



ALUMNI NEWS

FEBRUARY 2025

at the
Governor's School

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About the Cover:

CONGRATULATIONS to the Drama seniors of Studio IV on a successful run of "Make Thick My Blood: An Appalachian Re-telling of Shakespeare's Macbeth!"

Couldn't make it to campus to enjoy the show in person? Performance recordings for BOTH casts are available NOW on our YouTube channel!

Performance 1: <https://trst.in/9jrNL2>

Performance 2: <https://trst.in/5qaloR>



FROM the PRESIDENT

Dear Alumni,

Happy 25 th Anniversary! As we continue our yearlong celebration, I’m pleased to say that this school term has been everything that we hoped it would be and more. Our calendar has been packed with amazing performances and events celebrating this milestone in our school’s history, and we’ve been privileged to be joined by so many special guests and long-time friends on the stage and in the classroom. It’s been extra special to have so many of you join us throughout the year as alumni guest artists, and I want to thank you for your contributions as we honored the past, celebrate the present, and continue to imagine the future of the Governor’s School.

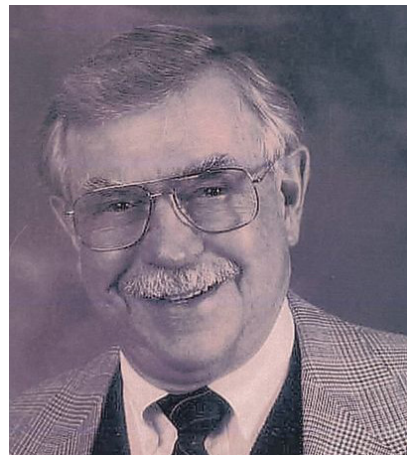
There’s a lot more to come before we close out the year, so please make a special effort to join us on the campus or throughout the state as you are able. This historic anniversary has been one of the most meaningful experiences in the growth of our very unique learning community, and I hope that each of you has the opportunity to participate in our celebratory events in some fashion before the year is out. Along with more information about what we’re doing at the Governor’s School, the full calendar of 25 th Anniversary performances and events can be found on the microsite at scgsah25.org.

As always, I thank you for your support of the Governor’s School and hope to see you soon!

Sincerely,

Cedric L. Adderley, DMA
President

CAMPUS & DEPARTMENTAL NEWS



It is with heavy hearts that we share the passing of former Governor's School President Donald Beckie.

Following Virginia Uldrick, Dr. Beckie was our second president, serving from 2003 to 2007. He was a passionate musician and

educator. Prior to his time at the Governor's School, Dr. Beckie taught at the PA Governors School for the Arts and Humanities, Gettysburg College, and Susquehanna University, and served as Dean of Fine Arts at Texas Wesleyan College, and the Director of the School of Music at Redlands University. He was a frequent guest conductor, soloist, and adjudicator for state and regional band and orchestra competitions. Read more about Dr. Beckie [here](#).



The Governor's School Wind Ensemble was the FIRST EVER school band invited to perform alongside the Furman University Symphonic Band at the Furman Honor Band Symposium!

This event allows music students from across the region to visit the Furman University Department of Music for two days of rehearsals, master classes, audition preparation, and concerts. Our Govies performed under the direction of Dr. Nsé Ekpo for over 200 attendees as part of the Furman Symphonic Band's fall concert!



In Humanities class, our Govies combined theatre with botany to study the rich history, culture, and biodiversity of Appalachia! The Drama Department gave a presentation on their production—a retelling of Shakespeare's "Macbeth" that takes place in Appalachia. Students learned about how the land impacts the people who live there, the beliefs and superstitions that originate from the region, and how those things were incorporated into this new adaptation of the play.

Govies also learned about Appalachia's wide array of native plants from ethnobotanist Adam Bigelow. He shared some of his favorite native species and how humans can use them as sustenance and medicine. With the help of Seek, a mobile app that uses phone cameras to identify plants, students used what they learned to investigate the native plant species in Falls Park!



The Creative Writing Department was proud to welcome author and screenwriter Jon Raymond for a visit with our Creative Writing and Film Govies!

Raymond spoke about his most recent novel, "Denial," and his experience adapting his work for film. He also

answered questions from students about building realistic characters, the difference between writing for a novel and writing a screenplay, the importance of theme, and more!

Jon Raymond is the author of several novels including "Denial," "The Half-Life," "Livability," and more. He's also the screenwriter of many films based on his writing like "Old Joy," "Wendy and Lucy," and "First Cow." He wrote the teleplay for the HBO mini-series "Mildred Pierce," which was nominated for a Primetime Emmy for Outstanding Writing for a Miniseries, Movie or a Dramatic Special. He was editor of Plazm Magazine, an Associate and Contributing Editor at Tin House Magazine, and served on the Board of Directors of Literary Arts.



In September the Visual Arts seniors traveled to Atlanta to attend National Portfolio Day!

Hosted in the iconic Fox Theatre, this year's event brought some of the country's top post-secondary art

institutions together and gave students the opportunity to meet with counselors, admissions representatives, and faculty for a free portfolio review. Our Govies took full advantage of the trip, making important connections and receiving helpful feedback from schools like the Ringling College of Art & Design, Kansas City Art Institute, School of the Art Institute of Chicago, the Cooper Union, and more!



The Govie community came together in September to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month with a special program during our community meeting!

The theme for this year's Hispanic Heritage Month is "Pioneers of Change" and students Anna Castro-Spratt, Valentina Reyes, Bianca Obeso, Camila Ramirez, Isabella Agudelo, and Matilde Franco Gil each led a series of engaging presentations surrounding the topic! They highlighted several Hispanic pioneers of change across all six of our art areas, shared original art and writing based on their heritage, and ended the program with a fantastic performance of "Girl in Ipanema" by the Governor's School Jazz Ensemble!



After a five year hiatus, Senior Drama Cabaret came back with a BANG in January's SOLD OUT performance! Our senior Drama students gave powerhouse performances from Broadway classics, "The Cradle Will Rock" and "Songs for a New World," a song cycle written and composed by Tony Award-winner Jason Robert Brown. Bravo, Govies!

Unable to enjoy the show in person? A full performance recording is available NOW on our YouTube channel! Watch [here](#).



In January, we celebrated the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. with a special Community Meeting led by members of the Multicultural Club! Malachi Johnson and Caleb Luhila gave

an informative presentation on Dr. King's life and contributions to our country. Try'Nev Robinson and Angel Watson also gave a beautiful dual performance of "Change is Gonna Come," by Sam Cooke, and "won't you celebrate with me," by Lucille Clifton.

The Chinese Culture Club led a special presentation in January on the Lunar New Year!

Ahna Simmons and Cici Zhu spoke about the legendary origins of Lunar New Year, the ways people celebrate it, and the story of the behind the animal zodiac. They also gave a beautiful performance from the Butterfly Lovers' Violin Concerto, one of the most famous Chinese works of orchestral music! Caroline Henley and Will Baggett also gave presentations highlighting Chinese music and visual art!





For the FIRST TIME since the school's founding in 1999, the Music Department has received NEW PIANOS!

With the launch of Steinways for Students, a new partnership between the Foundation and Steinway & Sons, we are working toward replacing the school's pianos with world-class Steinway and Steinway-designed instruments, providing students and faculty with the best possible resources for music education! In December, we celebrated the arrival of FOUR new pianos, anonymously donated to the school through this fundraising campaign.

A HUGE thanks to Kristina Sanders, educator liaison for Steinway Piano Gallery in Greenville, and to the Music Department's piano instructor, Dr. Amanda Montgomery, for their efforts in spearheading this wonderful initiative.

To learn more or contribute to the continued success of our dedicated piano students, visit <https://www.scsah.org/foundation/steinways-for-students>.



John Broome has joined our Admissions Department as the Admissions Program Assistant and is located at the front desk of the Visitor's Center. John earned his Bachelor's degree from the College

of Charleston in Political Science and History. John has a connection to the arts as he sang in a Southern Gospel Quartet with his church while in high school. This opportunity allowed him to travel to various places throughout the state and perform.

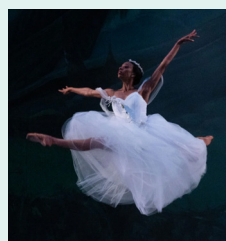
ALUMNI ACCOMPLISHMENTS & UPDATES



Latria Graham (*Music, '04*) has been named a recipient of the prestigious American Mosaic Journalism Prize! This prize is awarded based on nominations from journalism industry leaders for excellence in long-form, narrative or deep reporting about underrepresented and/or misrepresented groups in the U.S. It recognizes and supports freelance journalists with an unrestricted CASH AWARD of \$100,000 - the largest dollar amount given annually for a journalism prize in the U.S. [Learn more.](#)



Luke Hodges (*CW, '11*) has co-produced a documentary called Cashing Out, about a controversial AIDS-era industry where dying gay men sold their life insurance policies to investors. The film will be distributed by The New Yorker in the spring of 2025. [Read more.](#)



Whitney Huell (*Dance, '04*) talked to the Post & Courier about her journey from Columbia to the Governor's School and on to the world of professional ballet. Read how being a Govie opened her eyes to the endless possibilities that the arts could offer her. [Learn more.](#)



Seville Jenkins (*Music, '06*) turned his love of music and his sense of duty into a career in military bands, demonstrating the unique ways that the arts and service can intersect. Find out more, here. We salute Seville and all members of our Govie community who have gone on to serve our country! [Read more.](#)



Visual Arts alumna **Dr. Carolyn Porter Phinizy** has been appointed to serve on the Governor's School Board of Directors. Carly currently serves as the Director of Academic Operations for the College of Arts and Humanities at Clemson University. Her previous roles include serving as Department Chair and Assistant Professor in the Department of Art History, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA.



Joshua Tuttle won a position as a saxophonist with "The President's Own" United States Marine Band in Washington, D.C. As the name suggests, the primary mission of this ensemble is to provide music for the President of the United States and the Commandant of the Marine Corps. He formally began working with the group in August and have since been performing regularly with the band at venues including the White House, Arlington National Cemetery, and the Marine Corps Memorial.

ALUMNI ON CAMPUS



Govie alumnus **Catherine Con Morse** (*Music, '05*) returned to campus in November for a reading from her debut novel, "The Notes." Afterward, Catherine participated in a panel discussion and a Q&A session, followed by a book signing.

When asked about her time at the Governor's School, Catherine said "My Govie experience was a dream come true for me... The school was full of all different kinds of people...people who weren't afraid to be themselves, and that was really exciting to be around."



Saxophonist and professor **Dr. Robert Young** (*Music, '02*) returned to campus in October for a special master class with our Music Govies before his recital in Smith Recital Hall.

Dr. Young shared valuable feedback with our students and gave helpful suggestions on physical technique that they can apply to future performances! He also gave a lecture on the meaning and importance of deliberate practice, shared stories from his musical journey and recommended resources to help students achieve their artistic goals.



Visual Arts alumni **Lainey Davidson** ('17), **Ben Merritt** ('15), and **Kevin Hopkins** ('18) returned to campus to celebrate the Governor's School's 25th Anniversary with a special panel discussion!

Before the panel, Lainey, Ben, and Kevin spent the afternoon visiting several Visual Arts classes to speak with students and share feedback on their work. During the event, the three shared reflections on their experiences as artists both at the Governor's School and beyond.

Lainey Davidson is an artist, sculptor, and filmmaker. Her career has included collaborations with industry giants such as Hasbro, Hallmark Cards, and Moose Toys, contributing to brands including Disney, Marvel, Star Wars, Fortnite, and more.

Kevin Hopkins is a painter based in Kansas City, Missouri. During his undergraduate studies, he was recognized internationally as a 2020, 2021, and 2022 Elizabeth Greenshield Foundation Grantee, and, nationally, as a 2021 AXA Art Prize finalist. He will soon have work on display in the Smithsonian.

Benjamin Merritt is a text-based artist working in Minneapolis, Minnesota. In 2021, he was awarded a MN State Arts Board grant to fund his debut solo exhibition, "A Feather Plucked From its Bird," held at Dreamsong in Minneapolis in 2022.



Internationally-exhibited photographer **Frank Frances** (*Visual Arts, '02*) returned to campus to visit with students and give an artist talk in honor of the Governor's School's 25th Anniversary!



Frank visited the Visual Arts classes to review artwork and share feedback. He encouraged our students to approach their art with courage and discipline, sharing memories of how the passion he saw in his Governor's School instructors impacted him as an artist. During his talk, he

reflected on his career and how resilience in the face of struggle has lead to opportunities like exhibiting work in galleries and museums, photographing covers for Architectural Digest, and client work with Target, Vogue, Elle Decor, and more. Frank even got to reunite with his Govie photography instructor, the recently retired Carlyn Tucker!



20 QUESTIONS

WITH TAYLOR PETERSON

- 1. Where were you born?** Spartanburg, SC
- 2. What one thing really makes your day?** A cold brew, black. It slaps every time!
- 3. What three words would you use to describe yourself?** Hard-working, creative, and fun-loving. I have two careers and excel at both, so I stay extremely busy. I continuously explore new art, new music, and new opportunities to inspire my next moves and projects. At the end of the day, I work smart and there's always something to celebrate even in the duller moments.
- 4. Are you an introvert or an extrovert?** Ambivert – I need time for energetic human interactions as well as restful self-care days.
- 5. What was your first job?** Technically, the first thing I ever was paid to do was work in my uncle's upholstery shop on different automobile interiors in Inman, SC – disassembling and reassembling bucket seats and boat seats so they could sew new ones to upgrade the customer's upholstery needs. However, if we are counting my first salaried position, that would be at the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center where I was a member of the development team helping to fundraise for their 50th anniversary campaign.
- 6. What is your favorite thing about Greenville?** My favorite thing about Greenville is probably Falls Park. I would go running there and through the trails in the mornings before class with a running mate. SCGSAH is so lucky to have access to a great public park.
- 7. What was your major in college?** I have had two majors and hold three degrees: Horn Performance at the BM and MM level and also a second Master's in Performing Arts Administration.
- 8. What is your favorite comfort food?** Collard greens! Specifically my aunt's.
- 9. What is your idea of a dream vacation?** A solo trip to a city I have never been. A place with lots of culture, food, art, community, nature, but also a city vibe. A beach close by would be ideal but I also need good nightlife!
- 10. What is the "coolest" Govie experience you have ever had?** I'm torn! Prom was always LIT and the snow day we had senior year where school closed for 3 days and we all went to Carolina Ale House because it was the only thing open was ICONIC. But also performing at senior showcase was unforgettable and happy I had that opportunity.
- 11. What's a skill you've always wanted to learn?** I've always wanted to learn how to play guitar. I'm surprised I still haven't yet, but maybe I will in the next decade.
- 12. What part of the driver's test are you most likely to fail?** Backing up for sure. I've hit mailboxes and even the side of my parents' house before. Yikes.
- 13. What advice would you give to a current Govie?** Explore all of your passions. Not everything has to be perfect nor do you. Nurture your inner child and love yourself.

Make friends and surround yourself with fellow creatives. Collaborate. Exert energy into the things you believe in and value most. Not everyone will like you or the things you do and that's okay. Your village of friends and chosen family – the people who truly support you – will be your shine when things aren't going well. Life will always have moments that challenge you to see how much you believe in yourself, and you'll be a warrior for those moments but it will work out. Stay in touch with those who are your best friends in high school because they will be the longest most rewarding relationships in your life and connect you to new opportunities that you never would have thought. Get more sleep! Keep procrastination to a minimum when you can. How you perform as an artist has nothing to do with your value as a person! Be the most you that you can be and celebrate who you are and live life authentically.

- 14. What was the first concert you ever went to?** Oh, this is funny to think about. They changed their name since that time but are now called The Chicks. I saw the Fly Tour in 2000 and it was so much fun. I still know all the words to *Goodbye Earl*.
- 15. What's on the top of your bucket list?** Seeing Lady Gaga in 2025 on the Mayhem tour!!!
- 16. What was your last vacation?** I went to London on a solo trip for my birthday in November 2024. It was my first time there and I lived my best life seeing so many West End shows, running in the Royal Gardens, dancing, meeting fellow travelers, experiencing art museums, and seeing Windsor Castle.
- 17. If you could invite five people, living or dead, to dinner, who would they be?** Aretha Franklin, Michelle Obama, Viola Davis, Lady Gaga, Kathy Bates
- 18. What do you miss most about SCGSAH?** How good we had it! The facilities were stellar compared to so many others I met post-graduation. It may not be obvious now, but the community of people you build there will serve as a good example for what circles you want to be associated with in the future.
- 19. What's the best thing that's happened to you this week?** I got a promotion and I'm playing in Carnegie Hall for over the 30th time, I think. I lost count!
- 20. How did your Governor's School experience and education impact you?** SCGSAH created an environment that set me up for a surplus of success when I got to a major US conservatory. I was so far ahead when planning my schedules, rehearsals, and excelled at the academic level because of the humanities and music curriculum the Governor's School provided. I never would have attended Juilliard, Northwestern, or NYU without the core arts and cultural values the school instilled in my nature or had a dual career in the arts as a hornist and arts and cultural talent and professional. I'm proud to be an alum and proud to share a small piece of my story with this audience.

Taylor Peterson is an accomplished hornist and arts administrator with over nearly two decades of experience as a performer and over a decade of nonprofit service in arts and cultural management. A 2011 graduate of the South Carolina Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities, he holds a Bachelor of Music in Horn Performance from The Juilliard School, a Master of Music from Northwestern University, and a Master of Arts in Performing Arts Administration from New York University. As a musician, Taylor has performed with esteemed ensembles such as The Juilliard Orchestra, Civic Orchestra of Chicago, West Point Army Band, Spoleto Festival Orchestra, the New England Symphonic Ensemble, amongst others at the national level. He has appeared at Carnegie Hall over 30 times, showcasing his artistry on one of the world's most prestigious stages as an orchestral and pit musician.

A creative professional with a dual career, Taylor currently serves as the Senior Development Officer of Campaigns & Special Gifts at The New York Historical, where he spearheaded a \$175 million capital campaign in partnership with The American LGBTQ+ Museum, successfully achieving full funding for a new wing at New York's first museum. He has held development and marketing roles at renowned institutions, including the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM), Orchestra of St. Luke's, and Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, where he led initiatives to grow donor bases, managed multimillion-dollar campaigns, and enhanced audience engagement. Taylor also serves on the fundraising committee of the Alumni Advisory Council for SCGSAH and is an active member of the Association of Fundraising Professionals-New York Chapter. With his unique blend of artistic talent and administrative expertise, Taylor is a dynamic leader making a significant impact in the performing arts and nonprofit sector.

UPCOMING EVENTS



Save the Date
ALUMNI DAY
April 5, 2025

ALUMNI DAY will be held on campus on Saturday, April 5th. The Alumni Day schedule is designed to offer a mix of engaging activities to reconnect graduates

with the school. This year we are excited to be partnering with the Creative Writing, Film and Music departments to include SCGSAH Alumni in two different sessions focusing on the themes of the Arts in Basic Curriculum framework: Defining Culture / Inspiring Creativity / Making Connections

The morning sessions will be followed by a lunch and networking event at Gather GVL, providing attendees with the perfect opportunity to connect and engage. After lunch, an afternoon dessert reception will be held, along with a Q&A session featuring Dr. Adderley, offering a chance for in-depth discussion and insights. To close out the day, alumni will be invited back to campus at 7:30 pm to attend a special Drama presentation, rounding out an enriching and exciting series of events. To see a full schedule of events and to RSVP visit [here](#).



featuring Andrew Pastides (Drama, 2002) and Hassiem Mohammed (Drama, 2014) directed by Sasha Davis (Drama, 2012). The reading, which promises to be an engaging and memorable experience, will be followed by a reception at the Grand Bohemian Lodge. Tickets are priced at \$25 and must be purchased in advance of the event to ensure entry. This special occasion provides a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with fellow alumni and enjoy an evening of creative expression and community. Purchase your ticket(s) [here](#).

ALUMNI READING/ RECEPTION EVENT Working with the Drama department, the Alumni office has assisted in planning a ticketed alumni reading

SENIOR SEND OFF
(May 21, 2025)

The Alumni Office is excited to announce that the annual Senior Send Off dinner will take place on Wednesday, May 21, in Sakas Theatre. This special event is the result of a collaboration between several departments across campus, working together to create a memorable experience for the senior class. Dinner will feature an inspiring alumni guest speaker, offering valuable insights and reflections for the graduates. In addition, local members of the Alumni Advisory Council (AAC) will be invited to join in celebrating this significant milestone with the seniors as they prepare for the next chapter of their lives.

#GOVIE DAY
(Friday, May 23)

We invite all alumni and members of the SCGSAH community to celebrate #GovieDay on Friday, May 23! Let's come together and show our Govie pride by sharing posts that welcome the newest graduates into our alumni association. This is the perfect time to reconnect, share experiences, and celebrate the amazing talent and spirit that defines SCGSAH. Whether it's a throwback, a congratulatory message, or a reflection of a time at SCGSAH, alumni posts help inspire and strengthen our community.

FEBRUARY IS ARTS ADVOCACY MONTH!

We always encourage our alumni to be active arts advocates, but especially in February! As we celebrate the vital role the arts play in shaping our communities and fostering creativity, we ask for your support and engagement during this crucial month. By taking a moment to thank Governor McMaster and their state senator and representative for their ongoing support of arts programs in South Carolina, alumni can help strengthen the vital role of the arts in our community. Your involvement can make a lasting impact, and we invite you to take a moment to read the following message from our Alumni Advisory Chair, Josh Myers, who shares ways to get involved and further our mission. Thank you for continuing to champion the arts alongside us!

Dear SCGSAH Alumni,

As an alumnus, I hope that you share my commitment to the South Carolina Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities, affectionately known as "SCGSAH." Each year, the South Carolina General Assembly provides alumni with the opportunity to express our gratitude for the support they provide to SCGSAH and to share the many accomplishments and successes of alumni. Students in South Carolina are provided with the rare opportunity to pursue a well-rounded arts education at SCGSAH because of the financial support and legislative work of the South Carolina General Assembly and Governor Henry McMaster. SCGSAH is fully funded through the legislative process, which begins with the Education Subcommittees of the South Carolina House of Representatives Ways and Means Committee and the South Carolina Senate Finance Committee.

I urge each of you to contact your local representatives and remind them of SCGSAH's many accomplishments:

- Nationally recognized as one of the top high schools in the U.S. for academic measures by U.S. News and World Report, The Washington Post, The Daily Beast, and Niche.com.
- SAT, ACT, and AP scores place SCGSAH significantly above state and national averages for their respective measures.
- In 2024, the Governor's School had a 100% graduation rate, with 102 of 109 seniors applying successfully to a college, university, technical school, or professional dance program. The remaining 7 students took a gap year or were undecided at the time of graduation.

Many of us have established careers, busy schedules, and personal and professional obligations. Many of you are pursuing college or advanced degrees, thriving professionally, or maintaining families. However, we should all take a brief moment to contact our local representatives to give young South Carolinians the same opportunities that we had. Let's join together as alumni to thank our elected officials, including state representatives, state senators, and the Governor, for their past, ongoing, and future support of the Governor's School.

There are several easy ways to reach out to our elected leaders. First, a personal contact is always best. If you know a member of the General Assembly, and can take time to speak with them, please do so. When I engaged in advocacy at SCGSAH, my state representative, former Representative Walton J. McLeod of Newberry County, ended up becoming one of my personal mentors because

of my advocacy at SCGSAH. Although he is now retired from public service, he continues to remain a personal friend and one of my biggest cheerleaders in the legal profession. Additionally, a written note is the next best option as it helps to provide an ongoing reminder of the importance of SCGSAH. As a high school student, Representative McLeod obtained and read my letter to him about the importance of funding the Governor's School. Finally, an e-mail also serves as a way to reach out to elected officials. To find your local representatives within the General Assembly, you may click www.scstatehouse.gov/legislatorssearch.php. You may then click on your local representatives' names for full contact information. Contact information for the Governor's Office may be found at www.governor.sc.gov.

Even if you no longer reside in South Carolina, you can still be an advocate for the Governor's School. If your parents or friends still live South Carolina, encourage them to use the above information to contact their local representatives to stress the importance of the Governor's School. In addition, you can still contact the elected representatives from where you previously resided. In doing so, you can emphasize that you are former constituent from their district and a proud alumnus and product of the Governor's School. Finally, you can still contact the Governor's Office to stress your relationships to South Carolina and how the Governor's School has impacted you. Advocacy has no borders, and it does not stop merely because you are away from South Carolina.

In closing, SCGSAH is a jewel in South Carolina's education system, and it continues to be among the handful of public, residential high schools in our country. I appreciate your help thanking those responsible for giving young South Carolinians an opportunity to thrive in the arts and to pursue their passions.

Very truly yours,



Christian ("Josh") Myers
Cello Performance, Class of 2011
Alumni Advisory Council Chair



CELEBRATING THE LEGACY OF VIRGINIA ULDRICK: *A CHAMPION of the ARTS and EDUCATION*



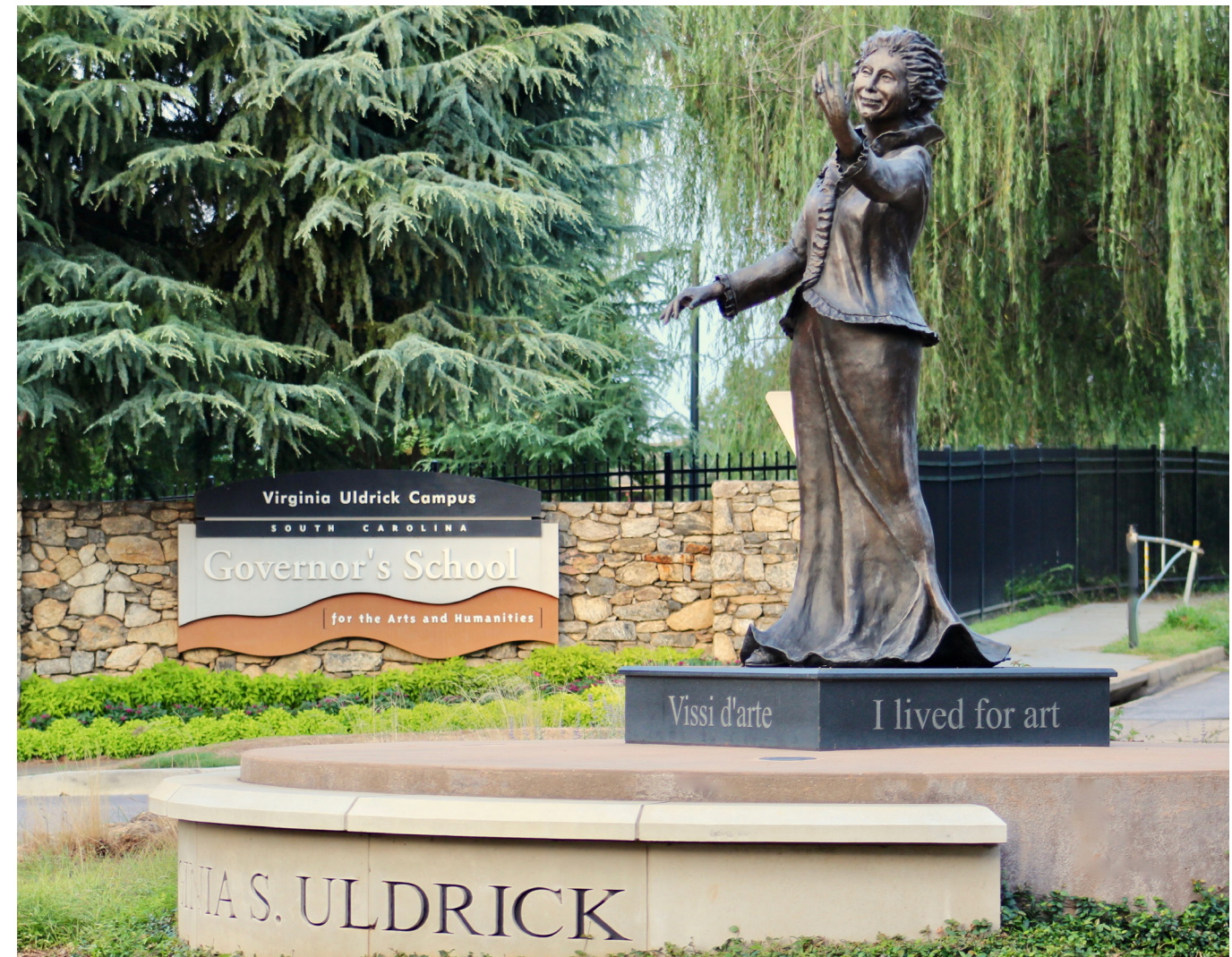
On January 7th, we celebrate the birthday of Virginia Uldrick, the visionary founder whose passion for the arts and unwavering belief in the transformative power of arts education laid the foundation for the SC Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities.

Twenty-five years ago, Virginia's dream became a reality, shaping the future of countless artists in South Carolina. As we mark this milestone anniversary year, we continue to honor Virginia's incredible legacy and the far-reaching impact of her work.

Virginia's dedication to arts education has touched the lives of generations of young artists in South Carolina, and her influence continues to be felt today. Through the establishment of the SC Governor's

School, she created a space for talented students to cultivate their artistic skills while receiving a rigorous academic education. This institution remains a beacon of excellence in arts education, a testament to Virginia's vision of nurturing the next generation of creative leaders.

In honor of her ongoing contributions to the arts, Greenville County has recently chosen to recognize Virginia Uldrick's profound impact on the community and beyond. As the landscape around campus and Downtown Greenville evolves, the Greenville Planning Commission has approved the renaming of the section of University Ridge leading up to the SC Governor's School campus. The newly designated Virginia Uldrick Circle is a fitting tribute to a woman whose tireless advocacy for the arts has helped elevate Greenville and the entire state of South Carolina.



The renaming of University Ridge to Virginia Uldrick Circle is not the only recognition of Virginia's remarkable legacy. She was recently inducted as one of six new honorees into the prestigious Greenville County Schools Hall of Fame. This honor is reserved for men and women who have made significant contributions in various fields including academia, education, the arts, athletics, business, and more. Virginia's induction into this esteemed group further highlights her profound influence on education and the arts in the region. Her efforts have not only shaped the artistic landscape but have also fostered an environment where creativity and education thrive hand in hand.

As we reflect on these recognitions, we are reminded of the enduring impact of Virginia's work, which continues to inspire and empower young artists from across the state. Her commitment to fostering talent, creativity, and artistic expression has left an indelible mark on the arts community. We are proud to be part

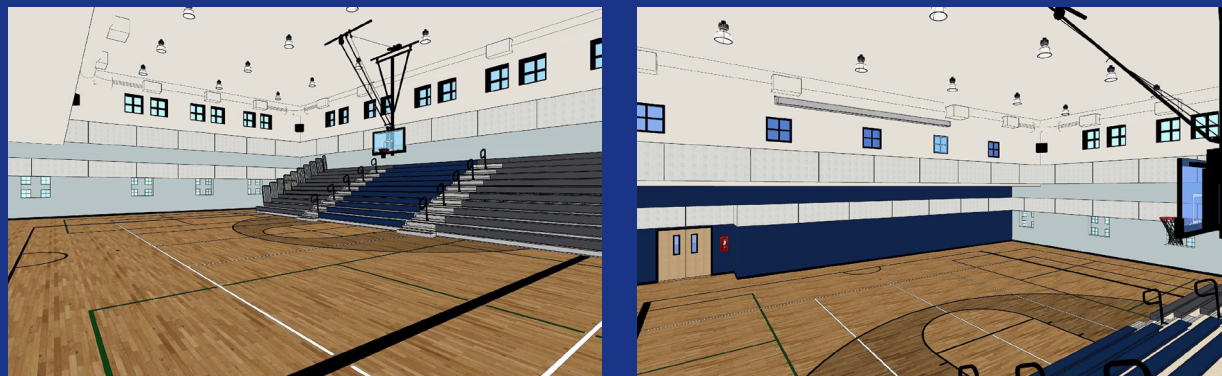
of this incredible woman's legacy and are honored to see her remembered for her tireless commitment to arts education across South Carolina.

We celebrate Virginia Uldrick not only as a founder and educator but as a visionary whose contributions have enriched the lives of countless individuals. Her legacy lives on through the SC Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities, through the Virginia Uldrick Circle, and through the many generations of artists who continue to benefit from her unwavering dedication. (Images: Virginia 1, 2, 3)

To learn more about Virginia's incredible journey and her lasting impact, we encourage you to watch this moving tribute: Virginia Uldrick's Legacy.

CAMPUS RENOVATIONS & IMPROVEMENTS

Over the next several months, several areas of campus will be undergoing renovations. The first space on the list is going to be the gym. The current gym renovation project aims to enhance the functionality and appearance of a multi-purpose facility. The project includes a fresh coat of paint, along with a refinished floor featuring striping for ½ court basketball, volleyball, and pickleball. All new equipment is being installed, including volleyball nets that screw into the floor for added stability and can be easily removed by students, as well as pickleball nets with similar functionality. Additionally, a state-of-the-art, electric basketball goal will be installed, allowing students to lower it easily for play. New bleachers are also being added, which will pull out from the wall to seat just over 300 people and operate with the push of a button. The facility will also feature new dimmable lighting that can be adjusted for different events. High-tech upgrades include a projector, an extra-large electric drop screen, and a lectern equipped with microphones and computer access for presentations or programs. While the major painting and electrical work are complete, there have been delays with the lighting delivery, pushing the project's completion date to late March or early April.



CLASS NOTES

CONGRATULATIONS

Abby Gantt Houghton (*Music, '01*) accepted a position as Pastry Cook for the 2025 Masters Golf Tournament.

Kennt Cox (*Music, '10*) was recently named Director of Bands at Gene Tomas High School in Richmond Texas.

BIRTHS

Maura Keane (*Dance, '10*) welcomed a son, Urban.

Caroline Merritt Gillespie (*Dance, '13*) welcomed a daughter, Marlowe.

DEATHS

Daniel Files (*Drama, '07*) passed away in February while skiing on Mt. Hakai in beautiful Niigata, Japan. His family is heartbroken but takes comfort in the fact that he was doing what he loved-- they say he was an incredible adventurer who traveled all over the world in search of surf, ski, and spiritual connection. Several years ago, his sister Margaret (*Music, '04*) donated a brick to the school's walkway with Daniel's name on it. She encourages anyone visiting campus to give it a visit and think of him.

You can read Daniel's full obituary [here](#).

POWERSCHOOL CYBERSECURITY INCIDENT

On January 8, the Governor's School was informed by the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) of a cybersecurity incident involving PowerSchool, our student and employee information system. This event has resulted in unauthorized access to personally identifiable information (PII) of current and historical student and employee data for the Governor's School and school districts across the nation. PowerSchool has stated that this incident has been contained. However, that does not mitigate or diminish the seriousness of this situation.

Law enforcement, including the State Law Enforcement Division (SLED), has been informed, and the SCDE is actively communicating with PowerSchool, legal counsel, and other stakeholders to assess the impact on South Carolina schools, students, and educators. Individuals whose information has been compromised will be notified by PowerSchool once this is determined. PowerSchool has stated that this breach has been contained and has informed the SCDE that it has taken steps to secure its systems, engage cybersecurity experts, and is also coordinating with law enforcement to address the breach.

The SCDE is actively communicating with PowerSchool, legal counsel, and local districts to assess the full impact on South Carolina schools, students, and educators and to determine next steps. The SCDE is also in direct communication with the State Law Enforcement Division (SLED), the Attorney General's office and has notified the Governor and legislative leaders.

Commenting on the seriousness of this incident, State Superintendent of Education Ellen Weaver said, "The protection of our South Carolina students' and educators' personal data is non-negotiable. We fully recognize the anxiety this raises for them and their families."

She continued, "While PowerSchool has taken accountability for this breach, our Department will take uncompromising action to ensure we uncover the complete extent of this incident. We will insist that PowerSchool not only notify affected individuals but also provide them with credit and identity monitoring services."

SCGSAH understands the concern this may cause and are committed to transparency as we receive updates. We will keep you informed as additional information becomes available. You can also [view FAQs](#) on this incident from PowerSchool.

ALUMNI NEWS

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at the
Governor's School



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