majors are welcome in the club and contribute something unique to a project: the more, the merrier. Outside of arts majors, creating films with others can greatly strengthen team building skills, communication, and organization.

When asked about her plans and goals for the club, Ary explained: “My vision with the Film Design and Videography Club is to bring students together and provide them an opportunity to learn and grow their knowledge of the film process through experience working with a team.” With the club now in place at SOA, this vision is sure to become a reality. If working with a team and creating a film is something that interests you, this club may just be the perfect place for you.



Gracie Pennington and Ary Chinn at Club Day

Provided



The Royal Family

Standing up for Banned Books

by Ariana Lane

Banned books have been a hot topic in recent months, often brought up in local and national political conversations and, of course, every PTA meeting. In fact, according to the American Library Association, book banning has doubled in the US from 2021 to 2022. The goal of banning a book is often to remove the book from school curriculums and/or public libraries. The target of book banning often being unproportionately towards POC or LGBTQ+ authors. *Gender Queer* by Maia Kobabe, *Lawn Boy* by Jonathan Evison, and *All Boys Aren't Blue* by George M. Johnson were among the most controversial books in 2021, all three centered around LGBTQ+ themes.

Additionally, books such as *The Bluest Eye* by Toni Morrison and *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* by Maya Angelou are also among the highly challenged books, both by infamous black female writers. Those are only a few out of the hundreds of books by POC or LGBTQ+ authors that are being taken off the shelves or away from the hands of students. Teachers and students alike have expressed their horror at these unfolding events. Many people have taken to advocating against book banning, speaking publicly against it or purposefully purchasing banned books from book stores. Amid all of the general chaos surrounding book banning, a list made its way into the hands of two passionate readers, Sandra Selvitelli and Danielle Lopez.

"When we saw a list of books that are being banned, the idea quickly formed for us - we would start a teen banned-book club," says Selvitelli, the Executive Director of The Unitarian Church in Charleston. After COVID, Lopez and Selvitelli were brainstorming ways to bring teens in their community together and because of The Unitarian Church's close relationship with Buxton Books, they were in the perfect position to start a club such as this. So, with the hope of helping their community in their minds, they set out to create Charleston's very own "banned-book club."

When asked why they believed their club was important, Selvitelli stated, "We believe that the banning of books is harmful to the development of our children and closes the door to understanding communities outside of their own." They're hoping that with this club, they will be able to keep those doors open and empower the teens in their community. So far, they've been successful. Teens are in agreement: they are infuriated over the books being banned across the country. With the help of Unitarian Church and Buxton Book's "banned-book club," teens are excited to meet up and discuss the stories they're missing with a like-minded group.

If Unitarian Churches and Buxton Books banned-book club interests you, or if you'd like to be the first SOA student to sign up; their first meeting will be Friday, October 28 at 6 pm in Gage Hall, located at 4 Archdale St 29401. Pizza will be provided and the discussion will be led by an Education major at the College of Charleston. Their first book discussion will focus on *The Hate You Give* by Angie Thomas.

SOA Symphony, Vocal Presenting *Phantom in October*

by Peter O'Malley

This year's production of *The Phantom of the Opera* is in the works at SOA, featuring the Vocal department and Symphony Orchestra, led by Dr. Selby. See the show from October 27th to 30th at the Rose Maree Myers Theater. Tickets for the two-and-a-half-hour show will be available soon.

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by Eliana Gross

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North Charleston Coliseum and Performing Arts Center
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North Charleston Coliseum and Performing Arts Center
Bring your little siblings (or just yourself) and go see everyone's hero, Peppa Pig, live!
Tickets start at \$25**Chamber Music Charleston Ovation Concert**September 18th (3:00 pm)
Sottile Theatre
TURINA *La Oracion del torero*, Op. 34
TURINA *Serenata*, Op. 87
BRAHMS *Clarinet Quintet in B Minor*, Op. 115
Tickets start at \$8**Sevendust**September 26th (6:45-11:00 pm)
Music Farm
See heavy metal bands Sevendust, BASTARDANE, and Nonpoint at Music Farm
Tickets start at \$35**Come Fly With Me: The Music of Sinatra Starring Joe Clarke**September 23th (7:00 or 9:30 pm)
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SOA Graduate wins Academy of American Poets Award

by Isis Hanna

Former SOA student, *Applause* staff member, and current Tufts University student Adam Krasnoff has recently won the 2022 Academy of American Poets award for his school. This award is given to extraordinary poets by participating universities every year. It has been won in past years by notable poets including Ocean Vuong and Joy Harjo, the 2019 Poet Laureate. In addition to the award, Adam's winning poem "On October Rains" was published on the Academy of American Poets website, poets.org.



The Academy begins coordinating the contest in the fall each year with faculty members at participating schools. These faculty members must decide on judges and who will be eligible to win the award, as well as things like deadlines for submission. In the spring, the coordinators report back to the Academy with their winner and an honorable mention. The sole winners receive a cash prize of one hundred dollars from their schools and a letter of congratulations from the Academy.

Adam submitted his poem in early spring of this year. For him, the submission process was pretty simple: "I submitted the poem for consideration this spring after working on it in a workshop last fall. The award was given in late spring of this year, and I got a chance to participate in a reading along with some other students here." After that, several winning poems were selected for publication on the website, including his own.

"On October Rains" is part of a series of poems written by Adam in the fall of 2021. They were all written over the course of three or four months, in the same spot along the Charles River in Boston, and are about the changes in both the weather and Adam's thoughts and feelings at the time. "On a literal level it's about my physical response to rain in autumn but also contains some strains of religious feeling about which I'm not even sure myself, besides some reckonings with family and place."

This Month Among the Stars

Applause staff writer Yatawee Petchsuriya explores what events in astronomy will be occurring this month.

September 10, 2022: Harvest Moon

A full moon closest to the fall equinox. This year, it is most illuminated at 5:38 am. As the evening arrives, the moon shines brightly enough to lengthen the time for harvest farmers to work later at night.



September 23, 2022: Autumnal Equinox

Also known as a fall equinox, the sun crosses the equator and marks the start of fall for the northern hemisphere. It also results in sunlight directly hitting the equator. Days and nights become even worldwide.



September 25, 2022: Neptune at Opposition

Neptune will appear its brightest and biggest in the sky. At this time, the planet is best viewed through



visual aids, like binoculars or telescopes. An opposition occurs as Earth lines up between the Sun and a planet.

September 23, 2022: New Moon

At 9:55 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), the Moon will be in between the Earth and Sun. Because the Sun and Moon are both on the same side of the Earth, the illuminated part of the Moon won't be visible in the sky to the naked eye. This event creates the best time to view distant galaxies, nebulae, and star clusters while using a telescope.



September 26, 2022: Jupiter at Opposition

Jupiter appears opposite of the Sun, while the Earth remains in between. The planet will almost be closest to Earth, at roughly 367 million miles. Approximately every thirteen months, the planet reaches opposition, so Jupiter's opposition occurs one month later each year.



The Spongebob Musical Audition, Casting, and Performance Information

by Isis Hanna

Applause staff writer Isis Hanna relays important information regarding the 2022-2023 SOA school musical, Spongebob.



After school on September 7th, I attended the information session for *The Spongebob Musical*. Mr Pickens relayed a lot of important information regarding auditions, rehearsal, changes from last year, and more. If you were unable to attend, this column will go over everything that was said at the meeting. All of this information, as well as links to any forms needed, are available at soamusical.com.

Auditions for the musical will take place on Monday, September 19th, and Tuesday, September 20th, from 3:45-6:30pm. In order to audition, you must fill out an audition form, which can be accessed through the website. After that, visit the sign-up page. As far as I know, all of the time slots have been filled, so you will want to select the Standby Line. This means that you will have to stay for the entire evening and will audition in between those with audition time slots. Mr. Pickens made it clear that anyone who would like to audition will get the chance. In addition to your singing audition, a dance audition will be required; see

the website for more information on this. You must also upload your music to the website. It can be no longer than sixty seconds with no background vocals: just music. You may sing anything you like from any musical, but do not sing something from *The Spongebob Musical*.

The first cast meeting will be held on Friday, September 30th. Due to everyone having different schedules, rehearsals will not be particularly consistent. In January and February of 2023, there will be rehearsals after school every day, but not all cast members will be required to attend every one. Beginning on February 6th, there will be tech rehearsals where attendance is non-negotiable. It was made clear that attendance is a serious matter for these, and depending on the part you get, the musical could be a huge time commitment. Make sure you have the time in your schedule to commit completely. Excessive, unexcused absences could get you removed from the show. As for performances, there will be four public ones, as well as a school show for local middle and elementary students. Once again, the website has more information.

Something that was brought up multiple times during the meeting is that if you want to audition, even a little, just try. Even if you don't think you will get a role, you may end up getting cast. There is no harm in giving it a shot, as it is going to be a fairly relaxed audition process. If you have further questions, email Mr. Pickens at derek_pickens@charleston.k12.sc.us, and if you decide to audition, good luck!

Applause Presents

“I Want My MTV: Songs of the Early 80s”

Wednesday, May 24th

6:30, Rose Maree Myers Theatre

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Horoscopes

by Lauren Holladay



Virgo (August 23 - September 22)

 I know the first test of the year is hard, Virgo, but those theorems and equations won't learn themselves. Let's spend a few more minutes reviewing and a few less painting your nails during study hall. There is a reason it's called "study hall," after all.

Libra (September 23 - October 22)

 Thank you for constantly being a great friend, Libra. Your peers can always count on you, and they look forward to seeing you every day. Give yourself some credit for all of the great things you do... go to the mall and buy some new shoes, or eat a piece of cake to celebrate being an awesome person; it's almost your birthday, after all.

Scorpio (October 23 - November 21)

 You're so cool, Scorpio: always coming to class late, wearing headphones, and carrying some kind of iced drink from Starbucks. While we all do admire you, you should work on plugging in your Chromebook before you bring it to school... then maybe you won't have to ask for a "circle charger" every day in math class.

Sagittarius (November 22 - December 21)

 Beware, Sagittarius; I think Leo might be out to get you. Don't listen to anything they say, and definitely don't hang out anywhere together outside of school. I think it's best to just steer clear for a while.

Capricorn (December 21 - January 20)

 Oh, Capricorn... this month, consider setting more of a schedule for yourself. While waking up three minutes before you leave is great and all, I think giving yourself a few more minutes to prepare for the day would make you feel a little less out-of-sorts every day. Plus, a few extra minutes every morning to remember all of your supplies would probably solve the "where's my annotated book?" problem you have at the start of every English class.

Aquarius (January 21 - February 18)

 Quit worrying about things you can't control, Aquarius. Trust me, no one has noticed the slightly... ok, very... red pimple on your forehead. It'll go away in a week, and then you can look forward to getting a new one on your nose. Don't stress; it happens to the best of us.

Pisces (February 19 - March 20)

 Allergies are the worst, Pisces. Itchy eyes, runny noses, and all of those other fun season-induced reactions. And even worse, we are nearing the fall season, where allergies thrive and those with sensitive noses... well... don't. After reading this issue of *Applause*, head over to your local CVS and pick up some tissues; no masks required this year means no built-in Kleenex for that one extra large sneeze.

Aries (March 21 - April 19)

 Just a gentle reminder, Aries, that School of the Arts buildings have metal poles in the middle of the many double door entrances. Walking while talking to friends is a great way to save time, but not watching where you are going doesn't really help the big purple bruise you'll be sporting if you hit your face on the immobile metal pole one more time.

Taurus (April 20 - May 20)

 Taurus! The teachers hand out those cute little planner notebooks at the beginning of every year for a reason. I know it's shoved in the bottom of your backpack somewhere... pull it out and jot down my coffee order already! I see you walking in with Scorpio carrying Starbucks drinks every morning, and I think we're all jealous.

Gemini (May 21 - June 20)

 I predict rain in your future, Gemini; and no, I don't mean a figurative bad and "rainy" day. I mean those fun lightning-thunder-shake-the-whole-school kinda rainy days that we've had nonstop for the past few weeks. Consider investing in a new umbrella, because you're going to need it.

Cancer (June 21 - July 22)

 You are always so prepared for class, Cancer, and everyone is grateful for your constant ability and willingness to lend Scorpio your Chromebook charger. But... three replacement IDs? Already? Oh, Cancer. I know the colors often clash with your outfits, but I think setting a goal of one missing lanyard search per week might be a good start. You've got this. We believe in you.

Leo (July 23 - August 22)

 Leo! I know starting a new school year is difficult, but I think the best way to cure a bit of summeritis is to spend more time with your friends on the weekends! Go to the beach, the mall, or even go bowling. You should invite Sagittarius; I heard they were missing the summer months just as much as you!

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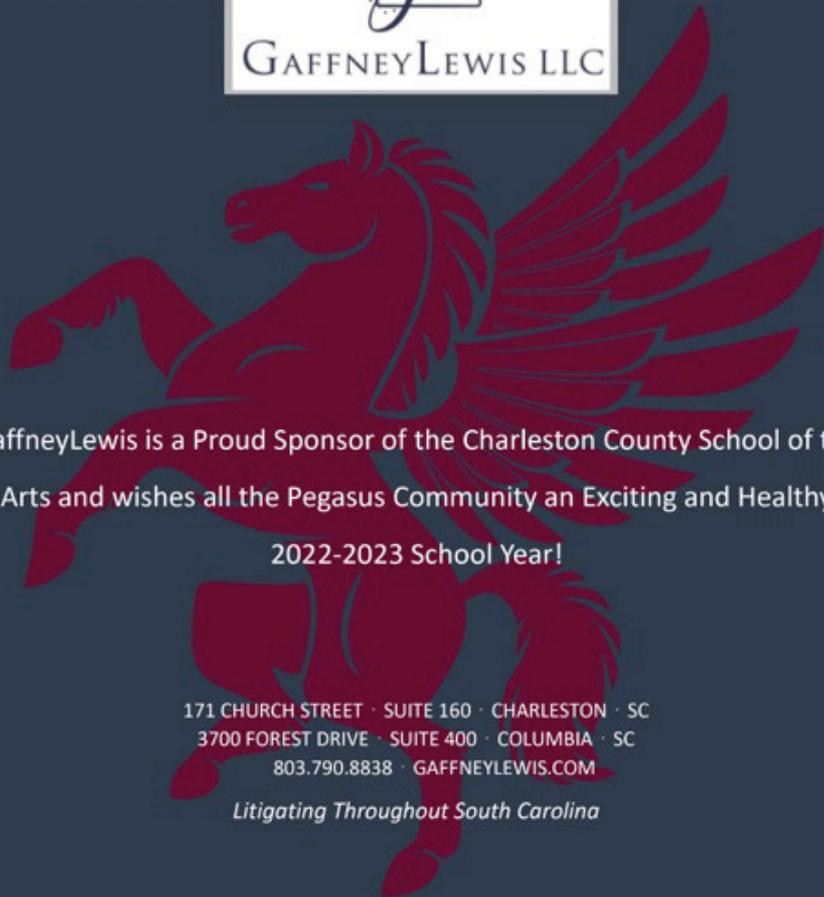
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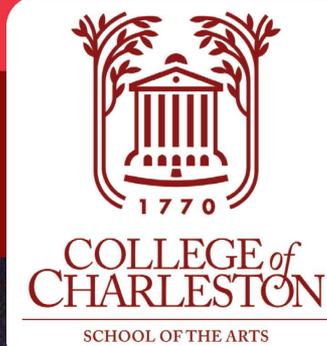
Sign of the Month: “Creative Writing”

by Ariana Lane

Demonstrated by Karolyn Figueroa
12th Grade ASL & Deaf Culture



- 1.** Begin with your dominant hand next to your forehead with all four fingers spread and your thumb resting on your palm.
- 2.** While keeping your fingers spread, bring your hand to the side, away from your forehead.
- 3.** For the second part of the sign, hold your non-dominant hand in front of you with your palm up, and place your dominant hand on your palm as if you were holding a pen.
- 4.** Finish the sign by dragging your dominant hand from your palm to your fingertips while keeping it in the position of holding a pen.



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Seniors look ahead to life after SOA

(From left to right) Kalea Vincion, Sadie Wood, and Ella Tolbert tour University of South Carolina campus in Columbia, SC.



The John LaPolla trio (John, Justin Gaillard, and Bryce Waldron-Noren) rehearse as the opening act for Poet Laureate Billy Collins' reading on Thursday, September 15th.



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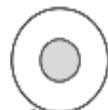
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SOA Students Converse with Billy Collins

SOA students in Dr. Cusatis' AP Literature have interviewed more than sixty high profile writers over the past several years, including former U.S. Poets Laureate Robert Pinsky, Philip Levine, Ted Kooser, Donald Hall, Tracy K. Smith, and Billy Collins. Thirty-five of these interviews are published in The Dictionary of Literary Biography. Collins spoke with AP students on six occasions between 2010 and 2022. Two of these interviews appear in Conversations with Billy Collins, edited by Dr. Cusatis and published this summer by University Press of Mississippi. Below are a few excerpts.

SOA: One poet we have studied, Robinson Jeffers, felt strongly that poetry was more earnest than prose and far more suitable for the expression of important ideas. Do you make a similar distinction, and why have you chosen to express yourself almost exclusively in verse?

Collins: Well, the answer to the second question is, I don't know how to do the other thing very well. [Laughter] No, I really don't. Types of writing are as different as musical instruments, whether it's sports journalism, poetry, short fiction, or creative nonfiction. I think they are as different as the violin is to the trumpet or the oboe. I think the members of the band might agree with me. Just because you can play one instrument well doesn't mean you can switch over to a different instrument. And what I learned to play was the instrument of poetry. I certainly agree with any comment that places poetry on the higher level. [Laughs] I think it is the highest, and certainly the most ancient form of written expression. Historically speaking, the novel is a teenager. I'm not saying I'm the best example of this, but poetry offers the possibility of the most creative and imaginative freedom. Also, poetry can present emotion in ways that can be more intense than looser forms, like the novel, are capable of. So, poetry is superior to prose. Period. I have an ongoing argument about poetry and fiction with a friend of mine who is a novelist. Last time I saw her, I said, "Look, think of it this way: poetry is a bird and prose is a potato."

SOA: [Laughter] Poetry is a bird and prose is a potato.

Collins: That's it. Put that on the blackboard. [Laughter]

SOA: A few of your poems such as "Plight of the Troubadour," "The Death of Allegory," and "American Sonnet," look back fondly on largely forgotten ways of expression. To what degree, if any, do you think our culture is stagnant or dynamic compared to earlier times?

Collins: Oh, well that's a little essay. [Laughter] I'm an English major. I just stayed in school until they threw me out, and to do that they gave you this PhD. [Laughter] So a lot of my poems are English major poems. That reference to the Middle Ages and the troubadours, and the other poems you were mentioning, tend to acknowledge that I'm writing in a certain historical line. Every poet has a line of poets in back of him or



Conversations with
Billy Collins
Edited by John Cusatis

her informing them, and I see no reason not to acknowledge that. As far as our times go, I think everything's getting worse. And you'll think it's pretty old fashioned when I say things like this, but I think the amount of time we spend in front of screens, whatever that screen happens to be, will potentially ruin us. I'm really kind of anti-Facebook. In your Face-book. I just think it's an amazing waste of time. There are good things about it, connecting to family and that, but most of the content is deeply insignificant. It's not so much that it's trivial in its content, such as "We're going out for pizza now." But what kills me is all of the people who feel the need to make a comment: "Oh, you're going out for pizza? That's great!" or "Too bad I'm not going out for pizza," or "Pizza LOL." [Laughter] Everybody has to kind of chime in, as if, if they didn't chime in, they wouldn't exist. I think social networks like Facebook give people a kind of virtual identity, and they have to keep up with that. If they don't react to your going out for pizza, they think they cease to exist. One's virtual identity must be announced relentlessly.

SOA: Alright, well thank you. And in my defense, I would like to profess my own strong, strong distaste for "LOL."

Collins: Good. I'm convinced that no one has ever written "LOL" while they were laughing out loud. [Laughter]

SOA: In your poem "Nostalgia" you write, "Even this morning would be an improvement over the present." And in many poems you chronicle the passage of better days. Do you see poetry as a sort of antidote to the passage of time?

Collins: That is a very good question. Yes, poetry is sort of a reminder that time passes. Probably at some point in your instruction, your teacher, John, has written the words "carpe diem" on the black board. That is one of the oldest themes in poetry, the idea that you want to carpe your diems because you don't have all that many diems left. [Laughter]



So carpe away. Time and poetry are very connected, and carpe diem poetry tends to be a reminder that time is running out. We shouldn't just walk around presuming that we are immortal in some degree. Many poems can be boiled down (though I don't recommend cooking poems) to this same message. Life is beautiful, but it will end. "Nothing more terrible, nothing more true" as Philip Larkin put it.

SOA: Our class discussed how your poems tend to end in a surprising, yet tightly fitting, manner. How do you know when you've found the right ending to a poem? Does it arrive organically, and did any of your best-known poems, such as "The Lanyard" or "The History Teacher," lead you toward another possible ending before you considered them complete?

Collins: Okay, well, I have an app, and it tells me when to end the poem. [Laughter] If the typewriter can't type anymore, then that's the ending. No, I don't have that. [Laughs] My poems are always rolling toward an ending. I think that's one of the important characteristic

s of the poems. They tend to have a beginning, where they are welcoming the reader; they go through a set of maneuvers in the middle; and they're always driving to an end, usually yet to be discovered. When I started the poem about the candle hat, I wasn't thinking about someone showing up at his door in the middle of the night. I arrived at that through the course of the poem, through the process of the poem. One thing I tell students who write poems is that if you're interested in where your poem ends, or should end, your poem ends where the reader stops reading. That's a very blunt way to put it, but it's very easy to stop reading a poem, right? Haven't you not finished poems? Maybe the poems you read for school you have to finish, [Laughter] but I'd say maybe seventy-five percent of the contemporary poems that I read, I don't finish for one reason or another. And as far as my poems' endings, it's never as if I have multiple possible endings. I never get to that point, I would say, where I think, "Oh, I could end this like three different ways. Which should I pick? What would be the best one?" No, it's always one ending, and it's very clear when I discover the ending that that's the ending. It's almost as if the poem has been keeping a secret about itself, and the ending is unlocking the secret of the poem. If you look back from the ending, you see, "Ah, that's what's happening in this poem. It was moving just toward this ending." The poem is the only way to get to the ending, of course, so you can see it as a pathway that it travels through itself and finds a place to stop.

SOA: The novel *The Catcher in the Rye*, as well as other coming-of-age literary works, treats the idea of growing up as a "fall" rather than an ascent, something is lost in the transition. You treat this theme, though more light-heartedly, in your poem "On Turning Ten." What aspects of childhood do you feel are especially important for the poet or other artists to preserve or revive?

Collins: Well that's a very good question. I really like the way you focus on the word fall because he ends up falling and bleeding. It's not a good experience, and I'll say something more about those lines in a minute, but your question expands outward. Don't we think that children love to dance. You put on music, they'll dance. If you give them crayons and something to draw on, they don't need any instructions. They'll just start drawing anything. And they love music; they love dancing; they love rhyming. The S trouble is that we all start out that way, but something happens to us, and the name for that is adolescence. [Laughter] That's when all of that unselfconscious twirling and singing and dancing comes to an end, and we start wondering about what people think of our noses, or how we look, and how we dress. That often slows people

down and stifles their creativity. You are afraid to blow your cool by twirling and dancing and singing. Artists—poets, musicians, dancers, whatever—are people who have not let the child inside wither away. As Wordsworth said, "The child is father of the man." In other words, the child teaches the father how to be a child again. Someone said, "Beware the death called maturity." It's important to keep your child alive inside of you. As for the "fall," "On Turning Ten" is becoming a sentimental poem towards the end. The kid is alone, and all the steam is drained out of his bicycle. So what I did there was lift a few lines from a famous poem by Shelley called "Ode to the West Wind." In that poem—it's a very romantic poem, full of exclamation points—he says, "I fall upon the thorns of life! I bleed!" So my kid falls upon the sidewalks of life, but if you get that allusion to Shelley you get fifty extra points, right, John? [Laughter]

SOA English Teacher Collects Billy Collins Interviews

Anna Garziera asks Dr. Cusatis about compiling Conversations with Billy Collins.

Anna Garziera: What led you to write the book? Why did you feel it needed to be written?

John Cusatis: All of my books have grown out of need in the classroom. Many years ago a student wanted to do a research project on Billy Collins, and he could not find a thorough critical overview of him and his work. With the help of SC Poet Laureate Marjory Wentworth we contacted him and set up what would be the first of six interviews over the past twelve years. That first interview (2010) was published in the *Dictionary of Literary Biography* and caught the attention of Salem Press, who contacted me to write an entry on Collins for a five-volume book called *Critical Survey of American Literature*. As part of my research for what turned out to be a very lengthy article --longer than the entry on Walt Whitman, it turned out-- I collected all the published interviews I could find and read them carefully. I realized it would be more convenient for future researchers if the best of these interviews were collected in a book, so I pitched the idea to University Press of Mississippi who told me they were trying to find an editor for a collection of Collins interviews for their esteemed *Literary Conversations* series, and they accepted my offer to edit the volume. I had just completed *Conversations with John Banville*, the great Irish novelist, with a colleague, so I was familiar with the process and honored to be contributing again to a series that I had been consulting for decades in my own literary research.

AG: What was the hardest step in writing the book? The most rewarding aspect?

JC: It was fun to compile because the interviews are enjoyable and the Introduction was fun to write. Acquiring permission to reprint each of the interviews is the bulk of the work. And many of the interviewers allowed me to reprint their interviews at no cost because they wanted them included in the collection. Fortunately, Billy Collins was very supportive of the project. Transcribing interviews that were not previously in print is a laborious task, too. Fortunately, many former students helped with this. The only tedious part was creating the index. Authors often hire professional indexers, but I think it is important to create your own since you are the one most familiar with the material. One of the more rewarding aspects is the inclusion of two interviews that were conducted by SOA students. I think these are among the strongest in the collection.

Applause Catches Up With Last Year's Staff

Giovanni Cusatis reached out to former Applause staff members **Madelynn Burt**, freshman at Transylvania University in Lexington, Kentucky, and **Ryan Hinske**, freshman at DePaul University in Chicago, to hear how their first semester in college is going.

Madelynn Burt

Giovanni Cusatis: How are your classes going? Any favorites?

Madelynn Burt: I am taking Intro to Comparative Politics, First Year Seminar, Readings for Creative Writers, and Spanish I: The Personal World. My major is Political Science, and I'm thoroughly enjoying Comparative Politics. We're currently learning about and comparing Britain's parliamentary government to the United States constitutional federation. Today, I had my first debate, arguing that British parliamentary democracy is a better form of government than the U.S. Congress. My group had a thought-out and well-developed argument, allowing us to win the debate unanimously.

GC: What have you been reading?

MB: I have been catching up on my fellow 2022 graduates' senior theses when I have time, but I've spent most of my first few weeks trying to stay up to date with my textbook assignments. For my Seminar class, I've been reading *The People, Place, and Space Reader* by Jen Jack Gieseckin, a collection of writings by scholars, architects, and activists from various fields that explores ideas of how space affects human interaction.

GC: How do you like the area where you are living?

MB: I absolutely love Lexington, Kentucky. I am attending Transylvania University, a small liberal arts school just a ten-minute walk from downtown. I grew up visiting my grandma, who lives in Lexington, so I already knew the area was a creative, young, and restaurant-obsessed city. While I mostly spend my time on one of the benches around campus or in my dorm studying, my friends and I have gotten a few chances to explore off of campus and into the city. We've tried a few coffee shops, cheap restaurants, thrift shops, and bookstores and can't wait to find more!

GC: Have you made new friends yet, any new activities or adventures?

MB: My roommates and I have been able to host little study sessions and hangouts in our dorm, allowing us to meet other first years. I joined the cheer team this summer and began practices recently. Our all-girls team is a tight-knit group of supportive girls, and I've been able to work on and gain new skills over just a few weeks. I rushed this past weekend and found my home in Chi Omega. My sorority sisters are already some of my best friends, and I can't wait to work with them to make a difference in our community! I hope to join my college's paper, the Rambler, this week and get back into journalism! I already miss my time on the Applause staff.

GC: What do you miss about SOA and home?



Madelynn joins a sorority at Transylvania

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MB: I miss driving my little sister to school in the mornings, even if we were always late.

I also miss my Creative Writing class and seeing my best friends every day for an hour and a half. Although we can keep up over text, it isn't the same as our workshops and daily life updates. I especially miss my teachers, many of whom I had for multiple years and/or classes; even if I don't miss the coursework, I miss the many discussions and silly jokes in my SOA classes. I didn't realize how much I would miss the nearly year-long summer weather in Charleston, but even ten degrees makes a difference in my mood. I think about the beach when I get chilly and wonder why I even decided to leave, but then I remember the fluffy Kentucky grass and my wonderful professors and know I made the right choice.

Ryan Hinske

Giovanni Cusatis: How are your classes going? Any favorites?

Ryan Hinske: My classes have started off really well. I've enjoyed DePaul's emphasis on small class sizes, because I prefer the interactive environment, and my professors are all very passionate about what they're teaching. It's also nice to be taking classes I'm interested in, not to say I disliked any class at SOA...

GC: What have you been reading?

RH: I'm reading *Black Elk Speaks* by John Neihardt right now, which is a collection of interviews with the Lakota medicine man Black Elk organized into a book. As Ms. Orchard knows all too well, I mostly read historical nonfiction, so needless to say I'm enjoying it. Hey kids, listen to Dr. Cusatis when he tells you to read on your own, it really works.

GC: How do you like the area where you are living?

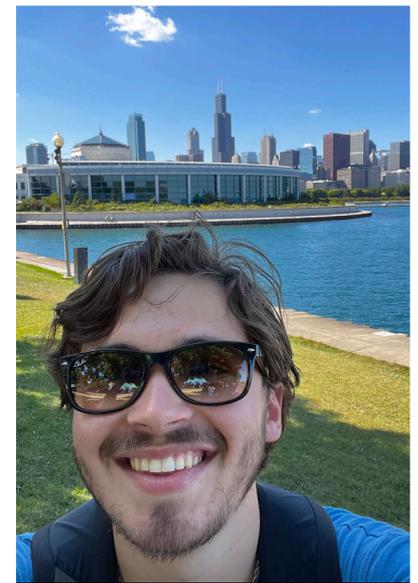
RH: Chicago is the greatest city in the United States, and I am beyond excited to be here. DePaul likes to say "the city is your classroom" and although that's kinda cringe, it's true. Chicago has so many resources and connections to be made, which will come in handy when it's time to look for internships and job opportunities. It's also fun to laugh at how bad their sports teams are.

GC: Have you made new friends yet, any new activities or adventures?

RH: Although I will never be able to replace the SOA community, it has been really easy to make friends and go on adventures. College is a great time to be confident and meet new people, and maybe even start a podcast.

GC: What do you miss about SOA and home?

RH: I don't miss anything about Charleston when it comes to the heat and humidity, but I definitely miss my family and my dogs the most. I do miss SOA, but it's nice to walk into buildings that aren't the most boring color on earth for a change. I can't wait to come home in December to watch the Choir and Symphony's holiday concert (and hopefully do more chores for Dr. Cusatis).



Ryan shares the scenic Chicago skyline

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SOA Joins AMHS Football Team



SOA Hosts Club Day



SOA Enjoys First Day of School



SOA Welcomes its Newest Teachers and Staff

Ms. Jennifer Gomez, SOA Media Specialist

by Ariana Lane

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

Jennifer Gomez: I moved to the Charleston area twenty years ago from Massachusetts. My family moved here because my husband got a job at the College of Charleston. We have raised our two sons here; we love living near the coast! I came to SOA because I wanted to work in an environment where the arts are revered and the community is diverse.

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

JG: I went to undergrad at the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, MA; I double-majored in French (oui oui!) and sociology. I got a Master's at Boston University in Teaching French. Most recently, I earned a second Master's at the University of South Carolina in Library Science.

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

JG: Just prior to coming to SOA, I worked at Cario Middle School in Mt. Pleasant, where I was for eleven years; seven as a Spanish teacher and the last four as the school librarian. Before that, I was a Spanish teacher in Dorchester, and before that, a Spanish and French teacher in Massachusetts.

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

JG: My earliest job was babysitting, and I did it a lot all the way through college and the beginning of my teaching career. I learned from that job that I loved working with kids! When I first finished college, I wasn't sure if I still wanted to be a French teacher (my plan since middle school when I had the BEST teacher ever, Madame Zack) - I worked at an afterschool program. I offered to add a little French class to the activities - and running that convinced me that teaching was what I absolutely needed to do.

AL: If you went to SOA, what would you major be interested in?

JG: If I went to SOA, I would be interested in Theater or Visual Arts.



“The Names,” by Billy Collins, Twenty Years Later

by Anna Garziera

Another year has passed, and Americans stand in solidarity once more on the eve of 9/11, remembering. For some, the annual grief is like a passing thought; for others, it is as devastating as the year before. For 2001 Poet Laureate Billy Collins, this event marked his time as a poet more than any other. One year after the tragedy, he wrote one of his best poems, “The Names,” in honor of the victims. This



poem was then presented to a joint session of Congress on September 6th, 2002.

When he was first asked to write this poem, Collins was skeptical. “Well, you know what I write about: taking my dog on a walk. They're small poems. They're not about global tensions and uncertainty about the future of the country,” Collins told SOA students in 2019.

A week after being asked, despite his hesitation, he woke up at five in the morning, and began to write: “Yesterday, I lay awake in the palm of the night.”

What made him change his mind was not public opinion or the pressure of the congressmen, he tells *Holy Cross Magazine Podcast* interviewer Marybeth Reilly-McGreen, but the original purpose of the Poet Laureate in fifteenth century Britain: “to preserve in writing, in rhyme and meter, which were the preservatives of ice and salt, that Yates calls rhyme and meter, preserving sentiment and preserving national events.”

Writing this poem was not an easy task, until Collins developed a way to approach it. “I made two discoveries,” he explained to SOA students, “One was that I could write an elegy, which is a poem for the dead, right? And the other discovery was that if I used the names of the dead, I could go through the alphabet.” This way, Collins had a set structure for the poem before he even began to write it. This is essential, he reveals, when writing on demand. “It was like climbing a ladder: every letter of the alphabet was a rung that I could climb as the poem went on.”

At the reading in the session of Congress of 2002, Collins felt extraneous with the rest of the serious speeches that sported “recycled vocabulary” of national interests, protection of the U.S., and tragedy. Confused looks crossed his audience's faces as they heard the first few lines of the poem, expecting serious and sorrowful language, but hearing “It's nighttime and it's raining,” instead. “Well, that's poetry. It starts with imagery,” Collins explains to *Holy Cross Magazine Podcast*.

His confidence about the strength of the poem got Collins through the nerve-wracking night, but he has since found it uneasy to publish, or even read “The Names” since that night. He reflects on the poem with the *Holy Cross*: “It was a very special poem for me and it seemed completely and inextricably tied to that occasion. I still don't read it.”

As he concludes the interview, Collins reflects on the last few lines of the poem, and is asked if, when writing, a line ever makes him stop. “Yeah. I mean, it does,” he admits.

As it turns out, the poet is not alone in this; the last line of “The Names” made everyone stop. The rigid audience at the Congress session, the commentator and interviewer at the *Holy Cross*, and myself, as I read “The Names” for the seventh time tonight and choke on the last breath. “Names wheeled into the dim warehouse of memory, so many names, there's barely room on the walls of the heart.”

Where Are They Now?

2021-2022 Applause writer **Julia Dubay** reached out to **Ryan Graudin**, SOA Creative Writing alum, to catch up on her career since graduating in 2005.

Julia Dubay: The last time *Applause* interviewed you was in 2014, at the time you had come out with two novels and two more about to be published. Since then you have completed eight novels. The *Wolf-by-Wolf* novel you teased in 2014 is now one of your most successful books, which was Carnegie nominated. How does it feel to have accomplished so much in only seven years?

Ryan Graudin: I'm grateful to have the chance to daydream for a living. Becoming an author has been my dream job since I was a wee child, and one of the main reasons I applied to the SOA Creative Writing program in the first place. The reality of writing for a living can come with a lot of challenges. There are deadlines, fluxes in income, and the inherent risk that comes with making yourself emotionally vulnerable to thousands upon thousands of readers. Criticism is inevitable, and building a thick skin has to be done all over again with each new book. Hearing from readers who really resonated with a story I wrote makes it all worth it though.

JD: When we spoke to you last, you mentioned that traveling has had a huge influence on your writing. Have you been to

any new places with your family that you've found inspiring?

RG: Since 2014? I took an amazing trip to China that year—where I got to visit Hong Kong and the site of the Kowloon Walled City, which was the inspiration for my second novel. In 2015 I lived out of a van in Iceland for a month. The rugged beauty of that country is always inspiring. And I got to visit my co-author Amie Kaufman (who writes *The World Between Blinks* series with me) in Australia in 2017. Perhaps the most inspirational trip during that time period was a writing retreat I got to take to France, where several other authors and I pooled in and rented a castle for a week. One of my upcoming novels is set in Paris, so I got to spend some days in Paris afterward, which I used for research. The past few years have been quite sparse, travel-wise, due to COVID and having a baby, among other things.

JD: Are there any new impacts in your life that have affected your writing?

RG: As I answered above, I'm a mom now! This has affected my writing on many levels. I have to be a lot more intentional about time management since my work hours are less flexible than they used to be. But becoming a mother has also opened up a whole new well of emotional inspiration. Kids really change your perspective about a lot of things.

JD: I saw on your Twitter that you dyed your hair for your YALLFEST book signing. Have you dyed your hair like this before? It must have been so exciting to see how your writing has an impact on others. What was your favorite part about YALLfest?

RG: My hair has been peacock green since 2015, and before that, it was purple for a year. It certainly helps readers spot me at festivals and signings and such, but it's also become a rather natural color for me. Going back to just brown would feel jarring at this point!

YALLfest is always a wonderful time. This year was its tenth anniversary, and I've been involved in some way, shape, or form every single year. I still wear my volunteer shirt from 2011 around the house! This year meeting readers face to face felt extra special because of all the social isolation that's surrounded COVID. Being a writer is naturally a solitary endeavor, but authors usually get to balance that out by doing events and public appearances. As you can imagine, those have been sparse over the past year and a half. Most of the release events I did for *The World Between Blinks* were online, where I couldn't see any of the audience members. Seeing readers and their excitement is so energizing and rewarding, so that was definitely my favorite part this year.



ryangraudin.com

JD: Do you still stay in contact with your old Creative Writing teachers? How did they help strengthen your writing skills? Do you still think back to things they taught you?

RG: Yes! I see Marjorie Wentworth (who taught poetry writing at SOA when I was there) at various conferences since she's also publishing books for young adults and school-aged kids. It's always wonderful to catch up. I'm still in touch with Rene Miles too, of course.

She, self-admittedly, was never a big fan of fantasy, but she never let this stop her from encouraging me to write the type of stories I loved. Simply having a space like the Creative Writing classroom to carve out time to write every day helped me hone the discipline needed to keep up the habit after school.

JD: After looking into your young-adult novels; such as *Wolf by Wolf*, *The Walled City*, and *The World Between Blinks*, you wrote with Amie Kaufman, I am eager to dive into them. You've said how teenagers feel things very strongly at their age and how that has worked its way into your writing. What do you hope to accomplish by writing for the younger generation?

RG: Honestly, whenever I'm writing, I'm writing for me. I'm writing the types of stories I wished I could have pulled off the shelves when I was a middle-schooler, high-schooler, or even now as an adult! My most recent series *The World Between Blinks* is aimed at middle-grade readers (ages eight to twelve), but they're also a story about how

Ryan with her book *Invictus*.

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to process grief, which is something I've had to face in my personal life over recent years. *The Wolf By Wolf* series tackled huge questions about identity and perseverance in the face of overwhelming evil—something I think many adults struggle with just as much as teenagers at times. Those particular books have resonated with a vast range of ages, from middle schoolers all the way up to grandparents.

JD: Are there any others or novels that have inspired you to write the way you do?

RG: I'm always reading. As much as my creative writing teachers at SOA taught me, I think that consistent reading teaches you just as much, or even more. Many of the most successful authors I know have never taken a creative writing class. They just grew up loving stories and ingesting them constantly. Some of my all-time favorites are *The Daughter of Smoke and Bone* series by Laini Taylor, *The Scorpio Races* by Maggie Stiefvater, and *The Ten Thousand Doors of January* by Alix E. Harrow. I'm also a huge fan of V.E. Schwab's stories.

JD: Seven years ago you said *The Walled City* was open for film. Is there any progress with that or any more of your novels?

RG: Hollywood is on an entirely different timeline than the rest of the universe. Everything that happens there I take with a grain of salt because projects can fall through at any moment. That being said, *The Walled City* is still in the works with the same production company that's behind *Crazy Rich Asians*. One of my other novels is also in the early stages of being adapted, but I currently can't say more than that. Hopefully, it will all go through and you'll be able to see which book I'm talking about someday!

Where Were They Then?

Applause staff writer **Cate Traywick** catches up with SOA creative writing teacher **Ms. Danielle DeTiberus** to talk about her life before and outside of SOA

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

Danielle DeTiberus: I moved a lot as a kid, because we were always on the cusp of real poverty. My mom was very young and took many different jobs that brought us to places like a horse farm in Saratoga, NY, or to Richmond Hill in Queens, and ultimately a little blip in Orange County, NY, called Pine Bush. For many of my formative years, I was the new kid, which I think helped me develop my inner life and my skills of observation. Some of my favorite childhood memories come from my times living on horse farms, cleaning the stalls and daydreaming, feeding and brushing the horses, and wandering in fields of wildflowers and tall grass all afternoon. It was very magical.

CT: Who did you look up to as a kid?

DD: I want to be cool here and say the people who inspired me later as I grew—like Sylvia Plath and Tori Amos and Toni Morrison—but honestly, as a *kid*, I was really into witches and vampires. What can I say, I was a basic emo goth.



Young Ms. Danielle DeTiberus

Provided

CT: What was your schooling like and how was it different from our school?

DD: I wasn't able to take an arts class (Creative Writing) until my senior year of high school. I wouldn't have even dreamed a school like SOA was possible. When I was in middle and high school, I was probably quite bored. Academic success, luckily, came easily to me, but I was desperate for bigger ideas and bigger challenges. I would have loved to find my people and practice my art at such a young age.

CT: What was life after high school like?

DD: I went to Emerson College in Boston, which was just about as different a place from my small little NY town as I could imagine. I was surrounded by history, education, and the arts. It was thrilling to wander the streets alone and get lost, to meet like-minded weirdos and artists. I got to go to some incredible readings and lectures with folks like Noam Chomsky and Seamus Heany. I haunted my favorite used book store, Brattle Book Shop. I wrote lots of bad poems and a few good ones.

CT: What made you pursue a career in teaching?

DD: At first I didn't want to be a teacher: I wanted to write for *National Geographic* or live in a cottage in Nova Scotia writing poems about fog and my feelings. HA! Obviously I needed a job, and about a year after college, after stumbling around for a bit, I got a job as a special needs assistant worker at a preschool. It was an absolute fluke and I was hired surely as a warm body because I had no qualifications whatsoever. However, I began taking out books from the library about early childhood education and about sensory processing disorder— and after that first year, the child I was working with was able to use the bathroom on her own, was able to communicate her needs (she was mostly nonverbal when we met), and was able to redirect her violent outbursts to using her words. It was and remains one of the most rewarding, meaningful experiences of my career. I often think of her and hope she's well. There were many, many turns and adventures from that first gig to my time here at SOA, but ultimately, the drive to empower someone towards language, towards personal growth, is what keeps me fulfilled and challenged.

CT: In what ways have you pursued Creative Writing outside of teaching?

DD: Writing is my other full time job. I have always been a writer: it is a core part of my life. I am a working artist, meaning I am always writing, submitting work, gathering rejection letters, and occasionally getting published in anthologies, journals and textbooks. I have worked for magazines, served on literary boards, and helped organize poetry festivals. My current gig as the Program Chair for the Poetry Society of SC means that for the past eight years, I have curated and organized our reading series of nationally renowned poets. I believe that a working artist should have their own practice, but also work within their community to lift up other artists.

CT: Do you have any book recommendations?

DD: Always. I HIGHLY recommend that everyone, but especially folks living in Charleston, read Tiya Miles' *All That She Carried*. Anything by Rebecca Solnit, but especially *Men Explain Things to Me*. *Minor Feelings* by Cathy Park Hong. And the STUNNING poetry collection *Frank: Sonnets* by Diane Seuss.



Ms. DeTiberus rides a horse in her childhood

Provided

Job Profile: Starbucks

by Eliana Gross

Applause staff writer **Eliana Gross** spoke with other SOA students and alumni about their high school jobs, and recommends a job at Starbucks to students looking for work.

Wage: starts at \$15 biweekly, with additional weekly pooled tips

Workplace Culture: calm night shifts, high diversity, accepting coworkers, quality customers, supporting team
Skills Required: conversing with customers, multitasking, cooperating and working together in groups

General Dress Code: shirts cover armpits and midriff, muted patterns, pants/skirts/shorts cannot have holes and must be less than four inches above the knee, closed toe non-slip shoes, brown, black, gray, khaki, white, and navy tones. No nail polish.

Training Period: one week, but around three months to get comfortable in the position

Benefits: free drinks on duty, Spotify Premium, Headspace Premium, discounts at many stores, 30% off everything, pays for bachelor degree with virtual classes at Arizona State University, health, dental, and vision insurance, 401K plan, paid sick time, parental leave

Where to apply: [starbucks.com/careers/](https://www.starbucks.com/careers/)

Interview tips: Come prepared with examples of times you've compromised, led or taught something to someone, worked together as a team, and what your interests are. Starbucks cares about who their baristas are, but don't let that intimidate you. Be friendly, and wear clothes that fit the dress code.

Quote from SOA alumna and current Starbucks employee: "The pay is great, and it is one of the best starting pays for a high schooler in this area. A lot of the coworkers are your age, so you get that connection. Con, you don't have a lot of extra time and it is a high stress job, but you'll never be bored and it'll prepare you for the real world." - Tori Copeland, Class of 2021 Theater major

SOA Graduates of '01, '02, and '03 Enjoy Class Reunion

by Anna Garziera

On July 16th, the SOA graduating classes of 2001 to 2003 reunited for the second time in Downtown Charleston at the Tradesman Brewing Company to catch up on the happenings of the past ten years.

Sending out the invites turned out to be easier than the organizers could have hoped for. Facebook groups and mutual friends were crucial to the success of the reunion, and approximately 100 alumni turned up at the dinner. This success needs to be at least partly accredited to the reunion planning committee, as well to the tight-knit classes of the 2000's. "Fortunately,



starbucks.com

our '02 class has stayed close, and it seems the other classes have also kept in touch," SOA alumna Allison Orvin says.

Some of the highlights of the reunion included the typical walks down memory lane. From slide shows filled to the brim with pictures from the past, to shaky graduation videos, the classmates reminisced about all the activities that they were lucky to be part of at SOA. After former SOA teacher Heath Orvin memorialized the teachers and staff members who have passed away, the reunion blew up to a party. "We also took some fun group pictures and pictures by major. And of course no SOA gathering is complete without some kind of performance, so there was plenty of karaoke!" Allison Orvin recalls. The alumni all had a fun night, and are thankful to have kept in touch throughout the years. "We all had an absolute blast! It almost felt like we had graduated just the year before. Everyone fell right in stride with each other, catching up, laughing, and telling stories."

As the night wrapped up, the former students reflected on the years that have passed since their graduations, almost twenty years ago. "All agreed it was one of the best nights of the year, and we don't want to wait another ten years. I think we are going to hold a twenty-fifth class reunion. SOA is an extremely special place, and I am so glad we all gathered to celebrate our roots," Orvin says.



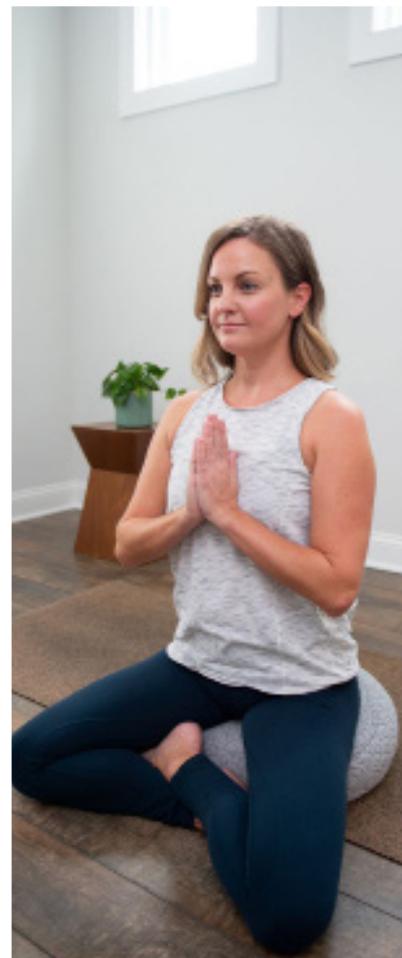
Andrea Snider

Members of Class of '02 (from left to right) Elizabeth Skuhra Wagner, Allison Orvin, Devin Vaughan, and Angela Shaw Vaughan.



Andrea Snider

(From left to right) SOA graduate Allison Orvin and former faculty members Mr. Heath Orvin, Ms. Reyne Miller, and Mr. Casimir Kowalski.



kl
PILATES

My name is Kathryn Roberts Leibe and I'm a Pilates instructor based in Charleston, South Carolina. I'm originally from North Carolina where I received my BFA from the University of North Carolina School of the Arts - School of Dance.

My style of Pilates brings a dancer's perspective to my teaching which helps students achieve their fullest range of motion in the safest way possible. I take pride in providing students with the tools necessary to carry them through everyday movements regardless of any physical limitations. My dedication and vast experience help students reach their goals in a safe, positive and supportive environment.

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Senior Creative Writer Appointed National Student Poet

by Isis Hanna

Over the summer, senior Creative Writer Winslow Hastie was named a National Student Poet by the National Student Poet's Program, in collaboration with the Institute of Museum and Library Services and the Alliance for Young Artists and Writers. He was one of only five students chosen out of 22,000 around the country and is representing the Southeast of the US. These poets were selected from the Scholastic Art and Writing National Medalists and along with the honor and responsibility of being a National Student Poet, they will receive a \$5,000 academic award.



Beatrice Criscuolo

Winslow Hastie

The five students will serve as literary ambassadors for their region for one year and spread their passion for poetry to their communities through public readings, workshops, and more, as well as creating a community service project at the end of their term. The service project will help engage the community in poetry and writing.

Winslow submitted his poem "To Dissect A Pine" to the regional Scholastic Art and Writing Awards last fall, where it won a gold key and was submitted to the national level. It won a second gold key and he, along with several other Creative Writers, was invited to Carnegie Hall in June for an awards ceremony. These winners were invited to compete for the spot of National Student Poet, and Winslow was selected to represent the Southeast. "Once I was invited to apply, I applied thinking there was not a chance that I could possibly win this appointmentship, however, while I was on vacation I received a call from the head of the Scholastic Program, where he informed me that I had been chosen as the South East literary ambassador." Winslow will serve a one-year term working with both Scholastic and IMLS to spread a love of poetry throughout his community.

"To Dissect a Pine"

by Winslow Hastie

After the first frost, when the mosquito larvae freeze,
And the reptiles hide away, buried in the mud,
We re-enter the wood. Recruited many winters ago by my father,
We hike deeper each year, stepping over our past
Discoveries, left stripped and rotting.
We navigate down shallow gullies, past deer antlers
Caked in dried duckweed, and hollow turtle shells,
Nestled in the cypress knees.

Steeping into its dark purples and golden oranges,
The wood ages in its own sap, crystalizing.
We crack them like geodes, taking hatchet to wood,
Filleting the golden flesh, threaded with purple veins.
We carve strips from the backbone, laying them out
On red embers they hiss, sweat bubbling up from the cracks.

It's been a couple years since we have explored the woods.
The swamp left undrained, has ceased our searches,
In which we would hack away at the petrified wood,
Long drawn out silences, interrupted by each swing of the axe

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SOUTH CAROLINA STATE HOUSE

Join a Club at SOA!

Academic Team/Quiz Bowl Club

-Teacher Sponsor: Clark
-Student Leaders: Susan White & Devin O'Brien
-When: Thursdays at lunch
-Where: HS Lounge

ASL Club

-Teacher Sponsor: Duffy/Amick

Asian Student Union

-Teacher Sponsor: Johnson

Black Student Union

-Teacher Sponsor: DeTiberus

Board Game Club

-Teacher Sponsor: Harman
-Student Leaders: Kennedy Mack & Kenny Schaffer
-When: HS Lunch on Thursdays
-Where: Room 1125

Bowling Club

-Teacher Sponsor: Greig/Lyons
-Where: Room 1209

Cinema Club

-Teacher Sponsor: Horn
-Student Leaders: Judith Hamrick & Casey Curtis
-Where: Room 2219

Craft Club

-Teacher Sponsor: Lebrun

Coffee Club

CUP (Community Uplift Project)

-Teacher Sponsor: Lyons
-Student Leader: John Lapolla
-Where: Room 1206

Dungeons & Dragons Club

-Teacher Sponsor: Phillips
-Where: Room 4119

Ecology Club

-Teacher Sponsor: Campbell
-Where: Room 1111

FIDM (Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising)

-Student Leader: Jillian Lovely

FCA (Fellowship of Christian Artists)

-Teacher Sponsor: Caffarel
-Student Leaders: Melanie Gaillard, Julia Dubay, & Ellison Holland
-Where: Room 4128

Film Design and Videography

-Teacher Sponsor: Hepburn
-Student Leader: Aryana Chinn

Foodies Club

-Teacher Sponsor: Lyons
-Student Leaders: Beatrice Criscuolo, Kayla Herrman, & Ellison Holland
-Where: Room 1206

GSA (Gay-Straight Alliance)

-Teacher Sponsor: Ms. Miller
-Student Leader: Sophie Turansky
-When: Room 1117

Hispanic Student Union

-Teacher Sponsor: Harman

Jazz Improvisation Club

-Teacher Sponsor: Phillips
-Where: Room 4119

Mock Trial Team

-Teacher Sponsor: Greig
-Where: Room 1209

Novel Book Club

-Teacher Sponsor: Martin
-Student Leader: Sophie Turansky
-Where: Room 1223

Recycling Team

-Teacher Sponsor: Campbell

Students Supporting Shelters

-Teacher Sponsor: Richardson
-Student Leaders: Grace Constantine & Sarah Sweeten

SIA (Students In Action)

-Teacher Sponsor: McCauley
-Student Leaders: Linda Garziera & Jasmine Zheng

Surfing Club

-Teacher Sponsor: Honeycutt
-Student Leader: Lula Kate Benson

STYLEZ

-Teacher Sponsor: Clark
-Student Leader: Carsyn Smith

The Memory Project

-Teacher Sponsor: McCauley
-Student Leader: Linda Garziera

Ultimate Frisbee

-Teacher Sponsor: Yackey (AMHS)

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SEASON OPENING EVENT

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2022, AT 3PM

TURINA La Oración del Torero, Op. 34

BRAHMS Clarinet Quintet in b minor, Op. 115

Dominic Desautels *clarinet* Alejandro Bustamante *violin*
Jenny Weiss *violin* Ben Weiss *viola* Timothy O'Malley *cello*

STUDENT/PARENT TICKETS \$8
High School students are invited to attend a pre-concert reception to learn more about the music to be performed and meet fellow audience members. Use QR code to RSVP.



College of Charleston Sottile Theatre 44 George Street 843.953.4726 Tickets: \$8-\$55

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SOA Joins AMHS for First Football Game

by Anna Garziera

Applause staff writer **Anna Garziera** attended the first Academic Magnet football game of the season against Military Magnet on Friday, August 26th, and reflects on the game.

SOA and Academic Magnet football fans gathered at Garrett Field for the first football game of the season on Friday, August 26th, and for the first time ever cheered for SOA student athletes. Since the Magnet-SOA sports merger earlier this year, SOA student athletes have wrestled to join Magnet's varsity tennis, volleyball, and football teams, among other sports, and be part of an on-campus school sports team.

Some were doubtful that the schools' students could act as a unit, but the football team's strong bond shone through with every battle cry on the field. First time SOA player Ronald Jenkins, more commonly known as RJ, shared his thoughts on how the change in the 2022-2023 year has influenced the football game and how SOA teacher and Magnet football coach, Coach White, has affected this: "I think the way Coach White has approached building a program rather than just having a football team has been well received by the team and Magnet and SOA communities."

As Coach Miller agrees, the integration of the two communities has brought new opportunities to SOA, and the first game was a perfect example of this. When the game started on Friday, the audience's expectations were dubious, unsure of what the evening would bring. As it turns out, the evening brought great success. Academic Magnet won 14-0 against Military Magnet, and two touchdowns in, with only minutes to go, the Raptors were still fighting hard.

While the game was engaging, the concession stand left something to be desired. "And by something to be desired, I mean the bun to my hotdog," says Alma Lutas (SOA graduate, Class of 2022), who did not attend the game, but reports on her friend's bun-less frankfurter. The nachos too, were dubious, with cold cheese and soggy tortilla chips. Worst, however, was the Snickers bar. "It's melted," Beatrice Criscuolo sighed. She had hoped for a tasty treat after her hard work on the game's photo shoot, but was disappointed by the soupy chocolate.

Likewise disappointed were seven year old Loudon and her parents when she fell face-first in the muddy patch next to the field. She was dragged back up by Ellison Holland, and given a fresh t-shirt. Like Loudon, I, among others, went to the game dressed for disaster. My bright white sneakers didn't last ten minutes, and my Levi's jeans clung to my legs for dear life. Nevertheless, I did not let these unpleasanties distract me from the game unfolding in front of me.

RJ continued to speak the truth about Friday's game. "I think we played with passion and heart and came out and really hit them," he discloses, addressing his gratitude to the coaching staff. "With Coach White's knowledge and Coach Miller actually going and playing at another level, they have really brought the team together." These heartfelt words from the RJ can only mean one thing: the team is ready for battle and a successful season this fall.



SOA senior Theater major and Raptors football player Ronald Jenkins after the first game.

Anna Garziera

"I think we'll have a great season, and many more to come. Go Raptors."

September Sports

by Giovanni Cusatis

Giovanni Cusatis caught up with **Ben Fancher, Sophia Barden, Elijah Liu, Ayden Caffarel, and Dylan Sweeney** to see how their fall seasons are going.

Ben Fancher, senior Piano major, runs cross country for Academic Magnet. His first experience with running was when he was younger and ran track for Mount Pleasant. As a freshman, he picked up long distance running because "it was a good way for me to spend time with my dad."

Since then, he has been working to improve his times on his own, but now, with the allowance of SOA student's to play sports for Magnet, he is able to be on a team. Ben says, "I'm excited to be on a team with friends that can push me to be a better runner."

His goals for the season are to bring his 5k time under eighteen minutes, and become one of the fastest runners on the team. Magnet's first meet was on August 27th at Pinewood Prep, and Ben placed fourth on his team and eighteenth overall, with a 5k time of 18:36.

Sophia Barden is a seventh grade Creative Writer who is beginning her first season as a swimmer for Magnet. At the age of seven, Sophia began swimming in a summer league. She fell in love with the sport and since then has swam year-round.

In the past, she has swam for the Shadowmoss Sharks in the summer and the City of Charleston's Southern Marlins Racing Team (SMRT) during the fall and winter. Similar to most SOA athletes, Sophia has never had a chance to swim for a high school team, so she is excited for this new opportunity.

Sophia has practice every weeknight for two hours. Practices start with about twelve warm up laps, followed by work on specific strokes and techniques, and the team ends with a run and a few cooldown laps. Practices can be difficult but, "seeing your progress in meets is very rewarding."

Her personal goals for the season are to drop her race times and work on her favorite events: the 100m butterfly and the 100m backstroke. She also wants to be the best teammate she can be in relays, meets, and practices.

Her first meet was against Porter Gaud and Charleston Math & Science. It went well, and she is looking forward to the rest of the season!

Freshman Strings major Elijah Liu is beginning his first season running cross country for North Charleston High School. This is Elijah's first experience with long distance running, as he is using this season to build endurance for soccer in the spring.



Ben running in the Pinewood Invitational.

Provided



Sophia (center) with her teammate Finley Bowers (left) and coach Ms. Healy (right).

Provided

His team practices after school everyday. Most of the time, they run a few miles around the campus, but sometimes they go to a nearby hill and sprint up and down. "Those practices are the hardest to get through," Elijah explains.

Elijah's personal goals for the season are to bring his 5k time down to twenty minutes and to see an improvement in his running once soccer season comes around.

Elijah and his team ran in the Pinewood Invitational on August 27th. Going into the meet, Elijah explains, "I was very nervous because I had no idea what a meet was going to be like." Despite his nervousness, he ran a personal best 21:30 5k, and his team placed tenth out of sixteen.



Elijah running in the Pinewood Invitational.

Provided

Ayden Caffarel, sophomore Strings major, is a defensive end for Magnet's football team. This is his first year playing for a real football team, as he hasn't played since he was younger. "I have always loved the sport, and being able to play for Magnet is a great opportunity."

The team meets everyday after school to practice. Ayden's personal goal for the season is to be the best teammate and player he can be.



Dylan (right) with his teammate and fellow Theater major Milo Throop (left) after a 27-6 victory against Burke.

Provided

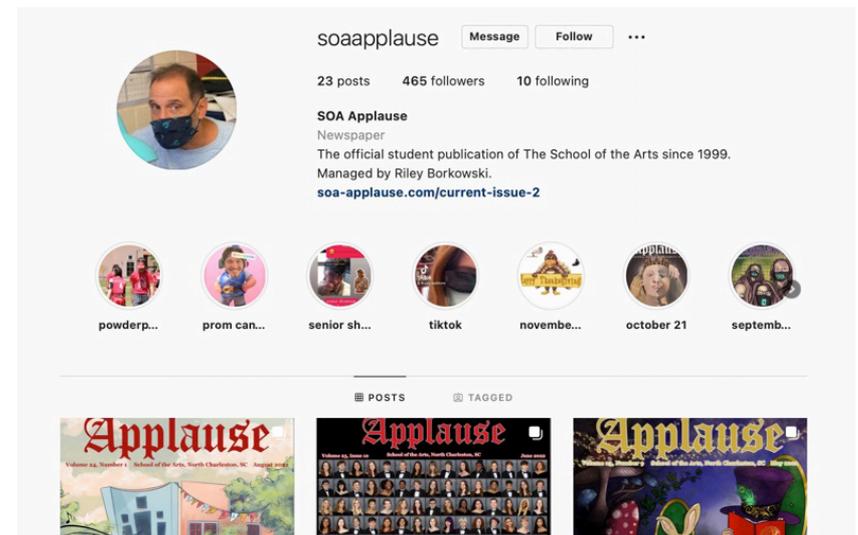
Sophomore Theatre major Dylan Sweeney is a defensive end on Magnet's football team as well. Similarly to Ayden, this is his first season playing football, and he is excited to play

a new sport. He expressed that playing for Magnet has been a great experience so far.

In the upcoming season, Dylan hopes to gain muscle, improve at the sport, and be the best fit for the team he can.

Magnet is off to a great start so far having beat Military Magnet, Burke, and Bethune-Bowman, putting them at 3-0 for the season. Coach Miller, SOA teacher and AMHS football coach said, "You never know how student athletes are going to react to a new coaching staff. But every single athlete on this team has bought into it what we are doing, which is building a solid foundation for this program." They're next game is against Palmetto Christian on September 16th. Go cheer them on!

Follow *Applause* on Instagram!



Student Artwork



by Audra Elm,
9th Grade



by Pia Oronce,
9th Grade



by Eliana Gross,
12th Grade
(work in progress)



by Julia Zimmerman,
12th Grade

Classic Movie Review: *Fargo*

by Peter O'Malley

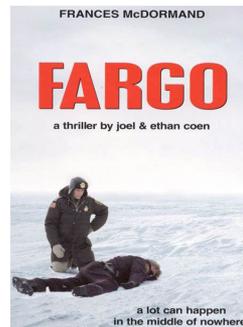
The Coen Brothers' 1996 crime thriller, *Fargo*, follows a Minnesota police chief (Frances McDormand) on the hunt for two criminals after a failed kidnapping. On top of its captivating plot, the film features some of the most pronounced Midwestern accents you'll ever hear.

Jerry Lundegaard (William H. Macy) is in need of money, and hires two men to kidnap his wife in order to acquire his needed funds. However, his plan goes horribly wrong, and the kidnappers commit multiple murders. The kidnappers, now on the run, kill more and more people, and police chief Marge Gunderson investigates the murders, tracking them down. Though tragic in its level of violence and number of deaths, it's a surprisingly comical story. The antagonists are strangely likable (nothing like *No Country for Old Men's* Anton Chigurh), and it's very entertaining.

The opening text of the film states that it is a true story, told "exactly as it occurred." However, the events of *Fargo* are not factual, and director Joel Coen explains the reasoning behind this: the story is more believable if the audience believes it was based on real events. Watching it a second time, with the knowledge that *Fargo* is not in fact, factual, I saw it from a different perspective. This was an approach I hadn't seen before in cinema, and I think it was extremely creative.

Marge Gunderson, the police chief, manages to solve the case almost single handedly, while seven months pregnant. Nothing seems to be going her way, but she stays resilient. Jerry Lundegaard, stupid for his plan of hiring men to kidnap his wife, makes the worst possible decisions in each of his scenes. The two kidnappers-turned-murderers contrast each other entirely. Carl (Steve Buscemi) is talkative, Gaear (Peter Stormare) is silent. Carl plans everything out, Gaear acts on impulse. Each of these characters could be considered the "main character" of *Fargo*, but they all serve equally important roles in the events of the film. No character is predictable, and that's why *Fargo* is so great.

Through the Coen Brothers' creative genius, the phenomenal cast, and captivating story, *Fargo* is an excellent work of film. The next time you watch a movie, *Fargo* should be at the top of your list.



Contemporary Movie Review: *Bullet Train*

by Eliana Gross

Based on the book *Bullet Train* by Kōtarō Isaka, *Bullet Train* (2022) is one of the few movies I believe I could watch again and again and never get tired of. Throughout its two hour and six minute runtime, the twists and turns of the plot bring you through an immersive experience in which, even if you know what's happening next, you'll always be entertained.

The story follows an assassin named Ladybug (Brad Pitt) who, after some soul searching and therapy, has decided to return to his job with as little accidental violence as possible, but whose luck has other plans. He gets assigned to steal a briefcase off of a bullet train in Japan, but unfortunately for him, this briefcase is being protected by two other assassins, Tangerine (Aaron Taylor-



Johnson) and Lemon (Brian Tyree Henry), who often steal the show from Ladybug. Their chemistry alone, along with the rest of the cast, make this movie worth the watch. During this time, Yuichi Kimura (Andrew Koji) is on a mission to avenge his young son who is in critical condition after being pushed off of a roof by a mystery person. After said mystery person tells Yuichi to meet them on the bullet train to Kyoto, he darts off to get revenge.

The fight scenes, although bloody, were exciting and fun to watch with the beautiful choreography and cinematography, as well as the witty quips from the characters. The soundtrack, which often consists of Japanese covers of popular American songs, only seems to support the light atmosphere that is kept alive throughout fight scenes and tragic backstories by bright colors and well timed jokes. *Bullet Train* was directed by David Leitch, who is also responsible for other fan favorites like *V for Vendetta* (2005) and *Fight Club* (1999), but I can only really compare it to *Deadpool 2* (2018) because of its balance between comedy and action. The cast lineup was great, featuring appearances from Bad Bunny as the Wolf and Zazie Beetz as the Hornet, as well as a couple cameos that blend into the story well enough to almost not notice.

Overall, this was a fun watch with great pacing and even better acting that had me both cracking up and almost crying at times; I would highly recommend it to anyone who doesn't mind violence and wants a good laugh. *Bullet Train* is rated R and can be seen in theaters right now. It was rated 7.5/10 by IMDb and 53% by Rotten Tomatoes, but I'd give it a 85% on my Gross Tomatoes scale.

Classic Album Review: *Electric Ladyland*

by Rylie Borkowski

The 1960s brought about the birth of many forms of rock and jazz, and is known by many as the golden age of the most influential classic rock bands and artists. It is nearly impossible to talk about classic rock without mentioning Jimi Hendrix.

Hendrix lives up to his name as one of the most influential rock artists of all time in his final album with The Jimi Hendrix Experience, *Electric Ladyland*. *Electric Ladyland* found him experimenting with all sorts of psychedelic sounds and pushing his funk to the absolute limit. The result was one of the best rock albums of the 1960s.

Released in 1968, two years before his untimely death in 1970 at twenty-eight years old, *Electric Ladyland* serves as one of the most influential classic rock albums from his era. From the get-go, you are quickly transported to a mad yet serene world. The first track, "And the Gods Made Love," features the creative use of exciting sound effects, tape loops, and sound masking, setting up the psychedelic mood for the remainder of the album.

Although the opening may feel freaky, don't let that fool you. "And the Gods Made Love" is then followed by a smooth ballad, "Have You Ever Been (To Electric Ladyland)," a drastic contrast to the previous track. The instrumentation feels very phased out, giving listeners a relaxed, dream-like feeling that leaves me breathless no matter how many times I hear it.

Say goodbye to whatever trance you were in after "Have You Ever Been," as the next track, "Crosstown Traffic," is about to knock you right



out of it. Opening with an intense guitar riff balanced perfectly with the drums, it quickly takes you by surprise, jolting you into a new headspace. For two and a half minutes, the intense instrumentation and vocals continue. Towards the end, the music begins to fade into applause, which conveniently serves as a creative and effective bridge to “Voodoo Chile,” one of my favorite songs of all time.

“Voodoo Chile” is one of Jimi Hendrix’s most elaborate works, clocking in at fifteen minutes. The band switches back to blues, but this time with a new musical idea. It features many virtuosic guitar solos that guide listeners in new directions. “Voodoo Chile” really allows Hendrix to let his imagination run wild, and is thought by many to be an expression of Hendrix’s life-long love of sci-fi, as it contains many sci-fi hyperboles. The guitar solos allow Hendrix to let his skill shine through, showing why he was and still is known by many as one of the greatest guitar players ever.

The album finishes off with a high point with “Voodoo Child (Slight Return),” which is almost a continuation of “Voodoo Chile,” but rock n’ roll. The song is up-tempo and is one of the most aggressive tracks on the album. It contains my favorite guitar moments on the album and is, in my opinion, one of the best pieces of electric guitar work ever recorded.

Not only is *Electric Ladyland* one of the best rock albums ever recorded, but it is also the embodiment of Hendrix’s musical vision at its peak. *Electric Ladyland* is the perfect album for anyone interested in classic rock; it captures not only peak 60s music but also has a wide range of intensity, so this album has a song for everyone.

Contemporary Book Review: *Happy-Go-Lucky*

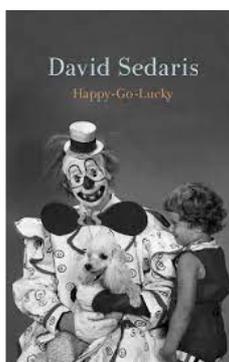
by Beatrice Criscuolo

David Sedaris’ most recent book, *Happy-Go-Lucky*, came out at the perfect time: far enough away from the beginning of the pandemic that humor is now a semi-appropriate response when facing all the bad memories of being in lockdown. *Happy-Go-Lucky* is the thirteenth Sedaris book to (hopefully) line your bookshelf, and like all of his others, it’s a collection of witty anecdotes that somehow makes you lose your faith in humanity and find it at the same time.

Sedaris covers everything from acupuncturists to COVID-19, yet no matter the subject, you’ll giggle as the unthinkable is thrown in your face. My favorite chapter, “Themes and Variations,” really puts into words just how idiotic humans can be. Sedaris does a fabulous job of blending dark material with light humor until you can’t tell what is serious and what isn’t.

Unfortunately, *Happy-Go-Lucky* lacks what Sedaris’ initial books have: originality. Despite new material, if you’ve read any other Sedaris books recently, you’ll feel a sense of déjà-vu. Some of his subjects - family, home, and career - are the same, meaning you dive deeper into the same personal reflections you’ve visited in other books. And in some cases, too deep.

That being said, pick up *Happy-Go-Lucky* for a bit of light reading that forces you to face the darker side of the pandemic (and humanity in general) with laughter instead of tears.



Classic Book Review: *The Handmaid's Tale*

by Anna Garziera

I first read this book by accident, after finding two free copies in my school’s library in 2019. I didn’t recognize the author, but the front cover seemed intriguing enough, the title sounded familiar, and hey, who doesn’t like free books; so, I asked my best friend to read it with me.

The plot unfolds in the utopian, totalitarian society of Gilead around the year 1985, where Handmaids are assigned to bear children for infertile elite couples. We follow the story through Offred’s perspective, a Handmaid for the Commander and his wife, and as we witness her days as a Handmaid first-hand, we are guided through her thoughts and emotions as she tries to escape a life of no freedom.

Fifteen-year-old Anna had severely underestimated this powerful novel that day in the school library, and was hooked before she knew it. Not only does Atwood write this novel in a compelling way, she also adds layers and layers of themes and ideologies within it: analyses of power, causes and effects of complacency, importance of speech in one’s liberty - this book has enough weight to it to write essays for days on end.

With so many literary devices, *The Handmaid’s Tale* is any English teacher’s dream. What better way is there to capture all that’s wrong in the world than with a classic on an utopian society set in the late years of the twentieth century? Though a literary masterpiece, *The Handmaid’s Tale* leaves readers, myself included, irritated with its uncertain ending.

While the language may prove challenging to a younger audience, *The Handmaid’s Tale* is an essential novel to read at least once in a lifetime, but it will turn out to be hard not to read it again, and once more after that too.

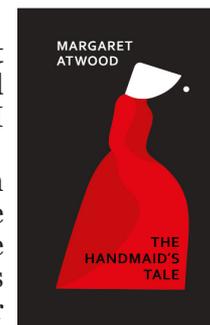
Video Game Review: *Stray*

by Gracie Pennington

Inside a desolate and abandoned world long after humans, a pack of four cats traverse their home: the overgrown outskirts of a city long forgotten. Among them is a young orange cat who falls deep into the underbelly of the underground city below, separating him from his friends. We follow this cat in his adventure throughout to his alien, post-pandemic world in *Stray* by BlueTwelve Studio.

My favorite part about this game has to be the visuals. The environments are stunning in both visual quality and sound design. The city you explore is desolate and dark, but you can tell it was once lived in. You can also find dead robots everywhere; well, mostly dead.

Not only are the quality of the environments incredible, but the interactivity of the world itself is as well. You navigate as a cat, and the game allows you to interact with the environment as such. *Stray* offers extensive opportunities for the player to immerse themselves in the world of the game; you can drink from puddles and scratch up carpets, and even knock things off of tables. The music is wonderful as well, creating a fitting otherworldly vibe with the various synths that are



used. The controls are incredibly natural, comfortable, and simple, especially if playing with a gamepad.

I don't want to spoil the game's story, since it is definitely best played without knowing what happens. That being said, I will say this: *Stray* is a wonderful exploration of what life after humans may look like, from the perspective of an animal, and I highly recommend it to anybody who is able to experience this game.

**See SOA play football with
Magnet every Friday!**



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Literary Trivia

by Gracie Pennington

Aidan Penna

Senior Creative Writing

Gabbie Chinnis

Sophomore Strings

- Which four children go into Willy Wonka's Chocolate Factory with Charlie in the novel *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*?
- Who wrote *Huckleberry Finn*?
- From which popular dystopian novel does the phrase "Big Brother is watching you" originate from?
- What is the name of the first book in the *Chronicles of Narnia* series written by C.S. Lewis?
- Who wrote *The Odyssey*?
- In Rick Riordan's *Percy Jackson* series, who is Percy's father?
- Who are the two main characters of John Steinbeck's *Of Mice and Men*?
- What is the name of the third *Harry Potter* book?
- In *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee, what nickname does Jean Louise Finch go by?
- Piscine Molitor Patel and Richard Parker are the main characters in which novel?



Provided



Provided

7/10

- Violet, Augustus, and two other people I can't remember
- Mark Twain
- 1984
- Narnia*
- Homer
- Poseidon
- Lennie and George
- The Sorcerer's Stone*
- Scout
- I have absolutely no clue <3

6/10

- Charlie, Violet, Mike, Veruca
- Mark Twain
- Uh, *Scythe*?
- The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*
- Odysseus
- Poseidon
- Mice and Mouse
- Prisoner of Azkaban*
- Scout
- Idek dude

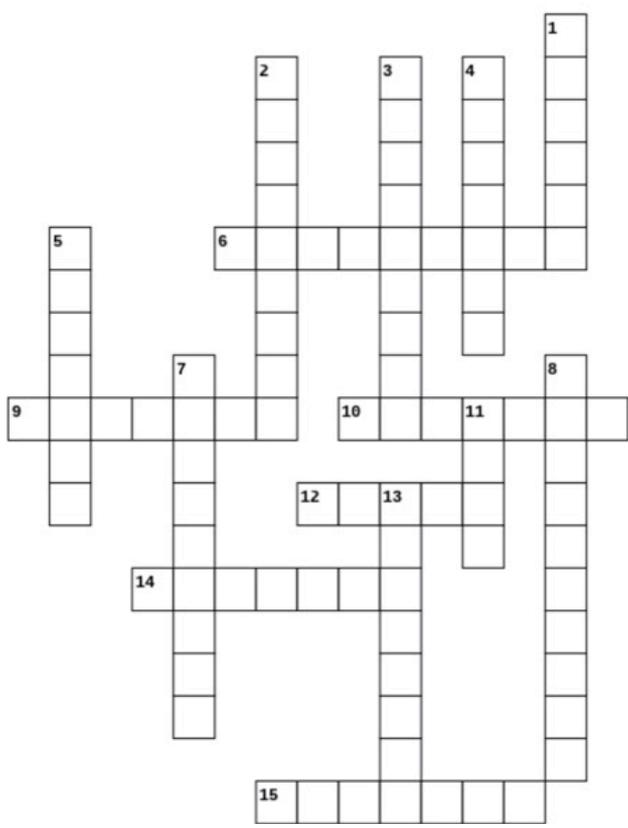
Answers

1. Augustus, Veruca, Violet, and Mike 2. Mark Twain 3. 1984 by George Orwell 4. *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* 5. Homer 6. Poseidon 7. George and Lennie 8. *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban* 9. Scout 10. *Life of Pi* by Yann Martel

Spotify Playlist
by Beatrice Criscuolo

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

SOA Crossword



Across

- Relating to or situated in the area behind the stage in a theatre.
- A small flute sounding an octave higher than the ordinary one.
- A type of classical female singing voice and has the highest vocal range of all voice types.
- The prevailing fashion or style at a particular time.
- A short novel or long story.
- The design and manufacture of custom made clothes of a customer's request.

Down

- A dance performed on the tips of the toes.
- The plucking of strings on a string instrument.
- A continuous slide between two notes on a piano.
- A rapid, slight variation in pitch in singing or playing some musical instruments.
- The use of marking made within outlines to suggest three-dimensionality, shadow, or degrees of light and dark in a picture or drawing.
- An act of speaking one's thoughts aloud while on the stage alone.
- In text, a person who actively opposes or is hostile to someone or something.
- A thin strip of metal, that when blown into, vibrates to produce sound on a musical instrument.
- A gradual blending from one color to another.



Creative Writing Word Search

Alliteration
 Characterization
 Climax
 Exposition
 Imagery
 Irony
 Metaphor

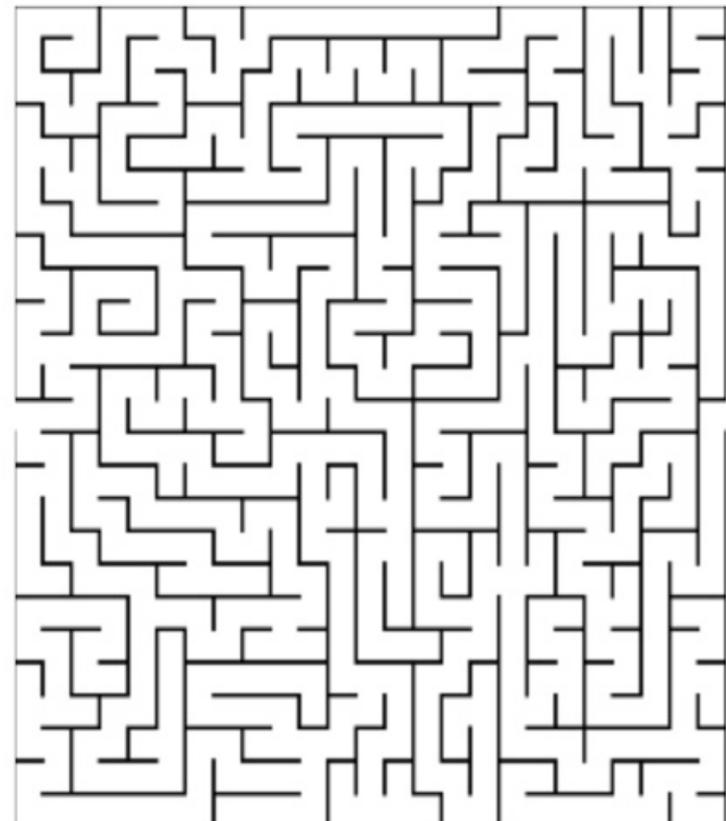
Mood
 Onomatopoeia
 Plot
 Protagonist
 Simile
 Synecdoche
 Tale

SOA Sudoku

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



Help Ms. DeTiberus find her computer!





“*Everblaze* by Shannon Messenger”

Anni Rust, 6th Grade
Creative Writing



“*Alone* by Megan Freeman”

Hadley Evans, 7th Grade Dance



“*Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban* by J.K. Rowling”

Jane Jordan, 8th Grade Vocal



“*The Nightingale* by Kristin Hannah”

Ms. Nestman, Middle School
English

What book would you recommend by your favorite author?

by Isis Hanna and Cate Traywick



“*The Stormlight Archive* by Brandon Sanderson”

Vicky Ustymenko, 9th Grade
Creative Writing



“Mr. Hammes will kill me if I don't mention his book, *A Curious Matter of Men with Wings*, but unfortunately Steinbeck's *Travels with Charley* is my favorite, or anything by Jack Kerouac.”

Ms. Cimballa, Visual Arts Teacher



“*The Secret History* by Donna Tartt”

Charlotte Dietrich, 10th Grade
Fashion



“*The Female of the Species* by Mindy McGinnis”

Rachael Roberts-Seal, 11th
Grade Piano



“*The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald”

Ben Fancher, 12th Grade Piano



“It's so hard to choose but... *One of Us is Lying* by Karen McManus”

Ms. Gomez, SOA Librarian