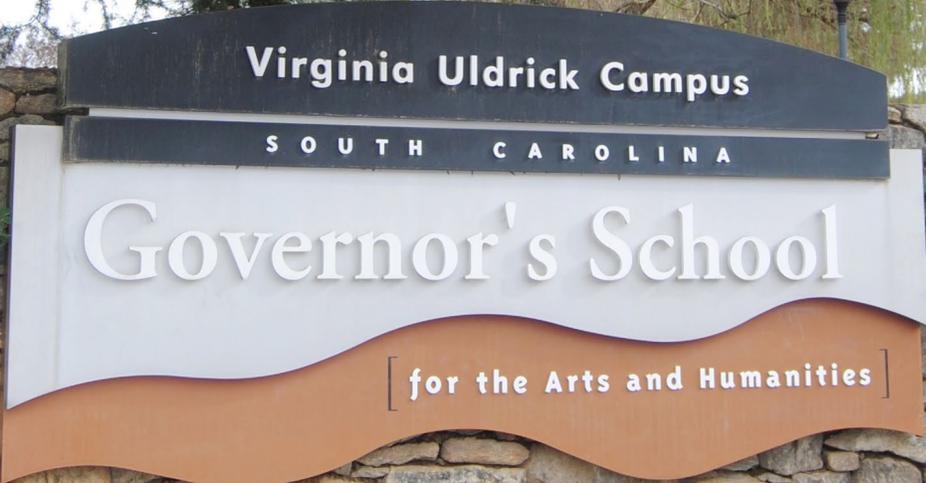


January 2019

# ALUMNI NEWS

at the  
Governor's School



SC Governor's School  
for the Arts and Humanities

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## About the Cover

*The entrance sign to campus was beautifully decorated for the 2018 holiday season.*



After three years as Chair of the Alumni Advisory Council, I will be stepping down and handing the reins over to other excellent alumni.

In reflecting on my time as Chair, I've ended up getting back to the heart of the matter: reflecting on my time as a student at SCGSAH. My time at SCGSAH was two of the most cherished years of my life. My story is one that many of you share: I found my people. I not only flourished and was given so many opportunities academically and artistically, but I felt I had found my clan—all the other weird, artsy outcasts were concentrated in this one place, and I finally felt that I was accepted for who I was and could truly express myself.

I know that this is a story that many of you share, as it's one I have heard echoed over and over from both my classmates and the many of you I have connected with at alumni events. That time shaped each of us in some way and, at least for me, shaped much of my future after Governor's School. Through being a part of the Alumni Advisory Council, first as a member and then as Chair, I have reconnected with the school's mission and how the school continues to grow. It is exciting to see that the program that shaped me continues to grow and shape other artists that will make their own way in the world. I have also reunited with friends that I had long lost touch with, which is such a treasure. It is always a gift to see how my classmates and other Govies are making an impact on the world.

I encourage each of you to stay involved with the school, whether by attending alumni events, becoming a class agent, joining the Alumni Advisory Council, or just dropping by campus to say hello. The connections I have made and continue to make through Governor's School inspire me to be a better person and a better artist. In this way, SCGSAH continues to shape my life in a positive way. I hope you will stay involved and that it will continue to do the same for you.

Laura Nevitt  
Music, Class of 2003  
SCGSAH Alumni Advisory Chair



# From the. President

Dear Alumni,

Happy New Year and greetings from the Governor's School! I hope that you had a very Merry Christmas and that your new year is as happy as ever. After completing a fantastic fall semester (highlighted by a bit of snow!), we are certainly off to a great start of the 2019 spring semester on the campus in Greenville.

I'm pleased to inform you that Ovation, the nation's only arts network, joined Spectrum TV earlier in the year to recognize and award the Governor's School with \$10,000 as part of their Stand for the Arts joint initiative. The award is dedicated to supporting local arts, cultural, and educational organizations and works to reinforce the value that local arts organizations bring to communities across the nation. In addition to the award and donation, Spectrum developed a public service announcement highlighting the Governor's School and our student accomplishments on their network.

We also recently announced that South Carolina's Premier Student Ballet Competition, Grand Jete, will be hosted by the Governor's School in the spring of this year. Ballet students ages 10-19 will have the opportunity to compete by division and win cash prizes totaling \$7,500. They may also qualify for scholarships and opportunities such as summer dance intensives and collegiate dance programs.

We were pleased to host our first Presidential Guest Artist of the school year in November by presenting LINES Ballet founder and critically acclaimed choreographer Alonzo King on November 8. He has been called a visionary choreographer who is altering the way we look at ballet and was described by the *New York Times* as having "astonishing originality." As part of a two-day residency, Mr. King presented master classes and movement experiences with students. He also participated in an outreach opportunity with the orchestral students from Wade Hampton High School, our outreach partner for the event.

Our annual collaborative recruitment event with the Governor's School for Science and Mathematics, Two Paths to the Top, continues to be a major success for both campuses. As we have done in the past, this joint information session for prospective students and their families was held simultaneously at four sites throughout the state in Columbia, Florence, Greenville, and Charleston. The event provided opportunities for families to learn more about both schools and has been an extremely valuable experience in demonstrating the collaborative spirit among our faculty, staff, and administrative teams.

Although there have been considerable delays resulting from varied weather conditions and blasting away rock that was hidden below the surface, construction continues with the new music building. With foundation work and walls taking shape, we are making visible progress and anticipate the project to be completed in August of 2019.

Please stay connected with us throughout the year with the many new opportunities available through social media, live events, or campus visits. We would love to see you at a performance or presentation on the campus and certainly at any of our alumni initiatives. Thank you for your continued support, and I hope to see you in the New Year!

Sincerely,



Cedric L. Adderley, D.M.A.  
President

# ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

1. Where were you born? **I was born in Greenville, SC.**
2. What one thing really makes your day?  
**Having a feeling of purpose in my everyday life and chocolate cheesecake.**
3. What is your favorite movie?  
**I don't really have a favorite movie. I love binge-watching all of the *American Horror Story* seasons.**
4. Is your desk messy or neat?  
**Messy, but I know where everything is.**
5. What was your first job? **Publix Supermarket cashier.**
6. What is your favorite thing about Greenville?  
**My favorite thing is the community. There is so much to do here. I work in nonprofit, and I get to see all the individuals that come together to make our community amazing.**
7. What was your major in college? **Theatre.**
8. What book is on your nightstand?  
**A basket with my favorite pens and a journal.**
9. What is your favorite comfort food?  
**Kilwin's Double Chocolate Fudge in downtown Greenville.**
10. What is your favorite gadget?  
**I gotta be honest. It's my phone.**
11. What is your idea of a dream vacation?  
**Anywhere that I can go by myself and explore culture and history.**
12. What is the "coolest" Govie experience you have ever had?  
**The coolest experience was being in Greenville to see Dr. Uldrick's vision come to life. I got to be there for her wonderful speeches and the encouragement she gave all of us.**
13. What is your favorite thing to cook? **Brownies.**
14. How did you meet your spouse/partner?  
**I met my husband at Mars Hill University when we were in the Theatre program.**
15. What advice would you give to a current Govie?  
**Take as many pictures as possible. I'm one of the old ones, so we didn't have iPhones. I did carry around a camera, but I still wish I had more photos.**
16. Are you a good dancer? **I can move.**
17. Do you prefer the mountains or the beach?  
**I prefer the mountains. I went to Mars Hill University in the Appalachian Mountains. I fell in love with rural Appalachia. I learned so much about the culture while living and working there. The atmosphere is like no other. It's as if you feel the age and wisdom of the mountains when you breathe in that crisp air. The weather can be harsh at times, but it is breathtaking.**
18. What do you miss most about SCGSAH?  
**I miss the feeling of community. Everyone was so supportive. College had a sense of competition that was not healthy at times. When I was at SCGSAH it was as if**

**we were all novices learning together. We were the artists from our communities that came together to learn all that we could about our art.**

19. What #hashtag best describes you? **#feminism.**
20. On what television show would you most like to be a character/contestant? ***American Horror Story*.**
21. If you could have any superpower which would it be?  
**I would have Magneto's powers to move metal so I could move cars out of the way when I'm stuck in traffic.**
22. How did your Governor's School experience and education impact you?  
**The Governor's School gave me the chance to know where my place is in the world. I always knew I was an artist and that I wanted my life to involve art, but I had no clue how to do that before I got into the school. Keep in mind I graduated in 2002 and the school was very new. We were not yet aware of what benefits we were going to get from being a graduate of SCGSAH. I received the guidance and support that I would not have gotten at my local high school. The public school system was very lacking in arts classes. We hardly had any clubs or school plays. Dr. Uldrick gave this state an amazing gift. Those of us who were fortunate enough to participate got the most rewards.**

## ABOUT AUTI

Autumn Massey Shearin is a Greenville, South Carolina, native and attended Travelers Rest High School. She graduated from the South Carolina Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities vocal performance program in 2002. She is also a current member of the Alumni Advisory Board for the South Carolina Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities. She loves to give back to the organizations and communities that helped to shape her love of art.

Auti continued her education at Mars Hill University where she obtained a B.A. in Theatre Arts. There she was a member of the National Theatre Fraternity, Alpha Psi Omega, and a member of the chamber singers The Show Stoppers. She has performed for many years and has worked at numerous professional theatres in the south as a stage manager, actor, and director.

Regional Credits include Production Stage Manager for Southern Appalachian Repertory Theatre, Parkway Playhouse, and Temple Theatre. At these theatres she has managed and directed over twenty professional productions, which include *Annie*, *Kiss Me Kate*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Look Homeward Angel*, and *Side by Side by Sondhiem*. One of her proudest credits is Production Manager of *Love Letters* starring Pat Hingle and Betsy Palmer at Southern Appalachian Repertory theatre. Her last stage performance was as Shelby in the Asheville Community Theatre production of *Spitfire Grill*.

Most recently, Auti founded the Limelight Players, a theatre guild in Travelers Rest, South Carolina. Auti's passions are arts, nonprofit management, and her two beautiful daughters, Sophia and Maggie.



**AUTISHEARIN**

# KEEP YOUR EYE ON THESE GOVIES!



This holiday season the Kansas City Ballet featured 2004 Dance alumna [Whitney Huell](#) as the sugar plum fairy in *The Nutcracker!* Whitney is the first African American ballerina in the Kansas City Ballet to take on the lead role.



2013 Dance alum **Anson Zwingelberg** was recently featured in the Charlotte Ballet's [#SpotlightSeries](#). Anson attended The Juilliard School before joining the Charlotte Ballet.



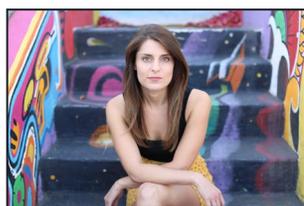
When the touring production of *Hamilton* came to the Peace Center in December, our Drama alum ('12) **Wonza Johnson** performed the lead role of Alexander Hamilton. In this article from [The Greenville News](#), Wonza talks about his work as an understudy and his Governor's School training.



2008 Music alum **Maggie Gould** performed with legendary opera singer Andrea Bocelli and son Matteo Bocelli on the *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert* in October. The performance featured a song from Mr. Bocelli's album *Si* which is being featured in the film *The Nutcracker and The Four Realms*. Watch the performance [here](#).



2009 Music alum **Ben Chen** was recently interviewed as the newly-appointed assistant principal clarinetist of the Kennedy Center Opera House Orchestra. During his interview, he gave a special shout out to the Governor's School and Dr. Kyra Zhang when asked about his training.



The short film *Holly Goes To Therapy*, written by 2004 Drama alumna **Cat Ventura**, was screened at the 2018 Reedy Reels Film Festival in November. Produced by award-winning writer/director/producer Assaf Ben Shetrit and shot by cinematographer David

Y. Chung, the short focuses on a troubled young woman who reluctantly agrees to a therapy session from an unconventional therapist.

The film features puppetry design by Janie Geiser, production design by Efren Delgadillo, Jr., and stars Nikki McCauley, who has appeared on *Maron*, *Better Things*, *The Office*, and *The Last Word* with Shirley MaLaine and Hugo Armstrong fresh off *Roman J. Israel, Esq.*, *Lucky*, and HBO's *Room 104*.



**Kyle Peck** (Music, 2015) has won a position as a trombonist with the US Army's "Pershing's Own" Ceremonial Band, the elite Army performance unit permanently stationed in Washington DC. Pershing's Own is tasked with performing for all services and ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery as well as performing at the White House, for visiting Heads of State, and for Pentagon and State Department functions. Kyle has been enrolled at the New England Conservatory of Music, where he is in his Senior year. After completing basic training, Kyle will hold the rank of Sergeant and reside in the Washington DC area.



2018 Visual Arts alum **Takumi Segi**, who is currently attending the School of Visual Arts in NYC, participated in the Dashing Through New York Christmas exhibition at 75 Rockefeller Plaza. For this group project, he had the honor of working under the direction of 3D artist Kevin O'Callaghan, whose client list includes Michael Jackson and Madonna.

## DEPARTMENTAL & CAMPUS NEWS



In October the Governor's School was chosen by [Ovation TV](#) as a 2018 Stand for the Arts award recipient. This is a national award granted based on three criteria: level of community outreach and engagement, ability to create inclusive access to artistic programming, and innovative approach to arts education and skills. To learn more about Ovation TV and the award, click [here](#).



We were excited to welcome 2007 alumna **Paola Torres-Ruiz** back on campus in October. [Paola](#) was featured in the exhibition *Ecos: Resonances of South Carolina Latino Stories*, along with Dalia Delanuez, Yelitza Diaz, and Diana Farfan. *Ecos* (Echoes) is a collaborative multimedia

art exhibition featuring the stories of Latino immigrants interpreted by a select group of 20 Latino South Carolina visual artists. For more information about the exhibit, visit the website.



In October 2018, Dance alum **Rush Johnston** was honored by the National Dance Education Organization (NDEO) at their conference in San Diego for receiving the Honorable Mention NDEO Leadership and Academic Achievements Award. Rush also performed *Nothingness*, a solo she created for our 2018 Senior Dance Showcase. Dance Department Chair Josée Garant was in attendance to support Rush.

We're thrilled to announce that we have *four* 2019 [YoungArts](#) winners! This is a huge national honor for teenage artists who join an amazing network of YoungArts alumni and gain access to incredible artistic development opportunities, among other exciting prospects. Finalists are invited to YoungArts Week in Miami in January, and all winners can participate in regional programs. Congratulations to these talented young artists!

- Rowan Brown**, Creative Non-Fiction Finalist
- Haley Gavin**, Writing, Short Story Merit Winner
- Kennedy Jackson**, Theater Finalist
- Kushbu Jivan**, Photography Finalist



Creative Writing senior **Maggie Olszewski** was the only American to be selected by [The Poetry Society](#) as one of 15 Foyle Young [#Poets](#) (out of 6,000 participants). Learn more about this talented young writer in this [Greenville Journal](#) interview.



Internationally-recognized Canadian choreographer **Mark Godden** spent two weeks in October leading master ballet classes and working on new choreography with our Dance students. Godden also choreographed an original work specifically designed for our junior and senior dancers.



Italian trumpet virtuoso **Ivano Ascari** spent some time with our wind ensemble who performed with him on October 23 at the [Peace Center's](#) Gunter Theatre. Mr. Ascari is a Pathways Guest Artist.



In December some of our juniors and seniors received their Governor's School rings in an intimate ceremony featuring 2016 Music alumna **Zoe Kushubar**. Zoe shared with the group how her Govie experience prepared her for college life and then gave the closing performance.

SCGSAH will host the state's premier student dance competition, **Grand Jeté**, on March 2, 2019. Ballet students ages 10-19 are invited to compete for cash prizes, take master classes, and gain valuable feedback from internationally-recognized dance professionals! Learn more and register now at [www.scgsah.org/grand-jete](http://www.scgsah.org/grand-jete).



## Retirement

Congratulations to **Marian Hyslop** on her recent retirement. We are deeply appreciative of her 8 years of service to the Governor's School and wish her a happy and healthy retirement. Marian is looking forward to traveling and spending time with her grandchildren.

## Hamilton Comes to the Peace Center!

In December of 2017, we were excited to share the news that 2012 Drama alumnus **Wonza Johnson** was going to be part of the tour cast of the award-winning musical *Hamilton*. The national tour of the musical began in February 2018 at Seattle's Paramount Theatre and continued on to cities all across the country, finally making its way to Greenville in December.

The arrival of *Hamilton* brought so much excitement to Greenville and to the Governor's School. The December 11th performance was an especially exciting night for the Governor's School family as Wonza played the lead role of Alexander Hamilton. The evening was particularly special for our Drama faculty, who had the opportunity to see the student they trained only six years ago perform the lead. Not only were faculty members in attendance, but thanks to a very generous donor, four students were selected via lottery to attend the performance of *Hamilton* and see Wonza.

While in Greenville, Wonza took some time out of his incredibly busy *Hamilton* schedule to do a Q&A session with our Drama Department. He talked about his Governor's School experience, college life, and his acting career. It's always so meaningful when our Govies have the opportunity to learn directly from those who have been in their shoes.



# ALONZO

Balancing the head, mind, and heart...



In November, we welcomed Alonzo King to campus as part of our Presidential Guest Artist Series. His company, Alonzo King LINES Ballet, is celebrating its 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary in San Francisco, and his choreography has been hailed for its "astonishing originality" by the *New York Times*. King's approach is also collaborative and crosses disciplinary lines in powerful and interesting ways. He has said, "Everything is a collaboration," and his work is filled with examples of the musical, visual, and even scientific principles that make for powerful dance and theater.

During his two-day residency, King gave master classes in dance, drama, and music. He also worked with string students from Wade Hampton High School as part of our Outreach program. A movement class for musicians—Ms. Dey was so happy! A highlight for all Govies was his Humanities Why-Day presentation. His talk included a demo with three (very brave)

dancers, and a panel of students from all five art departments followed up with questions. Afterwards, he signed books (a stunning collection of photographs featuring his dancers and short writings) and talked with students one-on-one with a seemingly-endless reserve of kindness, generosity, encouragement, and focus. He really paid attention to each student who engaged with him, which was a rare and wonderful gift.

Whatever the venue, Mr. King taught and demonstrated the balance of technical, practical, and spiritual gifts (the head, mind, heart) at the heart of the work and life of any artist. A music student captured this well: "Alonzo taught me so many more things than just how music can connect to dance. He taught me how to be a better artist and to be the artist that's inside of me."

A grant from the Graham Foundation generously funds this program, now in its second year, which brings top-tier artists to Greenville, both to work with students and to give public performances for the larger community. Past guests have included poet Rita Dove and performance artist Laurie Anderson. This year's theme is "Connecting Lines: Dance Across the Arts," and we will host another choreographer in the spring. Garth Fagan will visit the campus in April. His most famous work is likely the original choreography he designed for the Broadway production of *The Lion King*.



# KING



## Shekinah Thompson-Gbolagunte

(Dance, 2013) worked in the Alonzo King LINES Ballet training program at Dominican University in San Francisco. From there, she earned a spot training with the Dance Theater of Harlem and she is currently a freelance dancer in NY, working with artists such as Lydia Johnson, Nathan Trice, and Breton

Tyner-Bryan. Shekinah and Dr. Jennifer Thomas enjoyed an online conversation that took them both back to the days of her Why-Day and AP Lit free-response writing. Excerpts below show the impact Alonzo King had on this Govie!



**JT:** What was unique or distinctive about your experience working with Alonzo? What made it special or interesting? What kind of impact did it have on you?

**STG:** Alonzo commands excellence from the moment he walks in the room. I remember arriving for class on Monday morning knowing it was "Alonzo Week" and the studio we were warming up in had a still silence of pure focus. We all knew that Alonzo expected nothing but our best and then some, so we were sure to not only have our bodies ready, but our hearts and minds as well.

**JT:** How did this training contribute to your journey as a dancer and a person?

**STG:** Working with Alonzo was so unique from any other artist because he saw straight through our technique. Don't get me wrong, I'm sure he still loves a "high leg" and a quadruple pirouette, but his true interest was in where the movement came from, where it would lead you next, and why we are even doing it in the first place. He would say things like, "You're dancing it but you're not tasting it." (Whoa.) Or "Dance in the body is the mind." In these workshops, hearing this new perspective caused me to dig deeper within myself as an artist to magnify my dancing.

**JT:** During his visit here, Alonzo worked with dancers, musicians, and drama students. We saw him as a truly gifted artist across disciplinary lines. Did you have any sense of this in your work with him?

**STG:** I'm not surprised at all that Alonzo was successful in workshopping all the other disciplines! Alonzo is a wild man who isn't afraid to go to any lengths to paint the picture of what he's teaching. He was loud, precise in his wording, and would even make us sing the melody of what we were dancing or yell while dancing. I myself felt like a drama major at times in that workshop!

**JT:** Any last thoughts?

**STG:** That work was grueling: mentally, physically and emotionally draining! However, I now have more understanding of myself and why I move, how I'm moving, and what it may convey to an audience. Today, I am way more confident in my movement as a dancer and artist, and I can sense choreographers' appreciation of this quality.



# GREEN Charter School

An Elementary School Where Every Student is Taught by Governor's School Alumni  
**(Yes, it's ranked #1 in the state.)**

by John Ott

Governor's School Alumni are changing education in South Carolina in dramatic ways at GREEN Charter School in Greenville, South Carolina. GREEN Charter School—recently ranked the #1 public elementary school in South Carolina by Niche.com—is an elementary school focused on renewable energy where every student has at least one class with a Governor's School alumnus during the school year. Jean Marie Holmes (Visual Arts, 2005) teaches art classes to kindergartners through fifth graders. John Ott, Jr. (Creative Writing, 2009) teaches sixth grade Social Studies while Eliza McClure (Creative Writing, 2010) and Neha Parthasarathy (Creative Writing, 2009) teach sixth grade English.

"The discussion-based, collaborative learning environment that Governor's School provided me has definitely influenced my teaching practices and classroom environment," states Eliza McClure. "I believe in student-led learning, and I owe this mindset to my teachers at Governor's School who allowed me to have a voice, raise questions, and take control of my learning through choice-based research and exploration.

"By having such great teachers and classes at Governor's School, alumni who become teachers are in a better place to take these ideas, transform them, and spread a higher-quality educational experience all throughout South Carolina," states John Ott, Jr., who is currently working on a Master's degree in Gifted and Talented Education. "Governor's School alumni make great teachers because they've been taught by great teachers."

Governor's School alumni working at GREEN have attended a variety of institutions and taught in a number of different environments since graduating Governor's School. Neha Parthasarathy, who received a Master of Arts in Teaching from Johns Hopkins University, began her teaching career through Teach for America after graduating from the University of South Carolina. Eliza McClure, who is currently working on a Master's in Education from Clemson University, taught previously in Arkansas and serves as grade level chair. John Ott taught in

Orangeburg County and also illustrates picture books in the series *Dotty's Illustrated American Literature* where a cartoon character named Dotty helps introduce readers to important literary and historical texts, such as The Gettysburg Address, The Declaration of Independence, as well as the poetry of Walt Whitman and Emily Dickinson. Thanks to the strong emphasis on the humanities, sixth graders at GREEN read works by authors such as Homer and Shakespeare, while they also study ancient texts from around the world such as *The Tao Te Ching* and *The Bhagavad Gita*. The school also has a thriving art program thanks to the hard work and creative energy of Jean Marie

Holmes who received her Master of Art degree in Education from the esteemed Maryland Institute College of Art.

"I recently heard a quote by Sir Ken Robinson, 'Farmers and gardeners know you cannot make a plant grow... the plant grows itself. What you can do is provide the conditions for growth.' This is what the Governor's School did for me," states Jean Marie Holmes. "It provided a supportive environment in which I really discovered myself. Now, as a teacher, I strive to create that environment in my classroom and make it a place where students question the status quo, have conversations with each other, problem-solve, and recognize



their potential."

"Helping people and learning about them and their experiences is one of the things I love most about teaching," states Neha Parthasarathy. "I like having to unlearn my preconceived notions and then relearn them through the eyes of someone else. I like challenging student ideas and getting them to think about things differently than they originally would. In fact, the idea of 'burning it all down to build something better' is a philosophy that started for me at Governor's School. Being a Creative Writer pushed me to question the way I saw the world in order to honestly write about those experiences. I can't thank Scott, George, and Mamie enough. Their approach to teaching and reteaching is the same approach I hope to bring to my classroom every day."

# CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Construction continues on the new music building, but at a much slower pace. Delays due to inclement weather and the unanticipated quantity of rock removal from the site have pushed back the occupancy date until the first week in August. While the site was known to have extensive underlying rock, the actual quantity removed was nearly four times the estimate provided by the consulting engineers. Over 2200 cubic yards of rock had to be removed which required over four weeks of blasting. Regular, almost weekly rain, has also slowed progress.

The General Contractor is optimistic that with site work nearly completed, the pace of work will increase. Wall footings are being poured and the forming and pouring of the primary exterior walls will immediately follow. Several strategies are being considered to help move up the completion date.

While Summer Programs will not be able to take advantage of the new facilities, fall will bring an additional seven practice rooms, two new rehearsal spaces, a new percussion studio, and three teaching studios.



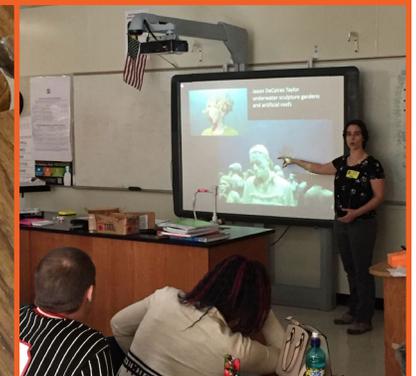
## Elaine Quave Visits Southside High Marine Science Classes

Current Visual Arts faculty member and 2001 alumna, Elaine Quave, visited Southside High School right before Thanksgiving break.

Collaborating with fellow Inaugural classmate, Michael Hendrix, Elaine introduced Michael's Marine Science classes to human impact and coral bleaching and to how pH change and acidification is impacting coral reefs. She taught the students to do blind contour drawings for the first time and had the opportunity to show a few pieces of her work as well.

Students handled and explored coral skeletons and related human impact to the arts.

She also introduced the work of several other artists who have been interested in reef preservation and are integrating aesthetics and conservation.





# FROM THE FOUNDATION

Hello Alumni,

My name is Amanda Herlihy, and I'm thrilled to have joined the Foundation as the new Director of Development this September. Prior to my time at SCGSAH Foundation, I raised money for several arts organizations in New York City, including Roundabout Theatre Company and The Film Society of Lincoln Center.

I, like all of you, have a passion for the arts, with theater being my first love. Having grown up just outside New York City, it was easy for me to experience and fall in love with the arts. After studying theater in college, I embodied that "typical starving artist life" for a while: living in NYC, acting whenever I could, and paying rent by stringing together as many odd jobs as possible. Let me tell you, it was tough and glamorous stuff!

A few years ago I serendipitously transitioned from starving artist/waitress/substitute teacher to working in the arts as a fundraiser. To me, combining my passion for theater and philanthropy as an arts fundraiser is the greatest job in the world! I am so fortunate to work at the SCGSAH Foundation and to have found a place that is supportive and nurturing to talented young artists in South Carolina.

With the School's 20th Anniversary on the horizon and the traditional season of giving upon us, now is the perfect time to spread your love of the Governor's School! "How?" you ask? It's easy; just see the tips to the right.

Alumni are the greatest asset we have in raising awareness and proving the incredible impact the Governor's School has on young artists, the community, and the state. The Foundation is here to support the future Govies, and we can't do it without your help! Please feel free to reach out with questions, stories or just to chat.

I wish all of you a happy and healthy holiday season!

Fondly,

Amanda Herlihy  
Director of Development  
SCGSAH Foundation

**Spread the word.** Shout it from the rooftops, include your love for the Governor's School in your holiday card, or mention us on social media. We love when people give us a shout out!

**Keep us in the loop.** We want to hear about you! What are you up to now? Tell us about your successes and how you have benefited from the school. Tell us how we can translate that experience for others who have the same dreams and aspirations as you. Donors respond to stories. Tell us yours!

**Join the Fundraising committee on the Alumni Council.** Let the Alumni office know you're interested in helping fundraise!

**Advocate for the school.** If you still live in the Palmetto State, contact your member of the state legislature and the Governor to share what the Governor's School means to you and our state. Not sure who to contact? Check out this [website](#) for more information.

**Attend a current event.** Come back, reminisce, and bring friends and family with you. Find the upcoming performance calendar on our website.

**Sign up for the Foundation newsletter.** Find out what's going on on campus and at the Foundation. Make sure the alumni office has your most current contact information. You can sign up for our newsletter on our website (under Giving) or send me an email.

**Donate to the GSA Foundation.** Be a one-time donor or a monthly donor. Support a specific arts area, program, or fund. Set up a fundraiser that supports Governor's School at your favorite restaurant or bar. Give small, give big. Everything donated directly helps fund artists, activities, and students.



# School Store Merchandise

Interested in making a purchase?  
Contact us at [alumni@scgsah.com](mailto:alumni@scgsah.com) for pricing and sizing info.  
Alumni specific merchandise is coming soon and  
will be pictured in the spring newsletter!



# ADMISSIONS UPDATE

The SCGSAH Admissions team has been working throughout the fall semester to reach all eligible South Carolina students. Four field liaisons and an area representative have sought to ensure that every middle school received a visit opportunity and other information about the school. This year's middle school focus has provided the opportunity to share about our new Arts Odyssey program for rising eighth and ninth grade students.

## Teacher Connections

Both the Admissions and Outreach offices want to reach out to alumni teachers. Whether working in the arts or another discipline, please ensure that the Alumni office knows that you're in the educational arena.

## Spring Visits

Admissions' work will continue in the spring semester. Field liaisons will be working to connect with art teachers and students to share more about the Governor's School and careers in the arts. If you know of a potential visit site, please let us know.

## Spread the Word

Above all, please spread the word about the Governor's School and its programs. Alumni are our best recruiters! If you know of a potential student, encourage them to apply!

Thank you for your support of the Governor's School!



Matthew R. Burns  
Interim Director of Admissions

# ON THE HORIZON

## Charleston Drop-In

Friday, February 1, 2019 • 8:00 p.m. • The Macintosh

## Senior Send-Off

Wednesday, May 22, at 5:00 p.m.

## #GovieDay

Friday, May 24, 2019

## Alumni Day

Saturday, October 12, 2019

# CLASSNOTES

## Life Events

### Engagements

Michele Tate (Music, 2006) and Hunter Cockram  
BJ Randolph (Dance, 2007) and Jeremy Price  
Chris Sparace (Music, 2009) and Caitlin Whitehouse

### Marriages

Lauren Ramona Culpepper (Drama, 2004) and David Jay  
Cohn were married on September 14, 2018

### Births

Kip Brock (Music, 2001) and his wife welcomed a baby  
girl, Aurelia  
Bethany Noel Rochester (Music, 2011) welcomed a baby  
girl, Hosanna Joy

## Hey, Alumni— we need your help!

Remember what it was like walking down the halls on your first day at the Governor's School? How did it feel the first time you went home and told your old friends about your experiences here? What was the application process like for you? How did your perspective of the world change while you were at the Governor's School?

**We are looking for your stories.** Tell us about your time here and how you have benefited from your experiences. One of the most important tools the Foundation has to raise money is to tell stories that illustrate the benefits of our unique and wonderful school. What are you up to now? Tell us how we can translate the experience of the Governor's School for others who have the same dreams and aspirations as you. Donors respond to stories. Tell us yours!

Please send all stories to Amanda Herlihy,  
Foundation Director of Development, by February 1, 2019.  
[Amanda.Herlihy@gsafoundation.net](mailto:Amanda.Herlihy@gsafoundation.net)

## NOMINATIONS ARE NOW OPEN FOR THE 2019 PRESIDENT'S ALUMNI AWARD

The time has come to submit your nominations for the 2019 President's Alumni Award. Every year, we recognize a Govie graduate who has continued to embody the values and mission of the Governor's School program and present them with an award at the Foundation's Spring Fundraiser.

If you know of an alum who you feel should be recognized for this award, please send your recommendation with a brief explanation of why you think this person should be nominated to [Amanda.Herlihy@gsafoundation.net](mailto:Amanda.Herlihy@gsafoundation.net). Recommendations will be accepted until January 31, 2019. Criteria for the award and a nomination **form** can be found on our website.

### TEMNETE SEBHATU



2018

SCGSAH PRESIDENT'S ALUMNI AWARD WINNER



## GOVIES CONNECT AT FURMAN

The recent performance of Haydn's *Creation* at Furman University had strong Governor's School connections. Furman Professor of Music William Thomas was SCGSAH's founding choral director, and this oratorio was his last performance to conduct before he retired. Current faculty members performed as well, including Dr. Jennifer Thomas (who happens to be the conductor's daughter) and Petrea Warneck. Multiple music alumni were also part of the orchestra and chorus. Dr. Thomas enjoyed catching up with them and shared these photos.



# THE GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL IS LIFECHANGING —YOU'VE SAID IT YOURSELF.

## Show your support.

- 1. Advocate for the school.** Contact your member of the state legislature and the governor and share what the Governor's School means to you and our state. Not sure who to contact? Check out our website for contact information.
- 2. Join the Party.** Our summer reunion and regional events are great ways to celebrate with fellow Govies.
- 3. Serve as a Class Agent.** Help us stay connected with your class.
- 4. Attend a current event.** Come back, reminisce, and support current Govies. A performance calendar is on the website.
- 5. Spread the word.** Be a proud Govie. Your success illustrates the impact of arts education.
- 6. Help find a future Govie.** See a Govie. Know a Govie. Refer a Govie.
- 7. Update your alumni contact information.** How can we tell you what's happening here if we can't find you?
- 8. Join the alumni community and help reach others.** The official SCGSAH Alumni Group is up and running on social media. India to California, we've got the Govie World covered—but only if you are in it.
- 9. Donate to the GSA Foundation.** Give small, give big. Everything donated directly helps fund artists, activities, and students.
- 10. Fill in the blank.** With a creative, diverse group of alumni, new ideas for involvement are always developing; share them!

### SCGSAH

Anna King, Alumni Coordinator  
864.282.3724 • [www.SCGSAH.org](http://www.SCGSAH.org)  
[alumni@scgsah.org](mailto:alumni@scgsah.org)

### GSA Foundation

Rochelle Williams, Executive Director  
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