

Applause

Volume 25, Number 1 School of the Arts, North Charleston, SC September 2023

ACADEMIC MAG
SCHOOL



DIAMOND

The Traywick Family
The Fox Family

EMERALD

The Bundy/Richardson
Family
Dr. Shannon Cook
Beverly Feagin
Eliot & Kimberly Hobbs
Heidi Printz

RUBY

Angelo's Advisory Group, LLC
Anonymous
The Charleston Mattress
Cooper & Bilbrey, P.C.
Sylvia Edwards
The Felbers
Jennifer Gomez
Julie Gotz & The Place Girls
The Hanna Family
Eloise Hastie
Hayes Family
Macie Hoffman's Adoring
Parents
The LaRoche Family
The Leluc Family
Anthony Varallo and Malinda
McCollum
Congratulations! Merrik Moriarty
The Núñez Family
Ohio Supports *Applause!*
Pamela and Todd Peterson
Pineda Family
Barb Richardson
David Rieder
The Ronkon-Morse Family
Tracy Shelton
Lantie and Dave Slenzak
The Sunshine Simons Family!
South City Public Relations
Cameron Thomson
Jeny & John Tyler
Myles Owens-Walker
Sullivan Wood

SAPPHIRE

The Kamen Dewhirst Family
Amanda and Ben Pritchett

AMETHYST

Sarah and Yasir Abdul
The Carrier Family
Nayeon Casey
Abasi and Krysta Chapman
The Cooper Family
The Cromwell Family
Shamus and Lynn Anne Gillen
Nate Alex Gilly
Hickerson Family
The Howell Family
Badi and Amanda Jones
Natasha Kavarana
The Kazley Family
The Largent Family
MAUDE COUTURE
Curtis McGinnis & Tharon Shiley
The Mears Family
Derek Pickens
The Spanglers
Cake Traywick Rocks <3 Ms. VCD
The Woodlee Family
Younts

TOPAZ

Anonymous
Anonymous
The Billew Family
The Boone Family
Dr. Happy Byrd
Ms. Donna Chesborough
The Cusatis Family
Esthela Cuzmar
The Davis Family
Lucas Fetten
The Finch Family
Lila Hayes and Family
Emilia Hall
The Hughes Family
Nevergonn A. Giveyouup
Tristan Hill

Amber Honeycutt
The Johnsen Family
Katharine Johnson
Beth Lasley

Mr. & Mrs. Mac ~
Ethan Mallari
Patrick Martin
Kenneth E. Melton
Amanda Miller
Mr. Austin Miller and Family
Peter O'Malley
Ashley Peterson
Ellie and Sadie Polk
Josie Saldana
Dr. Schuster
Jamison Sigmon: We are so proud
Van Smith
The Southwick Family
The Stones
The Svendsens!
Matt Verone
Sarah Wetmore Butler & Family
Mrs. Whittemore

GARNET

Anonymous
Beth Webb Hart
Brian Johnson
Leslie Jones
Sinclair & Nicole Holmes
Stacey LeBrun/Craft & Canvas
Eleanor Lucas
The Morelli Family
Josie Oakley
Zoe Roff and Family
Mrs. Stephanie Smalls
Cyle Tang
Milo Throop
Mr. V

TURQUOISE

Carson Daigneault
Greg Durishan
Donovan "Hamp" Hamilton
Dr. Selby
Trowbridge Weeks

From the Editors

Dear Readers,

Welcome back to what we are confident will be another incredible year at SOA. This year, our staff consists of three sophomores, eight juniors, and four seniors, all of whom are new to *Applause*, aside from our returning editors. Although Journalism is a fast-paced and demanding class, our staff has gone above and beyond, surpassing all of our expectations. This year, as new editors, we are excited to establish new features and reintroduce old fan favorites of years past.

We are happy to report that just days after this paper is distributed, *Applause* has invited American poet, editor, songwriter, and novelist Naomi Shihab Nye to speak to students. Ask your teacher if you can head up to the Media Center during second block; we can assure you that Naomi is a speaker you will not want to miss! This year, we are committed to featuring a wide variety of students and events and inviting those who aren't necessarily on the *Applause* staff to contribute to our paper (email borril9316@ccsdschools.com for more information).

This month, we have been working tirelessly to bring a variety of content to the September issue, centered around summer break, the back-to-school season, and our Creative Writing department. Check out pages 13 through 15 to meet our staff, learn a little more about our new teachers on pages 24 and 25, and discover what your fellow students did over the summer in the centerfold. Have a wonderful year SOA!

Your Editors,
Riley Borkowski and Cate Traywick

Riley Borkowski *Cate Traywick*



Applause

since 1999, the official student publication of

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Founded in 1995 by Rose Maree Myers

Dr. Shannon Cook, Principal

Editors-In-Chief: Riley Borkowski,
Cate Traywick

Business Manager:
Luciano Cusatis

Assistant Editor:
Isis Hanna

Copy Editor:
Ruby Varallo

Photographers:

Emma Shelton, Cate Traywick, Marz Watson

Staff Writers:

Elle Baker
Riley Borkowski
Lucy Cromwell
Luciano Cusatis
Isis Hanna

Ella Kay
Neo O'Dell
Braedon LaRoache
Ashley Peterson
Isabella Pineda

Emma Shelton
Cate Traywick
Ruby Varallo
Jovanny Velasquez
Marz Watson

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

soa-applause.com

Cover by Ava Dawson

SOA Calendar

by Ashley Peterson

Sept. 19: National Honor Society Induction Ceremony, Media Center, 4 pm
Sept. 22: Early Release

(Teacher Planning)

Sept. 25 & 26: Seventh Grade Improv Show, Blackbox at 4 pm and 6:30 pm

Sept. 26: Blood Drive from 8-3:30 pm

September 28: Middle

School band, RMMT, 6:30 pm

Oct. 4 & 5 Eighth grade theater, BBT 4 pm & 6:30 pm

Oct. 13: Early Release (Teacher Workday)

Oct. 25: End of first quarter



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In This Issue

The Morellis Lead A Trip To Greece

by Isis Hanna

Where Were They Then: Ms. Hart

by Riley Borkowski

Applause Presents: "I Want My MTV"

by *Applause* Staff

Opinion: Sustainability is a Skill

by Emma Shelton

The fast fashion industry is killing our planet, filling our landfills, and running the modern slave-trade, but we know this already. We are aware of how harmful this industry is, yet create excuses to morally exonerate ourselves and benefit from it. We are told about the horrors and negative impacts of supporting and purchasing from fast fashion companies, but then see the cheap prices, the accessible on-trend clothes, and suddenly forget what the issue was in the first place.

Fast fashion isn't even the cheapest option, shopping second-hand is. It's not only cheaper but significantly better for the earth. Buying second-hand keeps clothing out of landfills and gives items that were previously stored in the back of a closet a new life. We complain about finding cute items, but it is so easy to find cheap vintage sellers on platforms like Depop, Vinted, and eBay. All we need to do to find ethical and inexpensive clothing is look a little harder. Fast fashion isn't the accessible option, it's the easy way out.

The cost of clothing itself is something that we need to start deconstructing, no new garment should ever cost less than 20 dollars unless it's on sale. The price of a garment reveals factory conditions and how much workers are being paid, so the lower something costs, the more likely it is to have been made in a sweatshop. It is important to understand how something is made to know its value. Once we fix our mindset towards clothing prices, shopping sustainably will come easily to us.

Nobody can immediately fix this issue, it's unattainable and takes time to figure out, but we need to start actively thinking about where our clothes are coming from. Just one or two changes in the way we shop can create positive change for other people and the earth. Some fast fashion is worse than others, and sometimes it's okay to buy a singular item, but it's important to be aware of how that item was created and its total global impact.

Opinion: Starlink's Ethical Dilemma

by Riley Borkowski

Starlink is a satellite internet project launched by SpaceX in 2018 aiming to provide high-speed internet access to remote regions worldwide through a network of low Earth orbit satellites (LEO.) While at first glance this seems appealing, a closer look reveals significant ethical concerns regarding the future of our planet and the privacy of all that inhabit it.

Starlink's quick launch of thousands of LEO satellites raises grave concerns about the growth of space debris. These man-made satellites not only put our astronauts in danger but also threaten the future of space exploration as a whole. In addition to space debris, Starlink satellites contribute to the pre-existing issue of light pollution, which leaves stargazers and astronomers with an increasingly obstructed view of the night sky.

Starlinks light pollution is not only an inconvenience to stargazers, but its constant illumination of the night sky disrupts natural nocturnal behavior patterns for many species. For animals that depend



Emma Shelton

Provided

on darkness for survival, the new inclusion of artificial light can result in disorientation; this negatively impacts their ability to hunt, communicate, and travel, which may lead to a population decrease in nocturnal species.

Another growing concern is that of data privacy. With the user's data traveling across international borders, our data becomes susceptible to many risks, such as hacking and unauthorized access. Due to the information crossing international borders, it is difficult to enforce data protection laws and to know that our information is secured, raising questions about whose laws apply and how our privacy is guaranteed.

While the idea of swift internet speeds may sound appealing, we can't overlook the potential consequences Starlink may bring. These concerns threaten our privacy and the safety of our planet. While we are embracing the rapid advancement of technology, we need to find a balance between technological progress and the well-being of us and our planet.

Opinion: What College Will Be Like

by Anna Garziera

"So she sat on with closed eyes, and half believed herself in Wonderland, though she knew she had but to open them again, and all would change to dull reality." — Lewis Carroll

Like many others, I tend to live constantly anticipating the future. Just as in one moment I could be picturing myself walking down the aisle in a white gown, in the next I could be in a crowded exam room, tearing up and clenching my pencil as I fail my AP Calculus exam that I did not study for. In the next moment again, of course, I find that it is still September, and there is still time to study for my AP Calculus exam, and more time still until my wedding day.

For this reason, by the start of my senior year of High School, I had already pictured my freshman year of college innumerable times; as the year progressed and the admissions process rolled out, followed by GPA fluctuations, college decisions, and personal choices, details that had merely been speculations back in August turned into good guesses, turned into near certainties by the time June rolled around.

By then, I had already made my college experience come alive and rebirth into different variations of itself over and over again. Just as Alice, overcome with curiosity, leaned over too far to see where the White Rabbit was going, I too fell into my own rabbit hole of YouTube videos of Duke University dorm tours, decisions, reactions, day-in-the-life, and move-in vlogs by college freshmen whose lives were merely reflections of mine in just a few months.

As I write this today, with just one month left until my move-in date, I confess that the curiosity and desire I have to pre-live my imminent new life as a college freshman has only worsened.

Now, with my classes picked, my schedule set, and my dorm room chosen, I find that I am already beginning to divide my belongings in two piles, bring-to-college and don't-bring-to-college, which can otherwise be read as past-Anna and future-Anna; as my past and future lives are summarized before me in two piles of t-shirts—one worn, years' worth of tears smeared at the shoulders, stretched out by my growth into adulthood; one fresh and elastic, each ready to be molded into a new identity—I find that it is a lot more exciting to build versions of my future-self, than see my past-self be left behind.

There is one more version of Anna that has been neglected



Anna Garziera

Lauren Holladay



Riley Borkowski

Provided

throughout this whole process, and she can be represented by the pile of t-shirts that was left on my bed this morning, the one with the t-shirts I wore yesterday or the day before, now already washed and pressed by my mother. She is wearing the t-shirt that I currently have on, and getting lost in her head about all the articles she will soon be writing for *The Chronicle*, Duke University's Independent Student Newspaper, and forgetting the task she is set on, writing this very article, every ten minutes.

And so, although reminiscing of years past and anticipating upcoming ones can both bring joys in ways not unlike, I urge you to slow your wonder of what college will be like in one, maybe even two years, for in the end, things like this are impossible to predict. What's more, if your mind is just the slightest bit creative—a solid assumption, given that you attend the School of the Arts—there is a good possibility that your estimation of life in college will be if not boldly glorified, then at least more neat around the edges than life could realistically afford you, which just adds the risk of your disappointment in the present, once it finally comes around.

Then, like Alice exiting Wonderland, you'll snap out of your bubble, your dream, and face life as it comes; or maybe, you'll be thinking of your next adventure, and freshman year of college will slip by you unnoticed—you were too focused on the path ahead.

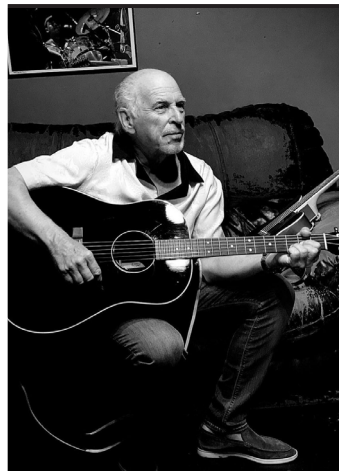
As I am made conscious of these thoughts, I too come back to the present, with old friends to meet, new books to read, and one month of summer left, and all the determination to make the most of it.

Editorial: How the Arts Change Lives

On the 1st of September this year, the musical world lost a legend. Jimmy Buffet, a self-made billionaire who was renowned and beloved by millions, passed away peacefully in his home this month, leaving a legacy behind in the form of his song "Margaritaville". Of course, during his career he had many other feats, such as eight gold and nine platinum albums among his thirty total released, but most people know him from his iconic song that turned into equally-iconic restaurant and hotel chains.

One may claim that he made his billion due to the commercialization of the song; that business was the real hero here, not the arts. But where would the restaurants have come from if he hadn't sat down and written "Margaritaville" in 1977? It all started from what was just supposed to be a piece of his latest album. It allegedly only took him about six minutes to write the majority of the song, and nobody could have predicted what would come of it. It is impossible to argue, however, that his financial success is not entirely owed to him picking up a guitar in college and learning the art of songwriting.

Those of us at SOA are lucky to have made it to a place where art is valued and seen as something that can bring success in life. We prove it every day by winning Scholastic awards, being accepted into All-State choir, orchestra, and band, and impressing our community with amazing showcases and performances of all kinds. Unfortunately, a fair share of us have also experienced what a surprisingly large chunk of the world believes: that the arts aren't worth devoting your life to. Whether it be a parent telling you you'll never make any money from playing the



@jimmybuffet on Instagram

violin or the school board cutting drama programs from local schools, the lack of appreciation for art can be seen all around us, and it's truly a pity.

When you nurture a child's passion for art, they will become successful at a young age and go on to do great things. More importantly, they'll be happy while doing them. If Jimmy Buffet's college friend had never encouraged him to start playing the guitar, he would have never discovered his passion for writing and performing music. He wouldn't have made millions, and there wouldn't be millions more people mourning him and the joy he brought to the world through his songs. This is a message to all the students at this school who may be questioning whether or not their passion is worth it: Make Jimmy Buffet proud. Keep doing what you're doing, and who knows? You might have your very own "Margaritaville" one day.



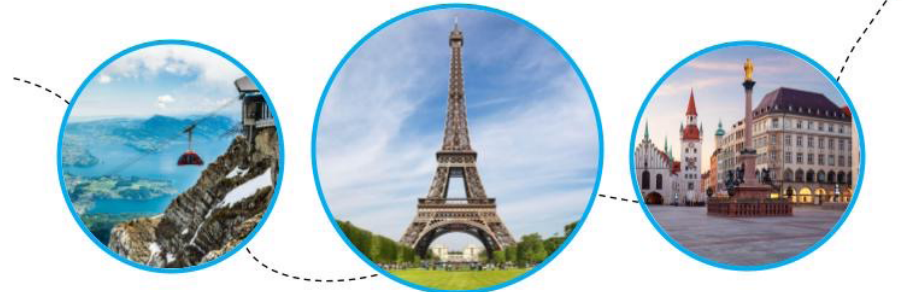
@jimmybuffet on Instagram



We're going to...

France, Germany & the Alps

Summer 2025



Dear Parents & Guardians,

I am so excited to invite your student on this upcoming educational travel opportunity! Learn more about this exciting tour at an information session where we'll discuss:

- What we'll see and do
- Travel logistics
- How to earn high school or college credit
- Affordable payment options
- How to enroll on this trip (before it fills up!)

Please register for the meeting by 9/20

I look forward to seeing you there!

Christine Bednarczyk

P.S. Can't make the meeting but want more information? Register using the QR code or link below and select "No but send info."

RSVP is required

Register below & join us for more details

Meeting date & time:
Thursday 9/21
@ 6:00 PM

Location:
SOA Room 1104

Contact information:
christine_bednarczyk@charleston.k12.sc.us

Register with this QR code
to attend the meeting!



<https://bit.ly/3Z42d0u>

SOA Club Day

Photos by Isis Hanna

SOA Highschoolers showed out for Club Day on September 8th. The hard work put in by the students and teachers running these clubs did not go unnoticed by our student body. If you missed out on the festivities, check out the highschool Google Classroom for more information on all the clubs SOA has to offer.

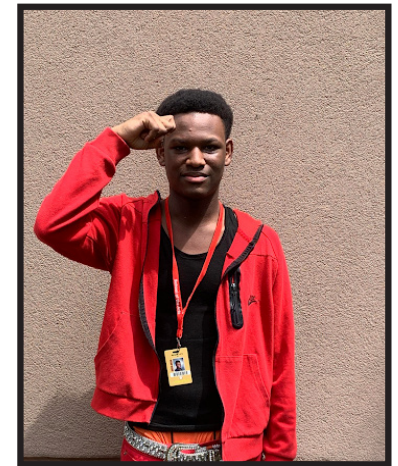


Sign of the Month:

“Summer’s Over!”

by Luciano Cusatis

Demonstrated by Marquis Larry
11th grade ASL & Deaf Culture



1. Place your hand against your forehead making a fist with your index finger pointing out.
2. Curl your index finger to make a hooked “x” sign while passing across your forehead
3. Place both of your open hands in front of you with your palm facing you with your fingers pointing upward.
4. Twist both hands quickly a couple times ending with both palms pointing (somewhat) forward

The Morellis Lead A Trip To Greece

by Isis Hanna

This past summer, I had the incredible opportunity to accompany Mr. and Ms. Morelli, as well as thirty of my classmates across the Atlantic Ocean to Athens, Greece. The whole trip was surreal for someone like me, who has never been out of the country and has flown maybe twice in her life. Even now, I can't believe it happened. For those of you who were not there with me, I'm going to take you through it the best I can.

The adventure began precisely at one in the afternoon in the Charleston airport. I practically inhaled the remainder of the first of four iced coffees I'd have that day (don't even get me started on my quest to find the perfect iced latte in Athens) and met up with my friends. We waited and waited and waited for everybody to get checked in, struggled our way through security, and soon I was at my gate, Dunkin' iced macchiato in hand. CHS airport not having a Starbucks is honestly one of the greatest mysteries of life, but I did not have time to ponder that at the moment. I was too busy wondering what my future week in Greece would hold. Would everyone be able to tell I was American? (Absolutely.) Would my best friend get sick of sharing a room with me? (Surprisingly, no.) Would I remember to put sunscreen on every day? (Not even once.)

Before I knew it, I was exchanging currency in the Atlanta airport and acquiring coffee number three. I'd never been on an international flight before and honestly had no idea what I was getting myself into. If there's any experience that I think could describe purgatory, it would be Row E on a ten-hour flight between two sleeping strangers when you need to use the restroom desperately. As bad as it was, I finally found the time to watch *Mamma Mia* on the way over, which I have now seen eight times since the trip. I suggest giving it a watch, but that's beside the point.

Once we landed in Amsterdam for our connecting flight, everything became a blur. I remember our mad dash to our gate in the maze of an airport to make it to the plane we were late for. Thankfully, they held the flight for us, much to the dismay of the lady sitting next to me. She scowled at me all through takeoff and stole my sandwich while I was sleeping in some sort of useless revenge plot. I was too groggy from the time change (and all the Dramamine I had to take for my motion sickness) to care very much or recall much of anything from the plane ride into Athens. It all felt like some sort of weird dream.

It finally became real when we all filed outside to wait for our tour bus, led by our new fantastic British tour guide. It never struck me how different everything would look, but seeing Athens spread out in front of me like a puzzle of mismatched, multicolored apartment buildings took my breath away. There isn't a way to convey to you in words or even in pictures the sheer amount of buildings there are, packed tightly into the landscape like the hills are wearing a coat made of houses. As we got closer to the city, we could see the Parthenon in the middle of it, at the highest point on top of a hill (that we learned we'd be climbing the next morning). It amazed me that so many people were lucky enough to live in such a beautiful place. I'm sure that's a very touristy perspective, but sometimes you have to own the fact that you're a tourist.

My roommate and I awoke at eight a.m. sharp after a surprisingly

restful night's sleep and headed to breakfast. Breakfast at our first hotel in Athens was honestly a highlight of the trip, not only because the food was outstanding (and free,) but also because it was on the ninth floor, and the view of the city from the outdoor patio was astonishing. Still hardly believing my luck, it hadn't registered in my head that I'd soon be hiking up to the Parthenon in the stifling dry heat.

After a brief stop in Socrates's garden to have a Socratic discussion on whether or not cereal should be considered a soup, we began our trek up the hill. Let me tell you, climbing on marble is not for the weak. It was *slippery*, and I thought I was not going to survive. However, I did make it and the views were so worth it. I could see all of Athens stretching out for miles, from clusters of small homes to huge apartment buildings covered with vines and graffiti. It was truly beautiful.

However, nothing compared to the views we saw when we made our way to Delphi the next day. Unfortunately, nobody told me that Delphi is a mountain, and so I ended up having to hike up more marble in flip-flops. I do not recommend it. However, if the breathtaking stretches of green mountains and valleys speckled with yellow flowers and small villages hadn't made it worth it, the sheer amount of stray cats hanging out near the Delphi museum did. I saw several kittens barely as big as my hand and honestly, almost had a heart attack. But the mountain was cool, too, I guess.

Our second leg of the trip involved a several-hour-long bus ride to Nafpaktos, a small seaside town that I immediately fell in love with the second we entered. As someone who's lived by the sea her whole life, the dry city air was starting to make me feel like a beached fish. The humidity returned life to my skin and the pebbled beach to my soul. It was a very pretty beach, unlike my abysmal attempts to skip rocks. In the morning, we took a drive over to a sandy beach so we could swim in the Mediterranean. It was about the same temperature as the Arctic Sea and it felt a little like I was dying, but I did it because who would pass up a chance to swim in the Mediterranean? Losers, that's who.

That day, we also drove to Olympia to see the sight of the first Olympics (where Mr. Morelli triumphed in an epic race down an old track field) and do some shopping. I bought several cool items that I somehow managed to leave in our hotel in Nafpaktos, never to be seen again. That was a very unfortunate discovery to make while unpacking back at home, but whatever. While there, we visited a lovely museum that showed off how impressive ancient Greek marble work was. We were all tired of museums by the end of the trip, but honestly, that last one had me in awe.

Eventually, the day came when we had to say goodbye to the beautiful country of Greece, the adorable stray cats, and our wonderfully British tour guide (If you're reading this, Michael, we all miss you.) In true airport fashion, we had several mix-ups and delays that ultimately led to our group getting split into two different planes. I don't want to talk about my outburst of tears in the Atlanta airport when I had to hug my roommate goodbye. I was extremely sleep-deprived, and the fact that I would most likely see her later in the week did not cross my mind, alright? Anyway, we all got home safely, and I am most likely going to



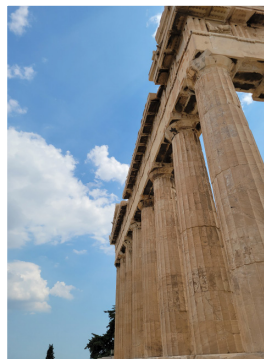
Stray cats relaxing by the Delphi museum

Isis Hanna



Students on the Greece trip posing for a photo at the beach

Provided



The Parthenon

Isis Hanna

spend the rest of my life feeling extremely lucky that I got to go on that trip. However, if I ever have to eat moussaka again in my lifetime, I will probably throw up.

Ms. Bednarczyk Takes Thirty-Nine SOA Students to Japan

by Braeden LaRoche

This summer Ms. Bednarczyk took a group of thirty-nine high school students on a week-long trip to Japan, where they visited several major cities and attractions around the center of the nation. Under the excellent direction of tour guide Hiroko Hayashi, the group was ensured a rich experience of the fascinating country.

First, Ms. Bednarczyk and the students spent three days in the urban area of Tokyo, during which they took a tour of the city and visited some attractions. From there, they traveled to the nearby prefecture of Shizuoka, where they saw The Great Buddha of Kamakura, an impressive bronze statue measuring nearly forty-five feet in height.

The next day, the group visited Fuji-Hakone-Izu National Park, catching sight of Mt. Fuji before riding by bullet train to Kyoto, a city renowned for its historical buildings, shrines, and gardens demonstrating a rich religious history. Indulging in this history, they visited the famous Zen Buddhist Temple of the Golden Pavilion and Inari Taisha, a Shinto shrine.

Passing through the city of Nara, the group marveled at the numerous free-roaming deer and visited the beautiful Kasuga Taisha shrine before arriving in Osaka, the final destination of the trip.

Ms. Bednarczyk says that throughout, the students enjoyed many memorable experiences, such as “losing themselves in huge malls and game rooms,” as well as indulging in Japanese pancakes, black eggs, miso soup, udon, and other uniquely Japanese foods.

To the group, technology was profuse in the modern ethos of urban Japan, with everything from the bathrooms to the food courts seeming advanced. At The National Museum of Emerging Science and Innovation (known simply as the Future Museum) in Tokyo, T.J. Griffin, an attendee of the trip, revealed in the opportunity to “yell at a robot in Japanese.” Jack Hinske, another attendee, remarked on how different the country felt compared to the United States, citing the cleanliness of the cities and the various implementations of technology throughout. Of downtown Osaka: “It felt like Times Square, but less screens and more moving robots.”

Those looking forward to similar opportunities to travel to extraordinary places in the future are in luck, for Ms. Bednarczyk is planning a trip to Thailand, Cambodia, and Vietnam for the summer of 2024, as well as a trip to Germany, France, and the Alps for the summer of 2025.

These trips are excellent opportunities for students to experience distant cultures and regions of the world in a safe and well-facilitated manner, broadening one’s vital global awareness and proving consistently unforgettable for those who attend.



Provided

Ms. Bednarczyk’s Japan Trip group in front of the Todai-ji Buddhist temple complex



Jack Hinske

The Great Buddha (Daibutsu) at Todai-ji

Visiting Writer: Naomi Shihab Nye

by Ruby Varallo

Naomi Shihab Nye is a Palestinian-American poet, children’s author, and songwriter visited the SOA Media Center on September 15th. Raised in Jerusalem, St. Louis, and San Antonio, Nye draws upon the vastness of her cultural experiences and her forty years of traveling and teaching around the world to express how humanity can be universal, all while finding poetry in the ordinary. She told SOA in 2014 that she believes “we’re surrounded by poems every day,” which is reflected in her writings as she returns to scenes from the day-to-day to highlight themes of childhood, heritage, and human nature. Nye was named the Poetry Foundation’s Young People’s Poet Laureate from 2019-21, as much of her work, including her newest collection of poetry called *Everything Comes Next*, was made to be enjoyed by both children and adults. She won the 1998 Jane Addams Children’s Book Award for her novel *Habibi*, as well as several awards for her adult work, including four Pushcart prizes. She currently lives in San Antonio and teaches creative writing at Texas State University. Nye truly realizes the value of every voice and beautifully explores the interconnectedness of the human experience in a way that is sophisticated enough to encourage the reader to read her poems twice. In her words, “Treasure your stories. You have more than you know, every day.”



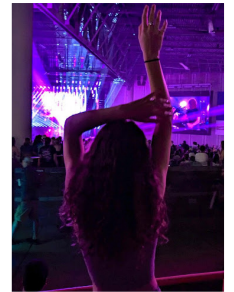
Chehalis Hegner

Naomi Shihab Nye

Grateful Dead’s Last Tour

by Elle Baker

The Grateful Dead is an iconic American rock band whose fame has lasted upwards of sixty years and is still going steady. Formed in San Francisco in 1965, The Grateful Dead is often reduced to a jam band, but they have maintained six decades of fame by alternating and exploring different musical genres like blues, jazz, folk, country, bluegrass, rock, reggae, and psychedelic. The original four members of the band played together for nearly thirty years until the leader of the band, Jerry Garcia, passed away in 1995. The surviving members played in several variously named spin-off bands until settling into and touring as “Dead & Co” in 2015. Oteil Burbridge as well as John Mayer joined the band, with the latter stirring up a bit of controversy. They held their final tour this summer, playing like they never



Provided

McKenna Grozis, SOA Alumni at Grateful Dead’s last tour



Provided

Amelia Counts, Audra Elm, and Lila Elm at the tour

have before, and I attended the second night of the Charlotte show. I was pleasantly surprised by the age demographic at the concert; There were babies in carriers to people well into their eighties. This really speaks of the cultural long-lasting impact the Dead has left on America. The Grateful Dead hugely embodies the free “American spirit” that we celebrate, especially with teens, and (cont. on page 9)

it was beautiful to see people of all ages feeling that together. The band changed stigmas in our culture around music, drugs, teenagers, hippies, rebellion, and romance.

Elle Baker sat down with SOA students and alumni that attended the performance to get first hand accounts of the concert experience.

McKenna Grozis, Vocal Alumni: The Dead and Company show was truly one of the best experiences of my life. I have deadhead parents, so I grew up listening to the Dead and even performed the song Brokedown Palace at my senior thesis. The messages in a lot of their songs shape my perspective on the world and the way I view conflicts and disappointment. Getting to see the music come to life on stage and being around the energy of people who felt the same way was exactly what I needed at that point in my life.

Amelia Counts, Sophomore Visual Arts: It was super dope, I went with my mom and my best friends, Audra and Lila. It was my first time seeing them and they sounded so good! My mom has been seeing them play since she was my age so it was important to her that I saw them live. We also went to Shakedown Street after the show and it was pretty crazy and definitely a new experience.

Audra Elm, Sophomore Visual Arts: I definitely enjoyed the show. It was incredible to see a band so significant to music history. I mean they played at Woodstock over 50 years ago, and they are still going strong and standing the test of time. I also loved walking around Shakedown Street afterward! We got grilled cheese sandwiches and tied-dyed overalls.

SOA Graduate Thrives In Berlin

by Ashley Peterson

Applause staff writer, **Ashley Peterson** interviewed former Strings major, **Luke Ablonczy** about his journey after graduating from SOA in 2018, his new job in Berlin, and how SOA prepared him for this experience.

Ashley Peterson: How did your SOA experience help you get where you are today?

Luke Ablonczy: My time in symphony showed me what you can achieve when you try your hardest and care about doing things right. SOA taught me a lot about paving your path and not waiting for someone to tell you what to do next.

AP: What did you study in college?

LA: I went to the University of South Carolina Honors College and graduated in 2022 with a degree in Computer Science.

AP: What have you done since graduating from SOA?

LA: During college, I played in the USC Symphony, followed by the USC String Orchestra, where I was concertmaster for about a year and a half. After that, I went to Berlin to study abroad, which was probably the best decision I've ever made in my life! Then I finished my degree at USC and moved to Berlin where I still live now,



Luke Ablonczy and friends in front of the Williams-Brice Stadium

Provided

working for Amazon as a Software Engineer. I've also done some great travel in the Netherlands, Italy, Hungary, and elsewhere.

AP: What jobs led up to your current position with Amazon?

LA: In college, I did research with one of my professors. We worked with wearable tech for medical purposes which gave me experience with AI and software engineering. I leveraged that experience to get an internship with Amazon in Berlin. There, I was helping Alexa answer questions more accurately for non-English speakers. At the end of the internship, I got a return offer! If you're in STEM, you have to do as many research jobs and/or internships in college as possible!

AP: Can you describe what this job is and what you do?

LA: Unfortunately, I am not able to share too much about my job. What I can say is that I am a Software Development Engineer and work to improve Amazon's AI capabilities. This involves creating software that our research scientists can use to create better AI faster.

AP: What is it like in Berlin?

LA: Berlin is one of the most unusual places I have ever seen. I love it here and it is incredibly diverse, and living in a big city is fun! In Berlin, anything goes. The only thing is that people here are obsessed with techno music, which I cannot understand.

AP: Do you still pick up your instrument?

LA: I haven't played in some time. I am hoping to take some lessons soon or maybe find an amateur orchestra around.



Provided

Luke Ablonczy abroad

Applause Meets New SOA Highschoolers

Applause staff writer **Isabella Pineda** sat down with students from the class of 2026 and asked them a few questions about themselves and their high school experience so far.

Macey Levine, 9th grade Creative Writing

Isabella Pineda: Is this your first year at SOA?

Macey Levine: This is not my first year.

IP: What is your major?

ML: Creative writing.

IP: What do you like to do in your free time?

ML: I play soccer, go to the beach, spend time with family and friends.

IP: Who is your favorite teacher so far?

ML: I would have to say Ms. Morelli. She seems super helpful and a really nice teacher.

IP: What are you most excited for?

ML: I'm mostly excited about creating strong bonds with people and growing mentally.

IP: Are you nervous about anything this year?

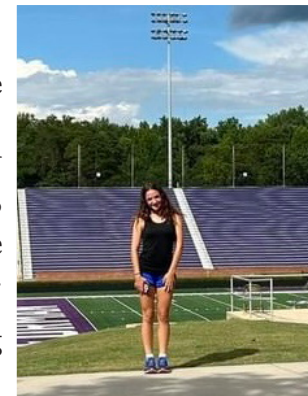
ML: My AP grade.

IP: What do you like most about SOA?

ML: I would have to say the friendships I've made over the years.

IP: Any goals for this upcoming year?

ML: To make good grades and grow stronger as a person.



Provided

Macey Levine

Victoria Chan, 9th grade Strings**Isabella Pineda: Is this your first year at SOA?****Victoria Han:** No, it's not my first year at SOA.**IP: What is your major?****VC:** Strings.**IP: What do you like to do in your free time?****VC:** I like going golfing.**IP: Who is your favorite teacher so far?****VC:** Probably Mr. McCauley.**IP: What are you most excited for?****VC:** I'm excited to play in the Gaillard with the symphony.**IP: Are you nervous about anything this year?****VC:** Keeping my grades up.**IP: What do you like most about SOA?****VC:** I really like having majors for a fourth of the day.**IP: Any goals for this upcoming year?****VC:** I hope to get a better balance between school work and extracurriculars.

Victoria Chan

Isabella Pineda

Eloise Pritchett, 9th grade Fashion**Isabella Pineda: Is this your first year at SOA?****Eloise Pritchett:** Yes, it's my first year here.**IP: Where did you go before SOA?****EP:** I went to Moultrie Middle School.**IP: What is your major?****EP:** Fashion.**IP: What do you like to do in your free time?****EP:** I like skateboarding. I mainly go to SK8 Charleston but there's one under the bridge that I go to as well.**IP: Who is your favorite teacher so far?****EP:** My favorite teacher so far is Donna Cheseborough.**IP: What are you most excited for?****EP:** Probably meeting new people.**IP: Are you nervous about anything this year?****EP:** I'd say end of year tests.**IP: What do you like most about SOA?****EP:** I love the community here.**IP: Any goals for this upcoming year?****EP:** To get A's in all classes.

Eloise Pritchett

Isabella Pineda

Applause Welcomes New Sixth Graders

by Lucy Cromwell

*Applause staff member **Lucy Cromwell** asked new SOA students about their audition process and expectations for the new school year.***“How did you hear about auditioning for SOA?”****Alice Deden, Theater major from Ashley River:** In fourth grade,

my drama teacher told me about the lucky few who auditioned and got into SOA. She encouraged me to audition.

Zoey Mejia Marin, Creative Writing major from Lake Murray:

At the start of fifth grade, I was living in Lexington, SC, but moved halfway through the year to Johns Island. My parents researched schools while moving, and made me audition.

“How do you think your major audition went? Was it stressful? Did anything funny happen?”**Morgan Middleton, Dance major from Meeting Street:** During my audition while I was stretching, I knocked down a picture hanging in the hallway!**Audrey Rogers, Visual Arts, from Howe Hall:** When I auditioned for Band, I told them my brother also went there, and maybe that's why they let me in.**Ofelia Parker, Vocal major from Springfield:** Something funny happened when I auditioned, the speaker I had wasn't working, but the audition still went well.**“What have you expected from SOA and has the school so far lived up to your expectations?”****Luke Threatt, Visual Arts major from Oak Brook:** Visual Arts lived up to my expectations because I expected prestige. The people are nice, everything has lived up to my expectations!**Dylan Till, Theater major from Belle Hall:** After I auditioned, I thought everything was insanely fun, and that all my teachers were very nice. I expected it to be that way, so I'm happy.**“What are you most looking forward to about your SOA experience?”****Owen Patterson, Vocal major from Charles Pinkney:** I am looking forward to our show Joseph and the Technicolor Dreamcoat!**Giovanna Dias Di Silva Vocal major from Belle Hall:** I'm looking forward to all the really fun stuff, not just field trips, but also graduation, learning new songs, and staying excited.**“What are you most looking forward to learning?”****Brooklyn Smalls, Dance major from North Charleston Elementary for the Arts:** I am looking forward to learning more math because it's my favorite subject.**Kelly Davis, Vocal major from Jenny Moore:** I'm most excited about ELA and history because my grandpa really likes history and ELA because it's my favorite subject.**“How do you practice or participate in your major outside of school?”****Lilly Ruff, Strings major from Angel Oak:** I practice with a teacher named Ellie, and she's a member of a regent orchestra. She teaches me everything I need to know to succeed in music.**Sarah Till, Visual Arts major from Belle Hall:** Since I got into SOA I've been doing art classes, and drawing a lot at home. Even when I was little my family encouraged me, and I enjoy drawing.

“What makes you most nervous about starting middle school?”

Lyla Cangelosi, Vocal major from Ashley River: The transition between having one class to having four classes is hard! Having to walk between classes and only having one special area is hard to get used to.
Anan Abdul Piano, from St. Andrews: One thing I was worried about was homework. I heard from some other friends who went here, and I got nervous.

Where Are They Now

Assistant Editor, Isis Hanna, spoke with Gus Varallo, a 2022 SOA graduate, about his life in Creative Writing since leaving SOA

Isis Hanna: Where do you currently attend college? What are you majoring in?

Gus Varallo: I’m currently attending the University of South Carolina Honors College as an English major. Go Gamecocks!

IH: What would you say your current biggest accomplishment in your field is?

GV: Definitely my senior thesis book. It was one of the most work-intensive projects I’ve ever done, and I spent many weekends writing and editing my pieces. However, I don’t think any other project I’ve done taught me more about the craft of creative writing. During the writing process, I got so much better at using subtext in my fiction, applying sound techniques in my poetry, and creating thematic cohesion among the many pieces in the book. I was incredibly proud when the first copies of the book showed up at my doorstep, and I still look back on the project with pride, even a year and a half later.

IH: How has your time at SOA and in the Creative Writing program helped you as you navigate college and real life?

GV: My time in Creative Writing has been some of the most effective college prep I’ve ever received. College education asks more “how” than “what” questions. *How do you think? How is your thinking justified?* Et cetera, et cetera. The primary way to evaluate this, across many departments, is written assignments. Be it in lab reports or research papers, you must show how you answered a question alongside the answer itself. Creative Writing gave me experience in this field because I had to consider how my characters think, how my poetic speakers think, and how every line break or dialogue fragment conveys their perspective to the reader. How do they answer life’s questions, and how do I represent their justifications? The approach to scholarly writing is nearly the same; just replace characters with research questions and literary devices with evidence.

Other SOA majors can teach you to answer these “how” questions too. Dancers answer “how” questions by using choreography to convey ideas. Visual artists answer with design; theater majors use portrayal. Musicians employ sound to showcase their thinking. And what is sight reading if not document interpretation on steroids?

Practicing art at SOA acclimated me to college-level thinking. That practice has done the same for my SOA friends in other majors.



Gus Varallo

My SOA education has also benefited me greatly in real life. I applied my writing skills to get an editing position at USC’s student-run magazine, Garnet and Black. Working there has provided an outlet for my creative expression, as well as putting me in touch with other artists on campus. I’ve also become more involved in the business behind literature, culminating in an internship with USC’s university press. I learned the basics of the book publishing market from that internship, and I’m now considering publishing as a career path. The most important way SOA helped me, in my opinion, is by cultivating my love of writing. I still write in my free time, and I want to continue doing so for as long as possible. I’ve heard other writers say that they’d go insane without writing. I’m not sure if quitting would jeopardize my sanity, but it would make me a lot more sad.

IH: Any advice for current SOA writers or students in general?

GV: I’ll start with my practical advice. Senior Creative Writers, don’t fall too far behind on thesis pages! They will add up, and collapsing in springtime is never a good thing. Just ask Arsenal F.C. how that feels.

For the non-senior Creative writers, make sure to use revision time wisely. Nobody gets it right on the first try, so doing good revisions will always be in your best interest. Plus, analyzing the mechanics of your work will teach you valuable lessons on craft. Pointing out what works and what doesn’t is one of the key skills for developing writers.

And for everyone else, please turn in your work on time. Don’t let lateness penalties diminish your hard work! The teachers here are understanding, so if you need an extension, make sure to let them know. Barring that, make sure to meet your deadlines.

I’ll finish with some emotional advice. I have lots of SOA friends with me at USC, and a frequent talking point among us is our memories at the school. These discussions usually end with a similar conclusion, we were so lucky to have gone there. I know it’s a cliché thing to say, but make sure to enjoy your time at SOA. I’m so glad to have gone there, and I hope that you all are too.

Where Were They Then?

Applause Editor, Riley Borkowski spoke with Creative Writing teacher, Beth Webb Hart about her life before SOA.

Riley Borkowski: Where did you go to college? What are some of your greatest memories from those years?

Beth Webb Hart: I went to the undergraduate English and Creative Writing program at Hollins University in Roanoke, Virginia - surrounded by farms perched on rolling hills and the Blue Ridge Mountains. I chose Hollins because I longed to study with the very professors who had taught some of my favorite female authors such as Lee Smith, Jill McCorkle, and Annie Dillard. At Hollins I read and wrote voraciously and submitted my stories to be workshopped on a regular basis. It was an immeasurably beneficial experience because it helped me to identify my voice.

One of my professors, poet Richard Dillard, had a literal gong in the classroom, and if your work was really awful, he’d ring it. He rarely used it, but it was always there on the roundtable where we sat, reminding us not to turn in something half-baked. Also, he hated when anyone missed his class as it was a small creative writing workshop that relied on class discussion. When four students didn’t show up one evening, he had everyone who was in attendance write a poem containing the name

of each student who was missing, and it took them a few poems into the next class to see what was happening. No one skipped his class again!

I loved the dark starry Virginia nights - whether I was trudging home from the library or camping in the mountains.

RB: Where did you grow up?

BH: I grew up at North Litchfield Beach, an obscure nook (north of Charleston) on the South Carolina coast. Very few people lived at the beach year-round, and I had just a couple of friends to pass the time with. My parents ran a restaurant in Murrell's Inlet where they worked most nights, and so my two younger sisters and I had to create a way to entertain ourselves. In order to quell the boredom, we made up story after story with long, outlandish plots, and I became aware (at age eight or so) that once a character is up and walking in your mind, they really take on a life of their own. As Faulkner once said, "All I have to do is catch up with them and write down what they say and do." After my sisters and I would finish a story, we'd act it out on the screened porch for our babysitters as the sea oats tossed and the waves crashed behind us. I suppose if it weren't for a whole lot of free time, I never would have started writing.

RB: What were your interests as a kid?

BH: Beyond making up stories with my sisters and hanging out at the beach, I was really committed to both dance and gymnastics and spent a lot of time in the studio or gym. I was also obsessed with Michael Jackson and roller skating and loved hanging out at the roller rink in Myrtle Beach on the weekends. It was a cheesy late seventies/early eighties scene replete with hot pink pom poms on glow in the dark speed skates, disco balls, and sno-cones; I adored it.

RB: What were some of your favorite childhood memories?

BH: Some of my favorite childhood memories include watching storms roll in on the front porch at Litchfield Beach, playing hours of gin rummy and poker with cousins and grandparents, making peach ice cream in an old-fashioned churner with my grandfather, writing stories with my sisters, and exploring the lowcountry on bike or foot, especially during the winter when there were no tourists around.

We moved to Greenville, South Carolina when I was twelve years old. I had an English teacher who encouraged me to apply to the local fine arts magnet high school, the Fine Arts Center, and once I was accepted, I chose to focus on poetry. My teacher, poet Jan Bailey, cracked open the world for me by exposing me to quality poetry and fiction. She soon pointed out that all of my poems were narrative and forced me to try my hand at a short story. My first story was about three crazed nuns in a parochial school who locked their students away for cracking the campus birdbath until someone confessed to the crime.

RB: How did you get into teaching? What drew you to SOA?

BH: I was teaching creative writing to undergraduate students at Sarah Lawrence College (and greatly enjoying it) when I fell madly in love with a music professor and composer at the College of Charleston (who I was set up on a blind date with during a graduate school winter break.) Once I completed my MFA, we decided to marry, and I started to look



Ms. Hart



Ms. Hart with her husband and two children

for a job in Charleston. I submitted an application to SOA in 1998, and the creative writing department founder, Ms. Rene Bufo Miles, called me to set up an interview. (Ms. Miles was the only teacher in the program at the time as the school was just in its second year.) I taught a class about point of view in fiction to a group of seventh grade creative writing majors as part of the interview, and I really hit it off with the students, Ms. Miles, and Ms. Rose Maree Myers, the principal. I guess the rest is history!

SOA Slang Dictionary

by Lucy Cromwell

Goated: (adj) Derived from the term "GOAT" meaning "greatest of all time". To be goated is to be the best at something, to be legendary or extremely successful.

"Have you listened to Laufey's new album?" "Yeah, I have, it's absolutely *goated*."

Anti: (adj) When someone doesn't act the way you want them to. "My mom just yelled at me, she's so *anti*." (Coined by Emma)

Gaslight: (v) To manipulate someone into believing their right mind and perception are wrong. Involves the manipulator denying reality, causing the victim to feel confused or crazy. While the term had historical use in psychology, it is now commonly used in slang to describe ordinary disagreements.

"My cat tried *gaslighting* me into thinking I forgot to feed her, but her full dish proved otherwise."

Doing it for the plot: (phrase) To "do something for the plot" is to carefreely go through with something potentially disastrous in order to have a funny story to tell later.

"Are you going to the concert tonight?" "I don't really want to, but I'll go to *do it for the plot*."

Mid: (adj) Insult meaning low quality or impressively boring. "Marvel movies are particularly *mid*"

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Meet Your New *Applause* Staff!

Photos by Cate Traywick and Elle Baker



Riley Borkowski
Junior Strings major

Hates: .HEIC files
Reads: Alto Clef
Accutane: Survivor



Cate Traywick
Junior Writing major

Favorite smells: old books, campfire
Ask me about: my favorite movies
Sell your clothes: keep your thoughts



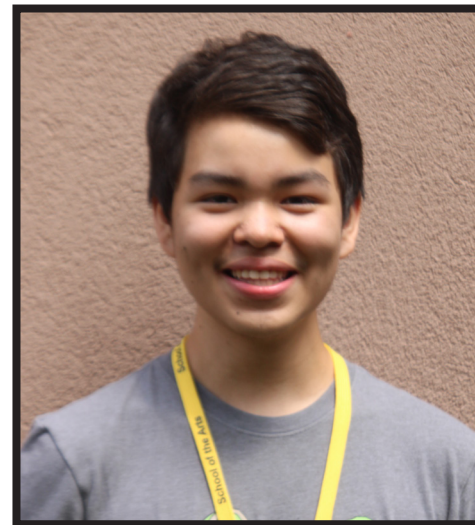
Luciano Cusatis
Sophomore Strings major

Aspiring to be: future *Applause* editor
Formerly: banned from the Bonds-Wilson Campus Library
Always Needs: chapstick



Emma Shelton
Junior Fashion major

Loves: Michael Cera
Hates: Michael Cera
XOXO: Gossip Girl



Jovanny Silva Velasquez
Senior Piano major

Wait: I'm goated...
Loves: MONEY!!
Don't Ask Me About: My thoughts on Kanye



Ruby Varallo
Junior Writing major

Listening to: Beyonce
Will devour: a spicy salmon roll
Tune in to: Gavin and Ruby Go To A Movie



Braeden LaRoche
Senior Visual Arts major

**Favorite obsolete English
alphabet letter:** Ethel
Lungs: Two
Fishing license: N/A



Neo O'Dell
Sophomore Fashion major

Has: two cats
Dislikes: talking
Needs: to sleep



Lucy Cromwell
Senior Visual Arts major

Wage: war
Get: rich
Die: handsome



Isis Hanna
Junior Writing Major

Favorite musical: *Into The Woods*
Needs: a driver's license
Ask me about: *Catcher In The Rye*



Elle Baker
Junior Writing major

Listening to: Tom Petty
Ask me about: My dogs
Won't get: Sunburned



Ashley Peterson
Senior Piano major

Can't: stop talking
Questionable: driving
Spends: too much money



Marz Watson
Sophomore Fashion major

Zoned: out
Sleep schedule: what is that?
Fashion: a passion



Ella Kay
Junior Visual Arts major

loves: horror movies
is: a reptilian
will: name all your local species



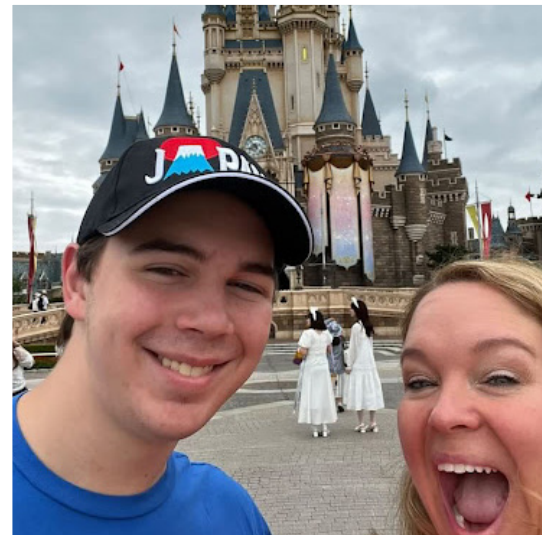
Isabella Pineda
Junior Strings major

Wants: to bring back the soa fashion column
Misses: Kenya Hines
You should: come to my band's gigs

LEON
STAVRINAKIS 
SOUTH CAROLINA STATE HOUSE



Emma Norton, sophomore Vocal major, went to Disney with her family.



Jack Hinske, senior Vocal major, visited Tokyo Disneyland.



Helen Traywick, 7th grade Dance major, enjoyed a weeklong, Edisto Island retreat with her extended family.



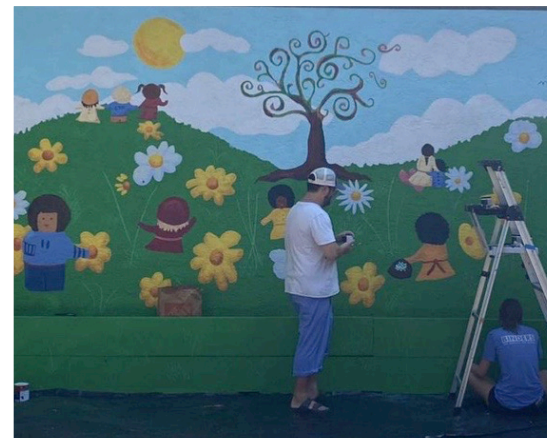
Sam Owens, junior Theater major, had a family reunion.



Ella Schrecker, junior Dance major, went on a cruise to the Bahamas.



Aveh Singletary, senior Fashion major, went camping in Korea.



Reanna Wolf, junior Visual Arts major, painted a mural for Charles Towne Montessori.



Kai Sulyma, junior Visual Arts major, visited the Philippines.

What Did SOA Do Over Summer Break?



Ethan Mallari, junior Theater major, visited the Philippines and South Korea.



Cate Traywick, junior Writing major, went to month long summer camp in Brevard, NC.



Ava Dawson, senior Visual Arts major, visited Copenhagen with her family.



Rachael Roberts-Seel, senior Piano major, packed in an elevator with her Production and Design crew on their first day of the Tisch Summer High School Program in New York!



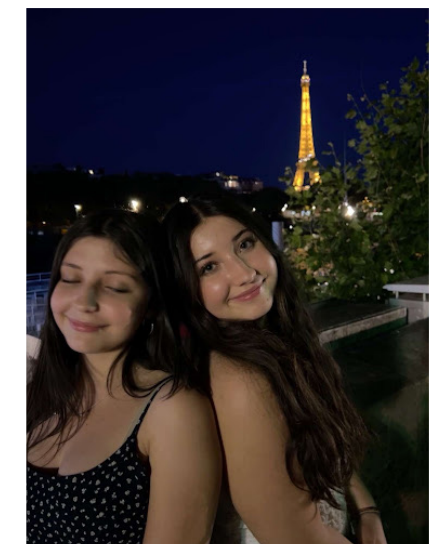
TJ Griffin, senior Writing major took a trip to Japan, where he was able to speak fluent Japanese.



Riley Borkowski, junior Strings major, spent her summer in Vermont, playing chamber music.



Vaughn and Victoria Hickerson, junior Vocal and Visual Arts majors, traveled to Italy!



Rae Caughman, junior Dance major, explored Europe with her family.

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Emmanuel Gabriel-Salazar Presented With Wesley B. Smith Memorial Piano Scholarship

On September 5, freshman Piano major Emmanuel Gabriel-Salazar was awarded the Wesley B. Smith Memorial Scholarship at SOA's open house. The scholarship was created in memory of piano major Wesley Smith, a member of SOA's graduating class of 2022, honoring Wesley's passion for music. This scholarship is granted to a deserving student each year, ensuring they can have a private teacher throughout their high school experience. "I feel blessed," said Emmanuel, who began playing piano in the seventh grade. "I learn fast," he added. The award was accompanied by a beautiful hard bound copy of *The Lives of the Great Composers*. "I'll begin by reading about Chopin, Liszt, and Beethoven," Emmanuel said, citing his favorite composers.



Emmanuel Gabriel-Salazar



Wesley B. Smith

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“Long Time No See”
by Tui Xan Tin, 11th grade



“Untitled”
by Verde Vasilevski, 6th grade



“Untitled”
by Jaella Autridge, 6th grade



“Untitled”
by Victoria Hickerson, 11th grade



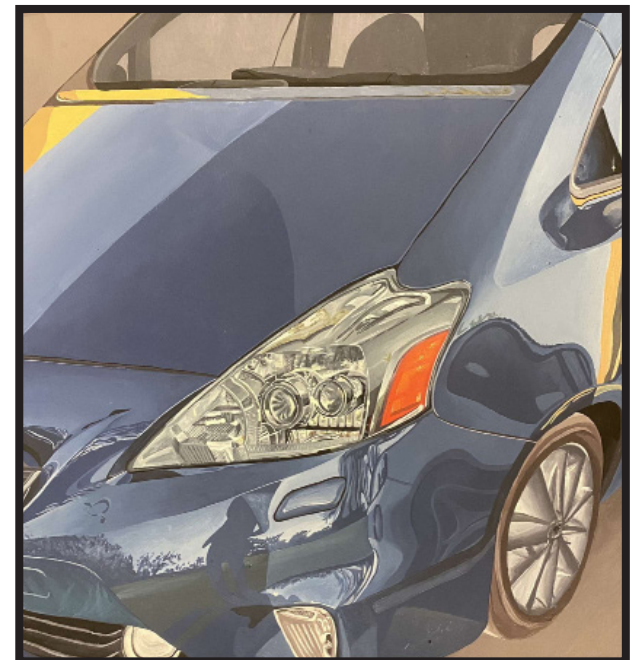
“Untitled”
by Audrey Rogers, 6th grade



“Untitled,”
by Moxie-jo Galvin, 6th grade



“Sentient”
by Audra Elm, 10th grade



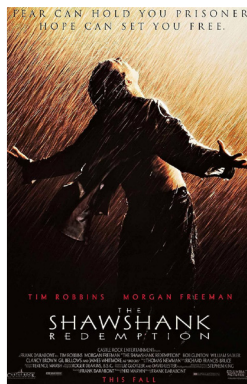
“Simon”
by Taylor Gibbes, 11th grade

Classic Movie Review: *The Shawshank Redemption*

by Ella Kay

The film *The Shawshank Redemption*, written by Stephen King and directed by Frank Darabont is an emotional masterpiece filled with themes of hope and friendship. It's an impressive King adaptation starring Tim Robbins, Bob Gunton, and Morgan Freeman. The amazing soundtrack, acting, and writing make it one of the best films of all time. It's rare for me to believe that the declared "best films of all time" are the best, but in my opinion this one lives up to its title. Some may not feel patient enough to sit through the whole two hours and twenty two minute movie, but it kept me captivated and entranced the entire time.

The protagonist Andy Dufrense played by Tim Robbins is falsely accused of murdering his wife and her lover. Living in the state of Maine the death penalty is illegal so he is sentenced to two consecutive life sentences at the infamous, gnarly Shawshank Prison. Andy, knowing he didn't commit the crime, tries to claim he didn't murder them, but no one believes him. Along his journey in the prison he met Ellis Redding or



“Red” who is played by Morgan Freeman. Red is a loyal warm hearted older man serving a 20 year sentence for murder for a crime he deeply regrets. He is known as the smuggler for the inmates and can get them anything they please.

Over the years, the two inmates create a special bond. With their dignity stripped behind the bars the two saw a light in each other that other inmates could not produce. The emotional performance of the two shows the deep respect they have for each other. They find redemption through acts of decency towards each other like trading beer for work. Red was loyal to Andy and followed his requests, eventually breaking his bail laws. The two learn that without their hopes and dreams they are nothing.

It is hard to easily summarize the movie without revealing spoilers. The way Darabont portrayed prison life is hauntingly painful, the friendship dynamics are heart touching, and the soundtrack is exhilarating. I highly recommend this movie for anyone who loves a rich, dramatic plot. I believe it to be one of the best performances each actor has given in their careers. The film ends in a deeply emotional climax that will leave you moved.

Contemporary Movie Review: *Frances Ha*

by Ruby Varallo

From dancing the night away in *Barbie* to exploring post-war life in *Little Women*, Greta Gerwig can do it all—and *Frances Ha* is no exception. Co-writer Gerwig stars as Frances, a twenty-seven-year old aspiring dancer living in New York City who faces obstacles in her career, social life, and relationship with her best friend, Sophie (Mickey Summer). Directed by Gerwig's real-life partner Noah Baumbach, *Frances Ha* serves as a beautiful reminder that the uncertainty of the future doesn't have to be daunting.

The movie opens with snippets of conversation between Frances and Sophie—an immediate immersion into a relationship where defining the two as “best friends” feels like an understatement. Throughout the movie, Frances often calls herself and Sophie the “same person,” and she isn't far off—the two share an apartment, exchange too many “I love you's” to count, and routinely muse about their perfect futures together. This makes it shocking to both Frances and the viewer when Sophie shares her plans to move out and relocate to her dream neighborhood, Tribeca, with a different friend. It's after this interaction where Frances's character really starts to develop, revealing one of the most admirable qualities of this movie: Frances's emotions feel universal. You don't have to be twenty-seven, living in New York, or an aspiring dancer to see yourself in her, because like everyone else, her determination to be happy is at the root of everything she does.

Frances moves in with her friends Lev and Benji, until her dance company tells her she's not needed for their Christmas show, leaving her unable to afford rent. I love how this movie doesn't follow a traditional narrative arc: there's not a calculated build up, climax, or fallout—rather, the viewer simply spectates as Frances's life unfolds, and the natural highs and lows that come with it. The news from her dance company is certainly a low, but with her unwavering persistence, Frances continues her search for happiness: she moves in with a fellow dancer, visits her family back in Sacramento, and on complete impulse, goes to Paris for a couple days on a credit card. She's created a false reality for herself: over the phone in Paris, she tells Sophie she's going to be a member of the dance company, and when she returns home,



she tells her dance instructor she has plenty of opportunities waiting for her. Neither of these things are true, but as the movie progresses, she does everything she can to make her fabricated life real.

In one of my favorite scenes, Frances' card gets declined on a date. She frantically dashes through the city to find an ATM, and after multiple tries and at one point tripping and falling, she makes it back to the restaurant. This scene is indicative of the entire movie: Frances faces numerous set-backs in her own life, but nothing that she can't overcome in the end. The ending of this movie is uplifting and hopeful, and the very last shot explains the title in a way that is completely up for interpretation, which is just how I like a movie to end.

All in all, this movie is fantastic, and I couldn't recommend it more. I love the black-and-white cinematography, which reminded me of French New Wave as well as Woody Allen's *Annie Hall*, but also enhanced the cinematic and romantic feel of Frances's life. In its quick eighty-six minute runtime, *Frances Ha* made me feel just about every emotion imaginable, and I will continue to return to it throughout my life for its well-developed characters, great performances, perfect score, and overall comforting feel. Bottom line? It's no coincidence that Greta and GOAT both start with the letter G.

Contemporary Movie Review: *Little Women*

by Cate Traywick

A week ago, I was planning on writing a review on *Creep*, infamous unsettling thriller by Patrick Brice, but in an effort to stay true to the Greta Gerwig theme (see Ruby Varallos' review of *Frances Ha* above), I landed on one of my most favorite movies of all time, *Little Women*. *Little Women* follows the at first tightly knit, then later, sprawling lives of four sisters, Meg, Jo, Beth, and Amy March and their respective hopes, tragedies, and successes.

Written and directed by Greta Gerwig, and starring Saoirse Ronan, Florence Pugh, Emma Watson, Laura Dern, and Timothée Chalamet, *Little Women* is the seventh film adaptation of Lousia May Alcott classic by the same name. Although the story of the coming of age of the little women is a tried and true one, this most recent adaptation rang true to the bonds of sisterhood in a way that I think the most recent adaptation (1994) didn't. Of course, this can be accredited to Gerwig, who (even more so now that *Barbie* has been released) is renowned... (continued on page 21)

(continued from page 20) ...for her films that effectively portray the essence of womanhood (*Frances Ha*, *Lady Bird*). Rather than telling the story conventionally, Gerwig chose to write a non-linear script, one that alternates between the girls' childhood and after they've grown. Although I'm automatically partial to unorthodox storytelling methods, this works quite well to tell an old story in a fresh and engrossing way.

Something so incredibly strong about this film is its willingness to accept the flaws and humanity of its characters, notably Jo and Amy, who are debatably the heart of the story. Jo March, headstrong and scholarly second-oldest sister, is determined to live for herself, and to not give her freedom away in order to be what she (as a woman) is expected to be. Amy March, youngest sister, is quite the opposite, she dreams to run away to Paris and pursue her naive dreams of being a painter, with the expectation of finding the love of her life on the way. The sisters are so fundamentally different, and throughout the film we see this time and time again, but as the story progresses, we see their mutual understanding of each other blossom into a beautiful display of what being a woman and being a sister truly is.

At its core, *Little Women* is a complex portrait of the lives of four girls as they become women. The film tackles love, loss, heartbreak, sisterhood, motherhood, womanhood and the struggles therein, and it is one that I will be watching for many years to come. Of course, to evoke the same emotions, I could always watch a movie with the same thematic elements of sisterhood, but as the George Eliot book that Jo reads aloud to Beth says, "What novelty is worth that sweet monotony where everything is known and loved because it is known?"

Classic Album Review: *Wildflowers*

by Riley Borkowski

In 1994, the release of Tom Petty's album *Wildflowers* marked a significant milestone in the musician's career. With this album, Tom Petty stepped away from his band, the Heartbreakers. The result turned out to be a collection of iconic songs that solidified his status as one of the most respected songwriters in America. *Wildflowers* is a mixture of deep

emotion and classic rock n' roll, leading it to be loved by fans today.

The title track, "Wildflowers," is a soft and melancholic acoustic song that quickly establishes the album's atmosphere right off the bat. A closer look at the lyrics reveals Petty's deeply personal feelings regarding the theme of love, longing, and discovery. In my opinion, this is the most significant track in the album. Not only does it set the stage for an intensely personal journey of self-discovery, but it also stands as a strong piece of music overall.

The iconic track, "You Don't Know How It Feels," is a bluesy and catchy tune that resonates with anyone who has experienced the ups and downs of life. In this track, Petty's vocals create an instant connection with the audience. Petty's talent for transforming his life challenges into musical forms that resonate with a broad spectrum of people is immensely inspiring to me.

"Mary Jane's Last Dance," which was included in later editions of the album, stands out as another remarkable gem. This track introduces a new eerie atmosphere to the album which sets it apart from the rest of the tracks. Petty uses his exceptional storytelling skills to portray a complex relationship, making this song both a memorable and essential part of the album.

Wildflowers stand as a classic masterpiece that offers a deep look into the personal thoughts and feelings of Tom Petty. Whether you've been a long-time Tom Petty fan, or you are just discovering his music, *Wildflowers* is a must-listen. Not only do the tracks sound amazing, but this music allows you to dive deeper into the essence of every song allowing for a connection between the music and your own experiences and feelings.

Contemporary Album Review: *Bewitched*

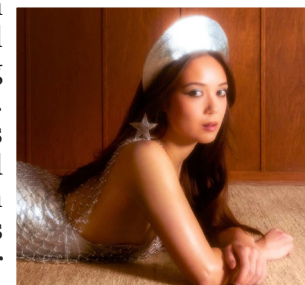
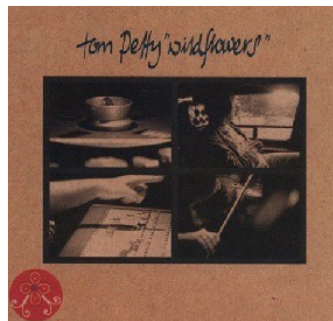
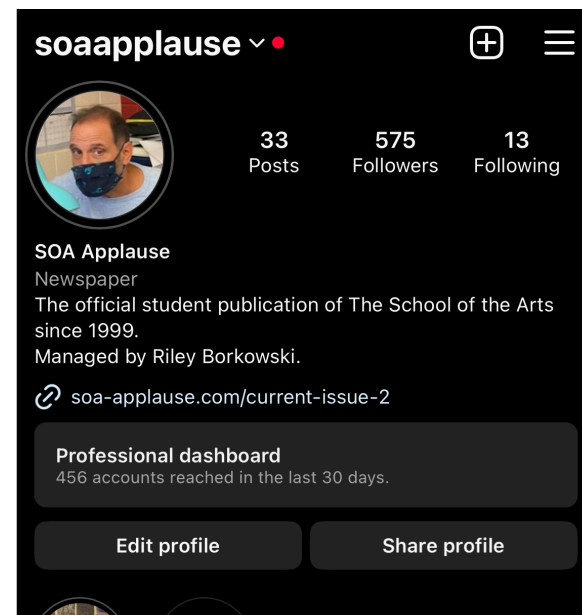
by Isis Hanna

In my opinion, Laufey is one of the best artists of our generation. She has a uniquely soft and jazzy sound that stands out among all the thoughtless pop you may hear on the radio nowadays (or maybe I'm just a hater, but who cares?) In her typical style, she really brought

it with her new album, *Bewitched*. It perfectly captures typical emotions surrounding relationships (or the lack thereof) and love that almost everyone can relate to.

The album's opener, "Dreamer", is an anthem for women who refuse to let themselves get dragged down by useless men. You go, Laufey! If you're looking for a good cry, songs like "Promise", "Second Best", and "California and Me" are for you. In these, she conveys how it feels to be left behind by a partner, feeling like you're their last priority. Or, if you want a different kind of sadness, check out "Letter To My Thirteen-Year-Old Self". It definitely got my tears flowing. I think we all wish we could go back to ourselves in middle school and tell them that everything is going to be okay. Middle school is absolutely horrid, and it's nice to know even our favorite artists feel that way, too. For you lucky ducks who are happily in love, there's "Misty", "While You Were Sleeping", or "Lovesick", which features lovely violin music by her twin sister Junia (did you know Laufey had a twin? Cool, right?). Of course, there's the classic but ever-catchy *From the Start*, and if you haven't heard by now, you must be living under a rock; but also, listen. Or better yet, binge the whole album! Let's just hope for all of our sakes that we're relating to "Bewitched" and not "Promise". Happy listening!

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SOA Homecoming 2023

Featuring the Charleston County School of the Arts Jazz Band at

Jump, Jive, & Wail

Friday, November 3, 2023

7-10 p.m.

U.S.S. Yorktown

Formal Attire

Tickets are \$50 and include admission, dinner, live music, dance & best dressed contests, & the crowning of the homecoming court.

Applause Presents "I Want My MTV" 80s Concert at The Pour House

Photos by Anna Garziera

On Saturday, May 27th, staff, students, and parents alike gathered at The Pour House to watch SOA and AMHS students perform a variety of 80s tunes.



SOA Welcomes its Newest Teachers and Staff

*Curious about the past lives of our new staff, Applause staff writers, **Elle Baker, Luciano Cusatis, Ella Kay, Braeden LaRoche, Ashley Peterson,** and **Emma Shelton** sat down with the newest staff members at SOA and asked them a few questions about their past teaching experiences, childhoods, and more!*

Ms. Alice Aldredge, Middle School Band Director

by Ella Kay

Ella Kay: What classes are you teaching this year?

Alice Aldredge: I am teaching all the middle school band classes and a high school chamber winds class.

EK: Where did you work prior to SOA?

AA: My previous job was in DD2 at River Oaks Middle School. Prior to that position I taught middle and high school band for 29 years in several school districts in NC.

EK: How long have you been involved in the education program, and how long have you been teaching?

AA: I have 34 years of teaching experience.

EK: If you were a student at SOA, what major would you be drawn to?

AA: Band! I knew in the 7th grade that I was going to be a band director. I never changed my mind about my decision and so thankful that my parents enrolled me in my elementary school band program.

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

AA: There are so many moments that have touched my heart, and each one of them keeps me motivated to continue to teach each year. Social media has been a great vehicle to help me keep in touch with students that I taught many years ago. Some of the most fulfilling moments are seeing those students now, living their best life as productive adults, parenting their own children and watching their children



Ms. Aldredge

Lucy Cromwell

participate in band at their respective schools. These full circle moments mean the world to me.

Mr. Greg Durishan, High School Computer Science Teacher

by Luciano Cusatis

Luciano Cusatis: What classes are you teaching this year?

Greg Durishan: I am teaching 5 classes of Discovering Computer Science and 1 class of AP Computer Science.

LC: Where did you grow up, and what drew you to SOA?

GD: I grew up outside Philadelphia PA, and was drawn to SOA from my experiences substituting all over the CCSD. Every member of the staff without exception has always been tremendously kind to me, and the kids are fascinating people with talents that far surpass me. I delight in their achievements and am happy to have a chance to share with them my love for my own area of expertise.

LC: Where did you attend college and what degree did you earn?

GD: I graduated with a degree in Computer Science - Software Development from a little private college called Florida Tech or the Florida Institute of Technology, founded by NASA engineers in the early days of the Kennedy Space Center, and still geared towards careers in the aerospace industry.

LC: Where did you work prior to SOA?

GD: I often worked short term jobs for companies. I would come in, design a solution to a problem, get buy-in from those involved on the design, create the software, and then train a more permanent employee on how to change the oil and rotate the tires to keep it working well after I was gone. One of my more interesting roles was at the major newspaper for the Milwaukee area, making the publicly-facing website. Another interesting one was at a mortgage lender, making the tool the lenders used to calculate rates, produce documents to issue the loans, and manage the workflow of creating a loan from start to finish.

LC: What interests do you have outside of your subject, and how do you like to pursue them?



Mr. Durishan

Lucy Cromwell

GD: I have far more interests than enough lives in which to pursue them all. It's hard to even whittle the list down, but common top-contenders are history, science (All of them! Computers and cosmology especially), and animation. My Youtube subscriptions are for things like space, history, chemistry, technology, math, video games, and cartoons.

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

Not particularly. Just that I very much appreciate everyone's support and patience as I take on this new career and learn to be the best teacher I can be.

Welcoming Back Mr. Robert Grant, former Middle School Principal

by Elle Baker

Elle Baker: Where did you grow up, and what drew you to SOA?

Robert Grant: I grew up in NYC and attended The LaGuardia HS of the Arts. Being at SOA reminds me of my very own High School experience.

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

RG: Fordham University, Mercy and Lehman Colleges. Bachelor of Arts, Masters of Science & Masters of Ed.

EB: Where did you work prior to coming back to SOA?

RG: CE Williams

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

RG: I interned for The Geraldo Rivera Show while in college. That was a nationally syndicated TV talk show and I got to see first hand how the production team orchestrated the show. That was my first real job that required me to learn how to multitask. Of course getting the production team coffee and doughnuts was one of my morning priorities :) But nothing beats teaching!!! I was hooked when I first stepped into a classroom because



Mr. Grant

Lucy Cromwell

the sense of purpose it gave me was unrivaled by anything else. Being a difference maker for students was far too enticing to look elsewhere.

EB: What books or movies have meant a lot to you? What do you like about them?

RG: As far as books go I'm into thrillers. I like twists and turns in a plot. The movie "Till" has been the most powerful film I've seen in recent years.

Ms. Amy Hills, Middle School Resource

by Emma Shelton

Emma Shelton: Where did you grow up and what drew you to SOA?

Amy Hills: I am from Charleston but have lived in three other states. Two of my three wonderful children are students at SOA. I fell in love with SOA on our very first tour with Mr. Younts five years ago and I had no idea I would end up working here. Lucky me!

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

AH: This is my first year as a full-time teacher although I have been on campus for a couple of years as a substitute teacher and helping Mrs. Sylvia out in the admissions office.

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

AH: Well most importantly, I am a mom to three super cool humans. I love spending time with my kids and supporting them in all of their unique passions and endeavors. I am also a songwriter. I love performing and seeing live music. I was a Theatre major in college and my professional (work) background is in technical theatre and production management. One of my remaining passions from that career is building props and scenery. I help with SOA Theater's props and scenery as much as possible.

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

AH: I really love being a helper, it brings me so much joy. So this job is perfect for me! I get to go into classes and help teachers and students all day!

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

AH: Stop by anytime and say hello! All are



Amy Hills

Lucy Cromwell

welcome.

Hailee Potter, Visual Arts Teacher

by Braeden LaRoche

Braeden LaRoche: Where did you grow up and what drew you to SOA?

Hailee Potter: I grew up in Woodbury, Minnesota where I spent the first nineteen years of my life. I was not a fan of the cold and snow, so I knew this would not be my forever home. I moved to Savannah, GA in 2014 to attend SCAD for my MFA Photography program. I heard about SOA when I picked up substitute teaching after a recent move to Charleston! It was a lunch duty day when I met Zoe Roff, and she encouraged me to submit my materials to admin, then I was called in for a long-term sub-replacement in Visual Arts and the rest just took off from there!

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

HP: I have been involved in education since 2009. I started student teaching in high school and continued throughout my collegiate career. I officially took over the classroom in 2018 and have been teaching since in Georgia, England, and South Carolina.

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

HP: I was an Art Professor at Pensacola State College in Pensacola, Florida before relocating to Charleston, South Carolina in January 2023.

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

HP: The art classroom is where I learned to be the best version of myself. In high school, I had two excellent teachers who encouraged me to be the person and artist that I am today. No matter what was happening, I was always excited to be in the art room and make art. I took as many art classes as I could growing up and I knew being an art teacher was what I wanted to do. Since then, I have worked very hard to get to where I am today!

BL: What do you want most students to take away from your class?



Hailee Potter

Lucy Cromwell

HP: Teaching is not a job, it's a way of life. I have the power to change the world of those who come into my classroom. In life, we do not remember everything that was taught to us, but we remember how it was taught. We remember how our teachers treated us and how they impacted our future. I want to be the teacher that students seek advice and guidance from twenty years down the road. My student's success is as critical as my own success. I will share my knowledge with students and impact their lives in a powerful, positive, and enthusiastic way through art!

Josie Oakley, High School Social Studies Teacher

by Ashley Peterson

Ashley Peterson: What classes will you be teaching this year?

Josie Oakley: AP Government and Politics; Sociology

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

JO: I've taught everything from sixth through twelfth grade, everything but economics. I've learned as a teacher your passion about your subject area is just as important as the passion you have for creating relationships and support for your students.

AP: What drew you to SOA and what are you most excited for?

JO: I LOVE the arts! It's exciting to be in a school with diverse, passionate students! I'm also looking forward to the many different performances that will take place!

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

JO: How to enjoy history and the real world importance it has on their daily lives. History, any social science actually, is so relevant to use understanding the things we do and why we do them!

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

JO: I began with teacher cadet as a high school student and fell in love with teaching history. This is my 18th year of teaching.



Josie Oakley

Lucy Cromwell

Back to School Styles

by Isabella Pineda

Every school year brings an entirely new assortment of fashion styles, trends, and outfits. With that being said, I wanted to highlight the back to school styles of SOA students from these past few weeks. From cargo pants to earth tones to baggy denim pieces, it seems that everyone has made “dress to impress” their motto for this year.



AMHS Raptors Upcoming Football Games

by Cate Traywick

September 22nd AMHS vs Northwood Academy, 7:30, Northwood Academy

October 6th AMHS vs Timberland High School, 7:30, District 4 Stadium

October 13th AMHS vs Oceanside Collegiate Academy, 7:30, Ravenel Stadium

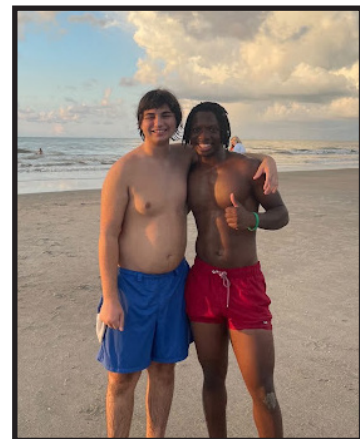
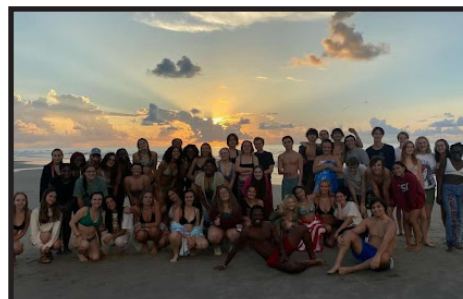
October 20th AMHS vs Lake Marion High School, 7:30, Lake Marion High School

October 27th AMHS vs Bishop England High School, 7:30, District 4 Stadium

Senior Sunrise

Photos by SOA Students

On Sunday, September 10th, the seniors celebrated their final year of high school by waking up early and watching the sunrise on Folly Beach as a class.





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Justin Gilliard



Justin, you continue to amaze us.
Congratulations on your graduation from Basic
Training!
Such a huge accomplishment and we are super
proud of you.

Love, Dad, Mom and Juvon



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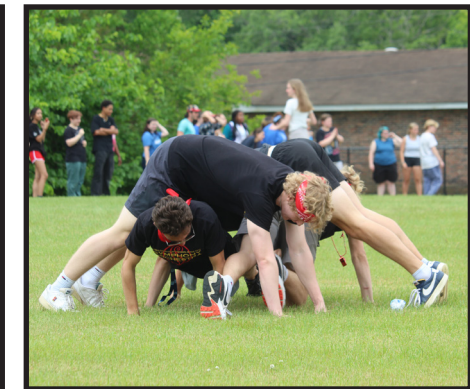
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Seniors Celebrate Their Last Day of High School on May 19th

Photos by Applause Staff

On Friday, May 19th, SOA Seniors celebrated their final day of High School by participating in the "Senior Challenge", as well as parading around school in their caps and gowns.



Horoscopes

by Cate Traywick



♍ Virgo (August 23 - September 22)- As your (astrological) season draws to a close, your favorite (calendar) season is finally about to begin. Whip out your cozy flannels and dark wash jeans because autumn is finally here! These next few months you will be indisputably in your element as you channel your inner Rory Gilmore by reading classics, drinking coffee, and wearing cable-knit sweaters.

♎ Libra (September 23 - October 22)- Oh Libra, just because you were labeled as “Gifted and Talented” when you were seven, doesn’t mean that you never have to work. At this point, you’ve been relying on making up your own history, writing random numbers down, or simply just choosing C. At one point or another you’re going to have to consider working (maybe).

♏ Scorpio (October 23 - November 21)- Cancer is allowed be a jerk because they’re the sign of the crab, but you Scorpio, have no buisness being this crabby. Take a deep breath and take some time for yourself. My suggestion? Row out onto a sunlit pond and spend a few hours reading french poetry and wax philosophical. Or be lame and do your homework.

♐ Sagittarius (November 22 - December 21)- Oh Sagittarius, you’ll truly do anything if it means that you won’t have to do your work. It’s almost as if you have a to-do list of internet games to play before you even consider paying attention. Wordle, Contexto, New York Times Mini, and you’ve even been dabbling in Sudoku! Don’t worry Sagittarius, there’s absolutely no judgment here. Who needs to be good at calculus? Your time on last Thursday’s Mini was twenty-three seconds!!

♑ Capricorn (December 22 - January 20)- Capricorn I don’t know what on earth you did this summer, but you clearly went on an odyssey, because you have truly come back to school a completely changed person. Since you had such an action-packed summer, for the next nine months expect nothing but uneventful school day after uneventful school day. But don’t worry dear Capricorn, there’s always next year!

♒ Aquarius (January 21 - February 18)- I have to say Aquarius, you’re everyone’s most interesting friend. You’ve always got something going on! I’ve seen you at nine of the last ten social events that I’ve been to, and one of them was out of the state! You’re crazy, Aquarius, and everyone should appreciate you for it.

♓ Pisces (February 19 - March 20)- It’s only September Pisces and it seems that you’re already completely burnt out. Turns out that you’ve never taken an actually challenging class in your life, because this year you have started with failing grades, and if you don’t shape up then you are 100% going to end the year with failing grades. Don’t worry Pisces, only 164 days left.

♈ Aries (March 21 - April 19)- You know those tik toks that are like “Dating apps aren’t working, time to look confused in a REI”. I know that these videos are just kidding, but honestly Aries, at this point, it might be your best bet. But if REI doesn’t reflect your type, maybe go look confused in a Barnes and Noble, or better yet, a Home Depot. Worst comes to worst an employee asks you what they can do to help.

♉ Taurus (April 20 - May 20)- It’s September, Taurus, which means it’s that time of year where the novelty of your new classes has long since worn off. You may find yourself with several unused notebooks, a planner that you wrote (maybe) three assignments down in, and a long list of upcoming tests and quizzes that you definitely need to (but definitely won’t) study for. That’s alright Taurus, you’re not the only one.

♊ Gemini (May 21 - June 20)- Gemini! Your moon is rising! The planets are unaligned! Mercury is in retrograde or whatever! I don’t know anything about astrology. But what I do know is that you are going to have several increasingly awkward encounters with that person in the coming weeks. Maybe just avoid them? Don’t take it too hard, Gemini, we’ve all been there.

♋ Cancer (June 21 - July 22)- Oh you’re so cool, Cancer: coming into class late, wearing your earbuds, and drinking some obscenly sugary “coffee” 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.

♌ Leo (July 23 - August 22)- I’ll be honest Leo, this upcoming month is your slump. All summer long you’ve been a beach-going, tanned goddess, and now that you aren’t getting your six hours in the sun everyday, everything is going to be just a little bit worse. But lets look on the brightside, at least you won’t be getting horrifically sunburnt on a daily basis.

Banned Books Trivia

by Lucy Cromwell and Braeden LaRoche

1. Which level of the U.S. government cannot ban books from being sold, published, and distributed?
2. Which 1960 novel won the Pulitzer Prize for its critique of racism and injustice in the U.S. South but was also banned in many schools supposedly for its racist and vulgar language?
3. Which book was banned in several schools in the U.S. because of the “anti-Biblical” nature of talking animals?
4. Which popular children’s series holds the title for most-banned children’s series in the U.S.?
5. Which author, praised for her depiction of the Black American experience in novels such as *The Song of Solomon*, has had many of her books banned in schools throughout the U.S.?
6. Which popular document from the Second World War has been banned in many schools for being “a real downer?”
7. Which U.S. state has banned the most books throughout its school districts?
8. In 2018, Charleston County schools challenged which novel due to anti-police rhetoric, profanity, and violence?
9. Which seminal work of the Beat generation of poetry had copies seized by the U.S. government for being “obscene?”
10. Which young-adult book by John Green has been frequently banned by U.S. schools but is also often in high-school English curriculums.

Jessie Johnson, Senior Creative Writing major



Provided

7/10

1. Federal
2. *To Kill a Mockingbird*
3. *Animal Farm*
4. *Captain Underpants*
5. Toni Morrison
6. The Diary of Anne Frank
7. Florida
8. *The Hate U Give*
9. “Howl”
10. *Turtles All the Way Down*

Audra Elm, Sophomore Visual Arts major



Braeden LaRoche

5/10

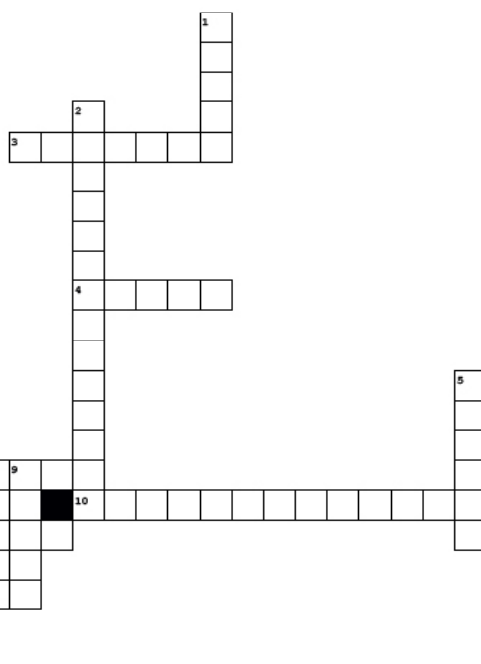
1. Executive
2. *To Kill a Mockingbird*
3. *Charlotte’s Web*
4. *Harry Potter*
5. Alice Walker
6. The Diary of Anne Frank
7. Alabama
8. *The Hate U Give*
9. *On the Road*
10. *The Fault in Our Stars*

Answers

10. Looking for Alaska
 1. Federal/national 2. *To Kill a Mockingbird* 3. *Charlotte’s Web* 4. *Captain Underpants* 5. Toni Morrison 6. Anne Frank’s *A Diary of a Young Girl* 7. Texas 8. *The Hate U Give* 9. “Howl”

Creative Writing Crossword

by Luciano Cusatis



Across

3. Passage structure of prose
4. Poem with 575 syllable pattern
8. A story of someone’s life
10. Poet who wrote “The Raven”
11. A true story
12. Poet known for his sonnets

Down

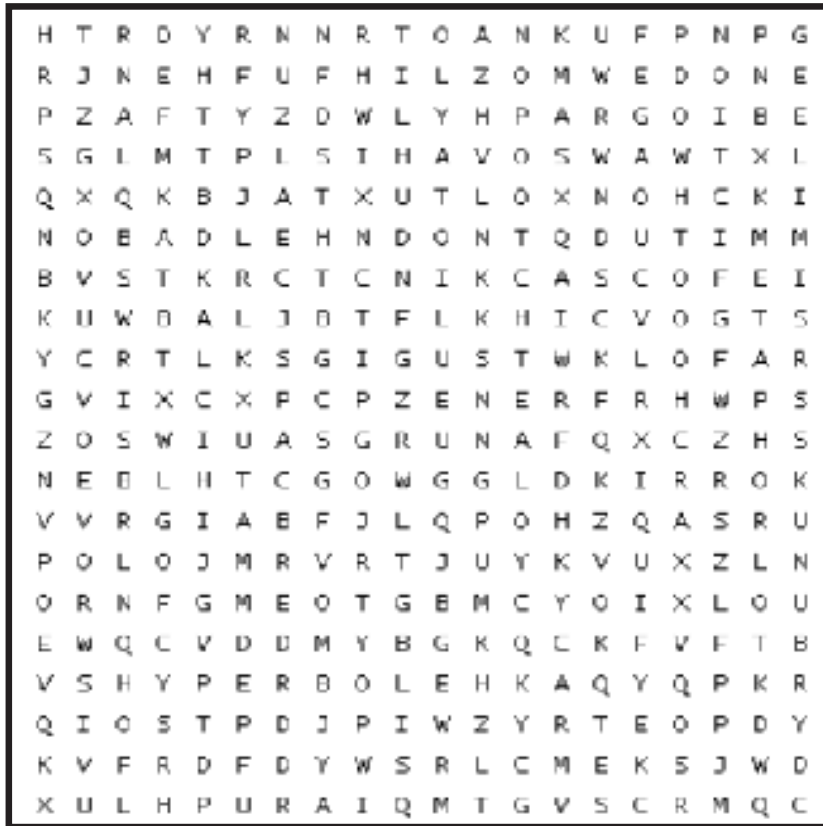
1. Author of Greek Epics *The Odyssey* and *The Iliad*
2. American poet visiting SOA this month
5. 14 line poem
6. One of the most important female poets
7. Passage structure of poetry
9. opposite of poetry

September Playlist

by Ella Kay

Music to help alleviate those post-summer blues





Creative Writing Word Search

by Luciano Cusatis

- Alliteration
- Prose
- Fiction
- Chapter
- Memoir
- Hyperbole
- Poetry
- Personification
- Biography
- Simile
- Foreshadowing
- Metaphor

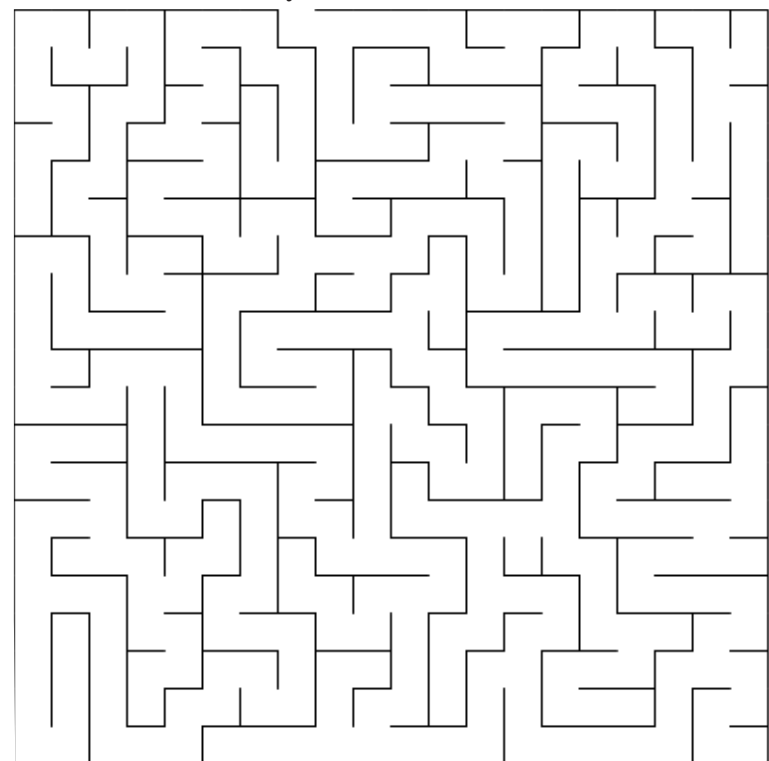
SOA Sudoku

by Luciano Cusatis

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

Help Ms. Hart find her book!

by Luciano Cusatis





“Friends.”

Yolanda Wu, 6th grade Piano



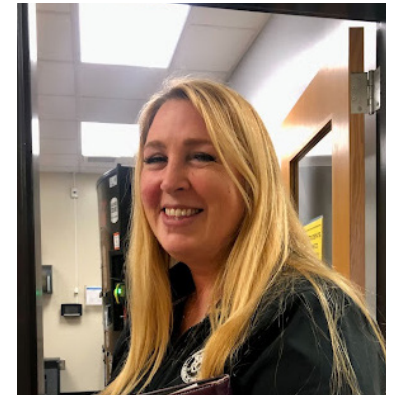
“Probably doing new things in my major.”

Lila Estees, 7th grade Band



“Going on band trips.”

London Lemus, 8th grade Band



“All the cool community building events this year.”

Dr. Cook, Principal



“See the amazing garments my students will create for the fashion show.”

Ms. Cheseborough, Fashion Design Teacher

What are you most excited for this school year?

by Isis Hanna and Isabella Pineda



“Labs.”

Ms. Rumph, High School Biology/Physics Teacher



“The holiday concert.”

Ava Wolf, 9th grade Band



“More classes to take in theater.”

Annika Baran, 10th grade Theater



“Powderpuff.”

Birdie Kersting, 11th grade Theater



“Graduation...or wait prom.”

Autumn Lawyer, 12th grade Theater