



ALUMNI NEWS

JUNE 2023

at the
Governor's School

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About the Cover
Visual Arts senior Jet Joyner was selected as this year's class speaker. Jet was chosen from a group of nominees selected by a committee of faculty, students and administrators. Jet will be attending Converse University this fall.

CAMPUS NEWS

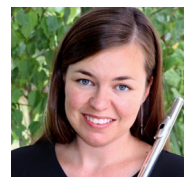
The Governor's School is proud to introduce you to the newest members of our Music Department faculty!



Dr. Nse Ekpo will conduct the Wind Ensemble and teach AP Music Theory, Wind Chamber Music, and Conducting.



Dr. Amanda Montgomery will teach Piano, Piano Seminar, Piano Master Class, Piano Ensemble, and Class Piano.



Dr. Lauren Vaughn will teach Flute, the Music History Survey, World Music, Woodwind Chamber Music, and Woodwind Seminar.

Visit www.scgsah.org/faculty/music for their full bios.



In April we celebrated **National School Library Week!** Our library is the heart of our campus, offering a robust and growing collection of books curated for the

student artist, hundreds of CDs and DVDs, free access to dozens of online research databases, and a warm, welcoming space to come together as a community. We're so grateful for the work of Director of Library Services Michael Giller and Assistant Director of Library Services Christina Fuller-Gregory in making our library so special!



Our **Outreach** experiences also incorporate the media arts! During a recent field trip to our campus, students from Berry Shoals Intermediate School worked with Outreach teaching artist Jeff Robinson to produce digital music for their morning news show!

The Office of Outreach is now scheduling Field Trips for the 23-24 school year. Learn more: bit.ly/3DPivMF.



Outreach Teaching Artist Daphne Cuadrado Andino has been appearing in Visual Arts classrooms throughout the state! This school year, she's provided workshops to over 1,000 students in Sumter, Spartanburg, Oconee, Charleston, Laurens, Kershaw, Greenwood, and Greenville counties. This week, she worked with 5th grade students at Bethel Elementary on a ceramics method called a "pinch pot" which students will later turn into handmade animal shakers! Interested in a Guest Artist Experience with Daphne next year? Learn more here: <https://bit.ly/3mPwAbY>

This year, our **Creative Writing Department**

partnered with **M. Judson Booksellers** to host a monthly Open Mic Night, where our talented students read original work alongside other local writers! This week marked their last open mic of the school year, but get excited because the entire department takes the stage on May 7th for our annual, end of year class readings! Visit www.scgsah.org/calendar/events for more information.



The **Drama Department's Studio IV** did an outstanding job with the department's first student devised work, "Subliminal!" Seniors spent the semester developing the characters and events of the play through collaborative, ensemble exercises and improvisation platforms. Conceptional decisions, rehearsals, writing and editing were all conducted through an ensemble framework. From department chair Candace Dickinson, "Devised work is more and more integral in the training of actors, and we are excited to include it as a part of our curriculum and practices." View more photos from the performance at flic.kr/s/aHBqjAyBXf

This year we **celebrated the retirement** of several members of our Govie family. We wish them all the best! Rebecca Evatt, executive assistant to the president. Rebecca served the Governor's School for 16 years, beginning as a library assistant. Maria Nichols has served the school for 16 years as a security officer. Rose Jenkins has served the school for five years as our math instructor. Raquel Cunningham has served as the school nurse since October of 2022. Marty Epp-Carter has served the school for 12 years as our printmaking instructor.



South Carolina is fortunate to have so many great schools, and we're honored to be ranked in the top 5! Niche, which collects data on thousands of schools across the U.S., ranked SCGSAH 4th on its list of **"Best SC Public High Schools."** Learn more [here](#).



During a recent field trip to our campus, students from **Richland 2 Institute of Innovation** worked with our animation instructor Zach Inks on digital modeling techniques. Using iPad software, students had fun learning how to apply basic anatomy to 3-D modeling and sculpting a bust of their own superhero.



Music juniors Trilby Allen, Grace Cope and Molly Oldstrom sang the National Anthem at the **NCAA Women's Basketball Tournament** in March! They performed at an opening game on Friday and then again on Monday night at an Elite 8 game! Great job representing our school and our state! Watch their interview with WYFF News 4 [here](#).

ALUMNI ACCOMPLISHMENTS

This newsletter issue is all about celebrating graduates! We are excited about welcoming a new group of SCGSAH alumni into the alumni community and we also want to recognize alumni who have graduated college or earned advanced degrees this year.



Kate AuBuchon (*Dance '11*) completed her Ph.D. in Applied Social Psychology at The George Washington University. She is now starting a postdoctoral fellowship at Georgetown's Lombardi Cancer Institute.



Percussionist **Gage Banks** (*Music '19*) graduated from Furman University.



Audrey Boyles (*Music '19*) graduated from Appalachian State University with a degree in Bassoon Performance.



Katie Clark graduated from the University of Denver with a B.M. in Clarinet Performance. She will be continuing her studies at the University of Kansas for her Master's in Music Performance.



Percussionist **Malcolm Davis Jr.** (*Music '19*) graduated with his B.A. in Government and Music from Lawrence University. Malcolm will be starting a new job at the University of Wisconsin-Madison as an HR Generalist.

Continued Next Page...

ALUMNI ACCOMPLISHMENTS

...Continued From Page 3



Carolyn Rae Docherty (*Music '19*) graduated from Dartmouth College. She is now working as a paralegal in New York City at the law firm Simpson Thacher & Bartlett before she attends law school.



Eliza Pagelle (*Drama '19*) graduated from Fordham University with her B.A. in Theatre Performance and Music. She is now working at the Texas Shakespeare Festival.



Haley Gavin (*Creative Writing '19*) graduated with a B.A. in Politics from New York University.



Lindsay Brooke Phillips (*Dance '19*) graduated from The Juilliard School.



Zack Kushubar (*Dance*), graduated from The Meadows School of the Arts and will be joining the Nevada Ballet Theatre.



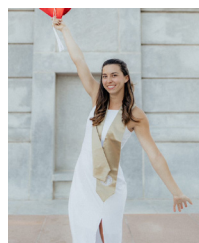
Hollings Rankin (*Creative Writing '19*) graduated from Emerson College with a B.F.A. in Creative Writing.



Percussionist **Taryn Marks** (*Music '19*) graduated from Furman University with a B.M. in Percussion Performance.



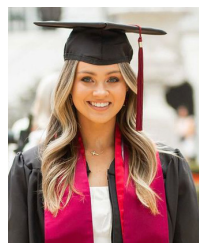
Laurel Stone (*Visual Arts '19*) graduated from West Virginia University with her BA in Psychology and a minor in Forensic & Investigative Science. She just accepted a job offer with WVU working at the WVU Rockefeller Neuroscience Institute.



Jasmine Moe (*Visual Arts '19*) recently graduated with a Bachelor of Graphic & Experience Design from NC State University! She is now a User Experience Designer for GoodPup, a company that provides at-home dog training services.



Morgan Vuknic (*Music '19*) graduated from James Madison University. She will be staying at JMU to get her master's in Writing, Rhetoric, and Technical Communication, continuing her studies from her undergrad.



Ally McCaslin (*Drama '19*) graduated from The University of Alabama. She earned a B.S. in Substance Abuse/Addiction Counseling.

If you have accomplishments that you would like to share with the alumni community, please email the Alumni Office at alumni@scgsah.org.

TO THE CLASS OF 2023,

I would like to extend my congratulations to each of you for completing your studies at the South Carolina Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities. You all should feel incredibly accomplished and proud. You've completed some of the most rigorous academic and artistic coursework in the country. You've put on performances, exhibitions, productions, and public readings. And yes, you've moved away from home before 18. All of that is no small feat.

In some form or another, there are many values that each of you can take away from your time at SCGSAH. Community. Hard work. Perseverance. Kindness. Respect. The list is likely endless and is likely personal to each of you. But I hope that you all can harness those ideals. Employ them wherever you may end up next. The tools that you have gained at SCGSAH are priceless, and they will undoubtedly serve you well on your next adventure.

Many of you are probably excited, fearful, or nervous about what happens next. You have nothing to worry about. Whether you pursue the arts or go in another direction, it will be okay. Life has interesting twists and turns, and you will land where you should be. My passion for service was nurtured at SCGSAH through CATS. But I would have never dreamed that CATS was a steppingstone to my roles in the federal government, nonprofit sector, and now as an attorney in private practice. Your creativity will likely take you to some unexpected and gratifying places.

After you walk across the stage on Graduation Day, you will officially become an alumnus of SCGSAH. SCGSAH's alumni span the country. They are throughout South Carolina but are also in New York City, Atlanta, Charlotte, Washington D.C., Los Angeles, Chicago, and everywhere in between. I encourage each of you to reach out to alumni that live within the next place you are heading. As you navigate the path ahead, SCGSAH alumni are more than willing to connect with you, provide mentorship, or be a friend. Being an alumnus of SCGSAH means something, and I am happy to welcome you all to our circle of alumni.

As an alumnus, consider joining the Alumni Advisory Council in the future. You can help plan alumni initiatives, including advocacy, fundraising, and communications. Share your career and life updates with Anna King of the Alumni Office. Stay connected with your former teachers and maintain the enduring friendships that you have created. And as you progress, do not forget to give back to the next students attending SCGSAH, so they can also have an invaluable opportunity.

Again, congratulations on becoming a gradate of SCGSAH. I wish you all the best in your future endeavors and in the journey ahead.



Very truly yours,
Christian "Josh" Myers

KEEP YOUR EYE ON THESE GOVIES!



In March The City of Walhalla and Main Street Walhalla announced that **Catherine "Catie" Fisher** was named as the new Main Street Walhalla Director. Catie had been serving in an interim role since November 2022. A Walhalla native, Fisher, began working as a volunteer with the Main Street Walhalla Program in January 2022. A few months later she was hired as an Event Coordinator.

Recent music alum **Hanna Manning** (Viola, '23) returned to South Carolina last month with a mission to introduce elementary school students to violin family instruments. Hanna is currently enrolled as a viola performance undergraduate major at Oberlin Conservatory and for her Oberlin Winter Term project, wanted to reach out and give back to her home state. As a graduate of the string orchestra program at RC Edwards Middle School in Pickens County Hanna's project goal was two fold: to increase knowledge and understanding of music, and to inspire elementary school students to enroll in a string class as middle school students.



Working with the SCGSAH Outreach Office Hanna's resulting project, The Violin Family: Creating Interest and Giving Back, was a 50 minute interactive presentation on music study and violin family instruments aimed at elementary aged students enrolled in South Carolina public schools. Hanna's project explored interdisciplinary connections between music making and other subject areas and offered students the opportunity to get an up close look at how violin family instruments are constructed. Through her work Hanna was able to reach over 250 students and teachers in Greenville, Pickens, Fairfield and Orangeburg Counties.

In February several string students had the opportunity to hear the bold and innovative chamber-jazz ensemble Arco Belo, featuring SCGSAH music alum **Carrie Frey** (2010, Viola). Students enjoyed meeting Carrie and her Arco Belo colleagues following the performance and learning more about their unique musical style. In addition to their Greenville concert, Arco Belo's east coast tour included a performance on the Kennedy Center's Millennium Stage in Washington DC. We invite you to view that performance [here](#).



Jacolby Satterwhite (Visual Arts, '04) was commissioned by The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York to create an installation for the iconic Great Hall! The work will debut on October 2 and incorporate 3D scans of around 100 objects from the museum's collection along with

audio and performance elements. Jacolby is the second contemporary artist ever commissioned to create work for the space. Read more about the installation [here](#). Photo credit: Xavier Scott Marshall

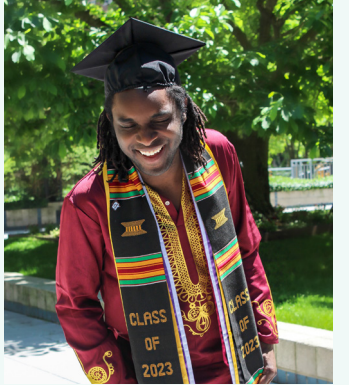
Susanne McDonald (Drama, '16) was featured in an article from the Boston Conservatory on their contemporary theatre

program. McDonald discusses her experience being introduced to devised theatre and how that has allowed her to grow as an artist. Read more [here](#).



"WISH IT, DREAM IT, PRAY IT, DO IT."

BY RAEKWON FULLER



I have a motto, "Wish it, Dream it, Pray it, Do it." It always guided me in what I strive for and helped me get through my senior year at SCGSAH.

I first stumbled across Fordham while looking for schools to audition for at SCGSAH. The theatre program was the perfect storm of what I wanted from a college experience. I wanted Theatre training while also being able to learn about the things around me, like Hebrew, and more about my African American History, and even stuff besides acting in the Theatre world.

I had my heart set on Fordham, and I worked for it. I auditioned at the Unified Arts auditions in Chicago, where I went in nervous as heck and left smiling with confidence so bright a mountain couldn't cover me.

My journey at Fordham began in 2019. Being a Black First Gen College student from a lower socioeconomic household, NYC was Willy Wonka's factory, and I had just won my golden ticket.

My first year was a discovery of myself, what kind of actor I want to be, what can Fordham give me, who are my friends, what are my boundaries, what are other people's boundaries, how I say yes or say no, how do I use the subway, what do I like, who do I like. The list goes on. As a freshman, I performed on the Fordham Mainstage, which was rare; I began to make a name for myself! Then the pandemic came in and said STOP!

The summer of 2020 started my shift from being an actor to an artist and activist. The George Floyd murder ignited a cry for social change that bled into the theatre industry, which was called out on its racist practices. This led to the BIPOC students of Fordham Theatre challenging the ideas and structure of the Fordham Theatre program. We sent in our list of demands of what we wanted to see change, and from there, I became a Chair of the Fordham Theatre BIPOC alliance. Having to be a student and advocate for an entire program is hard. It's hard to work at Lowe's and be in tough meetings with our faculty, it was hard to go to school and get a job to help pay bills and socialize, and I was reminded how hard it was to be a black artist in America. But I will say I am grateful for that experience. I am pleased that I could rectify the insecure feelings of a 13-year-old Raekwon. I was grateful to know my voice matters whether people listen or not, and I am so happy I got to use my artistry as more than a vessel for other people's pleasure or pain and got to use it for myself.

My junior and senior years at Fordham helped me realize my passion for Theatre Administration and performing. In my junior year, I was tasked with managing our Theatre's box office. I oversaw a student staff of 20. I had to make out paper system electronic and begin to use my skills acting in customer service. In the summer of 2022, I secured a job at The Public Theatre (the theatre where Hamilton, Hair, and Fun Home started). I was working in the Public Works Department, serving marginalized communities to create a fabulous piece of theatre. In my senior year, I produced 2 showcases for our BIPOC students and our senior class lives in-person showcase. I did all of this while still pursuing my own performing artistry. I was cast in a mainstage show at Fordham every year.

My credits include the following:

- *Airline Highway* by Lisa D'Amour - Sissy Na NA
- *The Drag* by Mae West - Judge Kingsbury/Drag Performer
- *Tartuffe* by Molière - Dorine
- *La Cocina* by Tony Meneses - Ray

Being a first-generation college student has meant the world to me. Like many other colleges in the US, Fordham was not made for black non-wealthy people like me. It was built in 1841. Slavery wasn't ratified until 1865, and when it was, my ancestors didn't have the right to proper education for years after that. Being a first is so rewarding, yet it is so hard. I didn't have a person who could give me proper advice, I struggled financially, I had to be my own advocate and confidant, and I had to fight to be there and stand up for myself constantly; I have credit card debt and student loans, but I also have immense joy and pride. It is an honor to be a generational curse breaker for my family, to be a leader for my younger sister and my young cousins, and I have something NO one can take away from me!!!!!! My hard work was recognized as I was awarded the Denzel Washington Scholarship my senior year, and I was nominated as the Class Marshal for the 2023 class of Fordham College Lincoln Center.

My journey continues in NYC! I have accepted a position at the National Black Theatre as the Development Coordinator. I will work at a place that heals my wounds and uplifts my soul. Through this, I can support myself financially while also being able to pursue my acting. OH YES, I AM STILL ACTING AND AUDITIONING!!!!!! THE RED CARPET WILL SEE ME ONE DAY!! All in All, I am immensely grateful and HONORED to be where I am today. And I thank SCGSAH for being a place that watered me as a seed and helped me grow.

CONGRATULATIONS, CLASS of 2023!



CLASS OF 2023 DESTINATIONS

Caroline Elizabeth Baker | University of South Carolina Lancaster

Eli Thomas Baumgardner | Berklee College of Music

Savannah Emily Bell | Emerson College

Bella Mary Bishara | Savannah College of Art and Design

Kaylee Marie Bennett | University of Southern California

Kyra Jean Blanthorn | University of South Carolina

Cassi Elizabeth Bleitz | Winthrop University

Harper Bosch | Atlanta Ballet Trainee Program

Hannah Elizabeth Brinkley | Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design

Lily Evelyn Brittain | California Institute of the Arts

Midori Marie Brown | California Institute of the Arts

William Henry Buie, III | Carnegie Mellon University

Carmen Ariel Bunche | Wofford College

Laina Charlie Canetto | University of South Carolina

Michael John Cassel | University of South Carolina (Fall 2024), Army National Guard

Victoria Cazorla-Fernandez | University of South Carolina

Rachael Elizabeth Clark | Winthrop University

Alyssa Jane Cousino | Kansas City Art Institute

Gray Irene Crews | College of Charleston (Fall 2024), Army National Guard

Honesty LeParis Cunningham | University of South Carolina

Kaitlin Lehana Cunningham | Greenville Technical College

Russell Overton Daniel, Jr. | Carnegie Mellon University

Katherine Ellie Davis | University of South Carolina

Margaret Reeves Davisson | University of South Carolina

Jack Michael Estrada | University of South Carolina

Emma Grace Estridge | Wofford College

Grace Bryndis Farnsworth | Maryland Institute College of Art

Empress Saniyah Fogle | The Juilliard School

Taylor Marie Frazier | Rochester Institute of Technology

Joplin Kathleen Gagné | University of North Carolina School of the Arts

Tota Awatif Garboua | Converse University

Skyler Savannah Green | Susquehanna University

Kiran Lila Hafner | Florida State University

Liwa Hamidi | University of South Carolina

Elodie Grace Hamilton | College of Charleston

Jessica Rae Hamilton | Coastal Carolina University

Kate Lynn Nancy Hanchon | Converse University

Tyler Grey Hanson | Vanderbilt University

Deirdre Eileen Hickey | University College Dublin

Paige Higgins | University of South Carolina

Cassidy Clifford Holt | Middlebury College

Isabel Haeri Hong | Queens University of Charlotte

Kat Elizabeth Gurri Hoover | The Cooper Union

Samuel Jackson Hudman | Peabody Institute

Christine Nicole Hudson | Temple University

Anne Hughes | William & Mary

Steven Kyle Humphries | University of South Carolina

Mackenzie Lang Ice | Coastal Carolina University

Cydney Elaine Jenkins | University of South Carolina Upstate

Justin Xaiver Joyner | Converse University

Norah Lynn Kehrli | Queens University of Charlotte

Caris Ann Kulbok | Savannah College of Art and Design

Edgardo Benedicto Lopez Yañez | Chapman University

Grace Payton Luebbe | Elon University

Gianna Catherine Marullo | University of North Carolina School of the Arts

Karolina Victoria Montalvo | George Washington University

Darby Worth Moody | University of North Carolina School of the Arts

Lillian Alexandria Morris | College of Charleston

Margo Pollyanna Morris | Winthrop University

Dickson Byron Nash | Gap Year

Abigail Grace Nelsen | Greenville Technical College

Henri James Pelletier | George Mason University

Ella Alexia Prevatte | Bennington College

Samuel James Prosser | Converse University

Julia Pruitt Smith | Clemson University

Leah Alexandra Smith | College of Charleston

Evelyn Dawn Marie Snider | Ringling College of Art and Design

Carrena Adriana Spann | Case Western Reserve University

Braden Michael Steen | University of South Carolina Lancaster

Logan A Stephens | Winthrop University

Nahari James Suchanek | Coastal Carolina University

Agatha Rose Sultan | Furman University

Philip King-Lok Tam | Florida Polytechnic University

Joslyn Grace Taylor | Wofford College

Reagan Ellen Taylor | Kansas City Art Institute

Le'Daviah Vaness' Terry | Winthrop University

Alan Tylar Tran | University of North Carolina School of the Arts

David Donald Vandelay | Rotary Club Foreign Exchange Program: Spain

Pex Watt | Appalachian State University

Alexandria Bella Winkler | University of New Haven

Sarai Malaya Winkler | Clemson University

Meredith Ruth Wiper | Case Western Reserve University

Malcolm Jaquel Wright | Berklee College of Music

SENIOR SEND OFF

Hosted by the Alumni Office, this year's annual Senior Send Off celebration was held on May 24th. We were thrilled to welcome back 2011 Music alumnus Brandon Brooks as our featured speaker. In keeping with the school year theme of 'Many Paths, Once Community, Govie Unity,' Brandon spoke to seniors about the importance of collaboration and how to embrace the sometimes zigzag line to a successful and rewarding career.

Brandon is a Broadway drummer, entrepreneur, and MBA graduate from New York University's Stern School of Business. Brandon is the founder of Jyve Technologies, Inc. and made his Broadway debut with *MJ:The Musical*.



OUTREACH

In its mission to be a resource to all students and teachers in South Carolina, the Governor's School embeds arts programs and supports arts partnerships in local communities to build in-depth, lasting relationships. For this issue of Alumni News, we would like to highlight the work of Spark and the Lowcountry Youth Dance Academy, two regionally based outreach programs.



DECISION DAY

In April we celebrated our seniors' next steps with a HUGE Senior Decision Day party in the gym. Our students enjoyed games, music, raffle prizes and more!

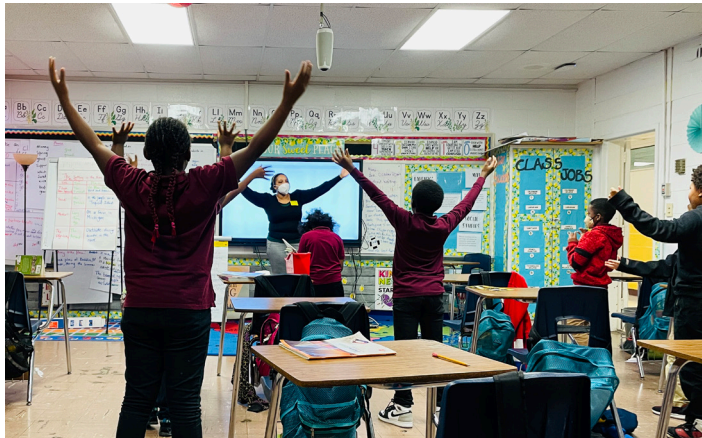


The **Lowcountry Youth Dance Academy** (LYDA) is a SC Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities Outreach Program offering free pre-professional ballet training to 5th-10th-grade students in the Lowcountry region. Based in Summerville, SC, our physically demanding yet rewarding program offers a systematic approach to classical ballet, ensuring technical and artistic growth for serious and passionate students.

- This past December, our LYDA dancers performed at the Sottile Theatre in downtown Charleston with Palmetto City Ballet's production of *The Nutcracker*. This was an incredible

experience, as our dancers graced the big stage alongside Charleston's professional dancers and looked out to a weekend packed with 3600 audience members.

- At the end of March, six of our LYDA dancers were invited to travel to Greenville to compete in SCGSAH's elite Grand Jeté Competition. During this event, our dancers participated in master technique classes, and each performed a solo as part of three competitive categories: Pre-Competitive Ballet, Junior Modern/Contemporary and Junior Ballet.



- In May, LYDA presented an original production of Peter Pan at the Colleton Civic Center in downtown Walterboro, SC. LYDA re-imagined J.M. Barrie's story for the stage in a performance that showcased all 15 of our dancers in classical ballet, modern and jazz. Through a partnership with the Colleton Civic Center, Peter Pan helped kick-start the annual Walterboro - History, Art and Music Festival!



Spark is a regional outreach program that supports Read to Succeed and reading improvement efforts at schools in the Midlands and Pee Dee regions through the effective use of elementary level drama strategies. Spark is a partnering agency of Arts Grow SC, a three year, statewide investment in arts education, directed by the SC Arts Commission in partnership with the SC Department of Education.

- During the school year Spark Actor-Teachers are embedded in 3rd grade classrooms to offer drama based literacy instruction as part of the regular school day. Since August, Spark teachers have served approximately 2500 students in Richland, Lee, Calhoun, Florence, Darlington, and Williamsburg Counties.
- Spark also provides wrap-around programming to partner schools. In the fall, we welcomed the storytelling trio McCloud and Friends to share their love of books with nearly 8,000 students in 8 schools. In the spring, Spark commissioned a play by a member of the SCGSAH drama faculty, Jayce Tromsness. The Fourth Story thrilled student audiences at 12 different South Carolina schools!

- The Spark team is expanding their efforts this summer. Their summer drama camps, which provide daily book-based drama classes to 3rd grade Read to Succeed identified students will serve twice as many sites and twice as many students as last summer! Spark will serve 500 students in 13 classrooms in Cherokee, Edgefield, Lee, Darlington, Fairfield, Florence, Calhoun and Richland Counties!
- Other programming is filling the calendar as well. Spark is implementing a new teacher support program - a 3 day Summer Teacher Intensive for drama curious elementary teachers from around the state to immerse themselves in techniques they can use easily and regularly in their classrooms.

The Office of Outreach is proud of our ongoing partnerships in communities throughout the state of South Carolina, and we value the lasting impact of programs like LYDA and Spark. Although some of these students may one day become Govie Alumni, for many South Carolina students programs like these may be their only Govie experience. We are thrilled to see them thriving!

If you have any questions about LYDA, Spark, or any of our outreach programming, please reach out!

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