



ALUMNI NEWS

JUNE 2025

at the
Governor's School

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Work from the 2025 Visual Arts Student End of Year Exhibit



FROM the PRESIDENT

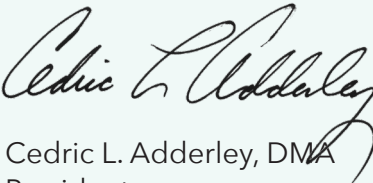
Dear Alumni,

On behalf of the entire Govie Community, I bring you greetings from the campus! With the recent graduation of 102 newly minted alumni last month, we officially bring the celebration of our 25th Anniversary to a close. This school year has been everything we could have ever imagined, and it surpassed our expectations in every way. Thanks to the support and participation of alumni and friends from across the globe, we made memories that will last a lifetime as we honored the past, celebrated the present, and envisioned the future of the Governor’s School in a grand fashion.

Along with a full-blown yearlong celebration, our top priority was to sustain the integrity of our arts and academic programs of our 25th graduating class and not compromise their experience. I’m pleased to report that the Class of 2025 included over 112 Scholastic regional award winners, 9 All-State musicians, 3 published authors, 4 Young Arts winners, and 2 performers in the Sphinx Performance Academy. With over two-thirds of the graduates earnings Dean’s List and President’s List honors, I believe that the artistic and academic achievements of the graduating class were outstanding in every way.

As many of you noted while visiting with us this year, the Governor’s School is a very different place, but it retains the same level of excitement and community that you experienced while enrolled. With a few years of projects behind us, we have managed to embed a full schedule of collaborative artistic opportunities across our curriculum that have led to amazing learning outcomes for all of our students. Please be on the lookout for our performance and event calendar and join us as it suits your schedule.

Again, I want to thank you for your level of engagement with the school during this very historic year. We could not have staged so many historic performances without your participation and ongoing support. This summer and the next academic year will be equally as exciting, and I hope to see you at a Governor’s School event on campus or throughout the state real soon.

Sincerely,

Cedric L. Adderley, DMA
President

CAMPUS & DEPARTMENTAL NEWS



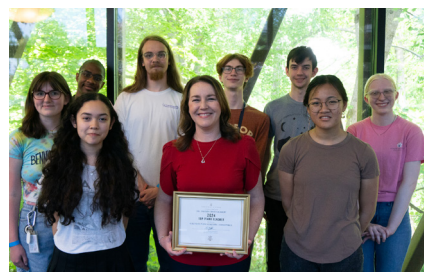
WISHING A FOND FAREWELL TO TWO OUTSTANDING TEAM MEMBERS

While we will miss them GREATLY, we wish Creative Writing Instructor Scott Gould and Public Safety Director Tammy Hubert a WONDERFUL retirement!

Together, Scott and Tammy have devoted decades to making the Governor's School a safer, more inspiring, and enriching place for our students and staff. Whether it was mentoring young writers or ensuring the safety of our community, their work has shaped our school in deeply impactful and meaningful ways.

Scott has shared his talent, creativity, and heart with the Governor's School for 21 years, helping countless students find their voices and tell their stories. Tammy has led with strength and care for 17 years, creating a secure and supportive campus environment.

We thank them both for their incredible dedication. Their influence will be felt across campus for years to come.



Dr. Amanda Montgomery, piano instructor, was recently recognized as a Steinway Top Teacher!

This prestigious national honor,

awarded by Steinway & Sons, celebrates educators who exhibit outstanding commitment to piano instruction, musical artistry, and the development of young musicians. Dr. Montgomery's dedication to excellence in teaching continues to inspire both students and colleagues. We're proud to have such an exceptional educator shaping the next generation of artists here at the Governor's School.



HONORING 25 YEARS OF EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE

Congratulations to three outstanding members of our Governor's School team who were recently

recognized for 25 years of dedicated service!

- **Dr. Matthew Burns**, Vice President for Student Development
- **Anna Copeland**, Associate Director of Residential Life
- **Michael Giller**, Director of Library Services

These incredible individuals have contributed their time, talent, and heart to shaping the student experience and strengthening our school community. From guiding student development and creating a supportive residential environment, to fostering academic resources and learning, their impact has been nothing short of extraordinary. We are deeply grateful for their commitment and all they've done—and continue to do—to make the Governor's School a place where excellence thrives.

The Dance Department recently had a wonderful visit with the Joffrey Ballet's Michael Smith!

Mr. Smith led our Govies in a special ballet class before working through choreography from the Joffrey Ballet's famous work, "Billboards," set to the music of Prince!

Michael Smith joined the Joffrey Ballet as a company artist in 2001, taking on roles in ballets like "The Prodigal Son," "Romeo and Juliet," "Round of Angels," and more. Now, he serves the dance company's Community Engagement Program and is currently in residence as a teaching artist at the University of South Carolina Department of Theatre & Dance!



ALUMNI BACK ON CAMPUS

We were THRILLED to host Google Senior UX Design Manager Rachel Inman (*Visual Arts, '07*) for a special alumni artist talk in honor of the school's 25th Anniversary!

Rachel spent the afternoon with the Visual Arts seniors leading a workshop on how user experience professionals develop products to solve everyday problems. Students got to brainstorm and design their own creative solutions for situations like family meal prep, vacation planning, and more.

During her talk, Rachel reflected on her journey from finding her passion for practical design in her Governor's School Visual Arts classes to leading a team of designers, prototypers, researchers, and writers at Google. She emphasized the importance of seeking out quality mentorship and experiences to enrich your skills and make valuable connections.

ALUMNI ACCOMPLISHMENTS & MILESTONES

Congratulations to the following alumni on these exciting achievements and life milestones:

Chad Bagwell (*Drama, '02*) graduated with a Masters in Elementary Education from Arizona State University.

Matthew Ledbetter (*Music, '18*) graduated with dual degrees from Wake Forest University School of Law and Wake Forest School of Business.

Julia Jacobsen (*Music, '20*) graduated from the University of South Carolina with dual degrees in violin performance and marketing.

Spencer Pollard (*Drama, '13*) on the birth of a son.

David Hawkins (*Drama, '04*) recently married Alex Dueñas Jr.

2025 PRESIDENT'S ALUMNI AWARD WINNERS

At the Governor's School's 25th Anniversary Gala this April, held at the elegant Westin Poinsett Hotel in downtown Greenville, we proudly recognized two extraordinary alumni whose accomplishments and values exemplify the enduring impact of an arts-centered education.

The President's Alumni Awards celebrate graduates who have carried the school's mission into their personal and professional lives—demonstrating artistic excellence, intellectual curiosity, and a commitment to community.



President's Young Alumni Award **Joshua Dantzler** (*Drama, 2017*)

A 2017 graduate of the Drama program, Joshua Dantzler has emerged as a national leader in diversity, equity, and inclusion, currently serving as Senior Specialist in the Employee Experience & Culture Department at Amtrak. In this role, he helps foster a culture of belonging by

connecting leadership and frontline teams. Joshua is also the founder of DICE Consulting, which supports organizations in building inclusive environments, and is a dedicated volunteer at American University.

Joshua's work reflects a deep and ongoing commitment to the values of the Governor's School. Through his critical thinking, creative leadership, and service to others, he continues to make an extraordinary impact—demonstrating how the arts can remain a lifelong compass for purpose and progress.



Distinguished Alumni Award **Carolyn Bolton** (*Dance, 2005*)

An internationally acclaimed artist, Carolyn Bolton has captivated audiences across the globe since graduating from the Dance program in 2005. She trained on scholarship at the Martha Graham School, danced with esteemed companies including Ballet Rambert and L'Opéra National du Rhin, and

currently serves as Creative Director of English National Ballet's Youth Company and Artistic Director of the Royal Ballet's Chance to Dance Connect program.

Carolyn also holds an MFA with Distinction from the Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance, and is widely respected for her commitment to expanding access to the arts. Her career reflects not only technical mastery and artistic innovation, but also a strong dedication to empowering the next generation of dancers.

We congratulate Joshua Dantzler and Carolyn Bolton on this well-deserved recognition. Their journeys are a testament to the power of arts education and the lasting influence of the Governor's School community.



LET'S CELEBRATE *the* CLASS of 2025

CLASS OF 2025

DESTINATIONS

Jordyn Kevona Acker | University of South Carolina

Dune Adams | The New School

William Brady Baggett | Virginia Commonwealth University

Annalisa Baldassarre | Savannah College of Art and Design

Nemiah Bennett | Clemson University

Kaitlyn Blair | Pace University

Kiara Michelle Booker | University of South Carolina

Luke Austin Braddock | The Citadel

Thomas Henry Bridgmon | University of South Carolina

Harper Geneva Bright | Davidson College

Elijah Jordan Brown | Georgia Southern University

Zebriah Malaya Jakhi Burks | College of Charleston

Channing Busch | Wofford College

Anna Maria Castro Spratt | Davidson College

Cherry Cheesman | Sarah Lawrence College

Rosie Matan Clark | Bennington College

Erica Joy Coleman | Rider University

Mary Claire Elizabeth Cooper | Clemson University

Zahara Adanya Cooper | Florida Southern University

Amelie Marie Kathryn Davis | Savannah College of Art and Design

Layton Regina Davis | Winthrop University

Gaby Delanuez | Greenville Technical College

Leila Marina Diplan | Greenville Technical College

Sarah Marie Espinoza | Winthrop University

Tatiana Michelle Fasnacht | Xavier University

Lila Ann-Marie Ferne | Rhode Island School of Design

Ulaina Takiyah Floyd | University of South Carolina

Matilde Franco Gil | University of Texas at Arlington

Isabel Garcia | University of South Carolina

Grace Garrett | Clemson University

Nathaniel Gilliam | Greenville Technical College

Nathaniel Haist Greenberg | Dartmouth College

Jae Hankins | Gap Year

Maddox Colton Hardin | University of North Carolina School of the Arts

Ava Grace Shealy Hart | Belmont University

Caroline Henley | Bennington College

Amanda Jo Hereford | Berea College

Eloise Hill | Warren Wilson College

Shelby Savannah Hillis | Ballet Spartanburg

Jackson Thiede Hollo | Peabody Institute

Ericka Chazaya Holmes | Columbia College

Norah Addison Hoppe | North Carolina State University

Echo Horn | Bennington College

Ethan Avery Hughes | Winthrop University

Hannah Renee James | Texas Ballet Theater

Kao James | Greenville Technical College

Malachi Jermaine Johnson | New York University

Brock Holden Jones | Pace University

Jada Marie Kinchloe | Georgia Southern University

Londyn King | Charleston Southern University

Keara AnaCapri Kraft | Clemson University

Gabriella Julianne Lincoln | College of Charleston

Elizabeth Alexi Rose Lindsey | Fordham University

James Love | College of Charleston

Caleb Kamwandi Luhila | College of Charleston

Lauren Ashleigh Luther | Winthrop University

Kate Elizabeth Martin | Lander University

Olivia Beatrice Martin | Lander University

River Raphaelle McGee | Clemson University

Addison Shealy Moore | University of South Carolina Honors College

Nayden Zaki Myers | Undecided

Sophia Marie Myers | University of South Carolina

Indigo Akash Nath | University of South Carolina

Braxtyn Tyler Nettles | Workforce

Bianca Lucia Obeso | Newberry College

Mia Linn Ortiz | Undecided

Zion Xavier Phelps | Presbyterian College

William Tandler Price | Centre College

Carlyn Joy Pysell | Gap Year

Camila Ramírez Camarena | Cleveland Institute of Art and Design

Charles Wilson Ratterree | Northwestern University

Valenthina Michelle Reyes | The Joffrey Ballet, Chicago

Nakeema Robinson | Clemson University

Zalynn Monelle Brigitte Rodwell | Lander University

Anne Hampton Rogers | College of Charleston

Quinn Rondeau | University of Maryland, College Park

Reuben Quinn Shiflet | Converse University

Charlotte Caitlin Shine | Clemson University

Ahna Zhen Eva Simmons | Furman University

Mathew Simmons | Kansas City Art Institute

Mya Sinclair | Clemson University

Justin Thomas Sison | Midlands Technical College

Addie Smith | Workforce

Ashley Ellen Smith | California Institute of the Arts

Elizabeth Solos | Trident Technical College

Evelyn Marie Squires | Virginia Commonwealth University

Trinity Elaine Squires | Winthrop University

Messiah Taylor | College of Charleston

Kaden Patrick Todd | Workforce

Morgan Kate Treharne | Belmont University

Savonte Vaughn | Peabody Conservatory

Anna Elizabeth Walls | Durham University

Stella Elizabeth Warren-Page | Alfred University

Angel Makayla Watson | University of North Carolina School of the Arts

Catherine Frances Wells | Clemson University

Taylor Cassidy Wells | Spelman College

Madeline Rose Whitworth | Converse University

Emma Jewell Wilkinson | Kansas City Art Institute

Destiny Nicole Zion Williams | Coastal Carolina University

Ella Grace Williams | Clemson University

Wyatt Nicholas Yock | Marymount Manhattan College

Cici Zhu | University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign



CREATIVE WRITING

The Creative Writing Class of 2025 has been successful by any metric: they are Finalists at YoungArts, winners of Gold Keys for individual work and Portfolios in Scholastics, they've published in Literary Journals, they've won prestigious scholarships, and more. The most important aspect of this class, however, is not just their work ethic or dedication, but their inquisitiveness. These seniors represent one of the most inquisitive groups of writers I have ever had the pleasure to teach. And it is that curiosity – curiosity about society, about culture, about the psyche, about the emotional and spiritual life – that has allowed them to write so well.



DANCE

The Dance Class of 2025 is a powerful and incredibly talented group of young dance artists. They took many different paths to arrive at this school, and they have a broad array of perspectives and personalities. Each of these dancers is a unique gem that brings creativity and commitment to their artistic work.

While they shine individually, this class has also built a tight-knit community that exemplifies the spirit of Govie Unity. This family supports each other, overcomes challenges, and works as a team to make things happen. Their unity does not stem from sameness, but from an embrace of their brilliant differences and the unique

strengths each one carries. Their Senior Showcase performance was not only beautiful but truly distinctive and interdisciplinary. These dancers are strong and resilient, and have been an outstanding inspiration to the dance faculty over the last three years. I know they will do great things, on the stage or off, and probably both.

~Elizabeth Wright, Dance Department Chair



DRAMA

The Drama Class of 2025 is made up of determined, talented, and highly creative students who are chomping at the bit to head out into the world and create. Whether that creation be theatre, film, or strides in neuroscience, these incredible young people are going to be change makers of the highest order. Never content with the status quo, these thirteen students strive day in and day out to push harder, go deeper, and ask the tough questions about the work and about the world around them. It's quite difficult to imagine the Drama studios or Sakas Theatre without their joy, their laughter, their grit, and their curiosity. However, they are ready.

Ready to take those gifts into the next chapter of their education

and their artistic lives. We will miss you, Studio 25, but we can't wait to see the impact you will make on the world.

~ Candace Dickinson, Drama Department Chair



MUSIC

The Music Class of 2025 represents some of the most talented and dedicated young musicians in South Carolina. These students have immersed themselves in the practice, performance, analysis, and creation of music. With individuality and endless confidence, each has forged their own path in the pursuit of artistic excellence.

After graduation, these young musicians will venture into a variety of fields. Regardless of where they go next, they will be ready for what lies ahead because they have lived and studied as artists. They have faced the challenges of perfecting the finest details of their craft, and they have been inspired by a variety of musical styles. These students have collaborated in ensembles, learned

to communicate both verbally and nonverbally to express their ideas, and resolved the conflicts that arise when passionate individuals work together. Through determination and spirit, they have risen to every challenge, capturing our hearts on stage and in the classroom.

Above all, these students have learned one of life's most powerful skills, the art of listening. They have learned to listen not just to sound, but to meaning, to others, and to themselves. Class of 2025, you are performers, thinkers, and creators. Our celebrations extend beyond your numerous accomplishments. We also celebrate the growth you've shown in the classroom, on the stage, and in life.

~Lauren Vaughn, Music Department Chair

VISUAL ARTS DEPARTMENT

The Visual Arts Class of 2025 is a group of young artists characterized by their ambition, fellowship, and curiosity. Beyond their successes in the art studios, which were numerous, these students participated in significant competitions over the past two years, distinguishing our program regionally and nationally. These include the Scholastic Art Awards, a national competition with the highest level of participation from around the country, YoungArts, another national competition celebrating the country's most exceptional young artists, a National Ceramics Conference, regional student art exhibitions at Greenville Technical College, and Converse University, the Reedy Reels Film Festival, and ArtFields Jr., a noteworthy regional exhibition event. The selections of our student works in these settings are a reflection of the high caliber of work being created by our students. Additionally, this year, our seniors produced exhibitions for the Greenville office of Pacolet Milliken, the Artistry Gallery, and the NEXT Innovation Center.



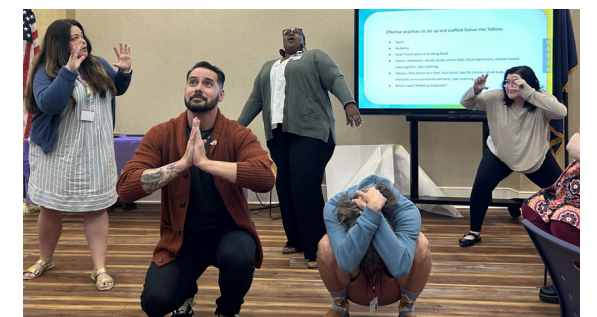
OUTREACH

Outreach started a new adventure this month as our team traveled to the Newberry County Public Library to host our first Public Librarian Professional Learning Retreat. This was an exciting venture that focused on sharing literacy based drama strategies for South Carolina's county library system.

Librarians from across the state attended this event in preparation for their summer reading community engagement series, entitled Color Our World. These programs hope to share the arts in cooperation with reading initiatives for county library constituents. Our training provided various entry points, using our award-winning *Spark* program as the primary focus.

Spark is a multi-layered initiative that uses beginner level drama strategies to support literacy efforts in elementary schools statewide by helping students connect the actor's basic skill set to reading and storytelling. This program is a great connection with public library programming, thanks to its focus on books and literacy. Participants learned a variety of strategies, including introductory games to provide a welcoming and low stakes environment for engaging in drama. They also worked through a *Spark* lesson to learn how to incorporate strategies such as statues and tableaux into their reading programs.

Our office continues to be a resource to educators, students and learning communities across South Carolina. We are so pleased to add county library learning spaces into our supported population, and we look forward to similar opportunities in the future.





20 QUESTIONS

WITH JULIA JACOBSEN

- Where were you born?** Bakersfield, California
- What one thing really makes your day?** Spending time with those around me that I care for deeply.
- What three words would you use to describe yourself?** Ambitious, curious, reflective
- Do people ever say you look like a celebrity? Which one?** A lot of people said I looked like Jennette McCurdy when I was younger.
- Are you an introvert or an extrovert?** An extroverted introvert, I can be social and talk to people when I need to or when I want to have a good time! I definitely need my recharging time too, though.
- What is your pet peeve?** People who aren't willing to try new things or ideas.
- What was your major in college?** Violin Performance and Marketing
- What book is on your nightstand?** Currently, it is "The Happiness Project" by Gretchen Rubin. So far, it's a wonderful read and has offered some great insights on how to find more happiness within our short lives.
- What is your favorite comfort food?** I love Cheesecake, Brazilian food, or just a good taco.
- What is your idea of a dream vacation?** I would love to stay in a cabin within a valley among enormous mountains and a lake nearby for a week or two. I'm thinking somewhere in the Alps or Appalachia, especially in less populated places, so I can marvel at the sky at night.
- What is the "coolest" Govie experience you have ever had?** Getting to go to Germany with the music department was very special and eye-opening. I will never forget visiting Leipzig and getting the chance to perform in the Thomaskirche, the church where Bach played the organ and had much of his music performed during his lifetime.
- What's a skill you've always wanted to learn?** I've always wanted to learn American Sign Language or Morse code. I guess I have a thing for alternate forms of communication.
- What's something about you that people would be surprised to know?** I'm half Brazilian! My mother is from Sorocaba, São Paulo, and we visit family there every other year. Thanks to her, I speak Portuguese fluently and have a unique perspective on life through being a part of two different cultures.
- What advice would you give to a current Govie?** Your brain learns and retains new information more effectively the younger you are; its plasticity declines with age. If you're working towards a creative career, you need to do everything in your power to gain and enhance those skills now, while you have your youth on your side, to reach your career goals sooner. I don't mean cutting out your social life, but rather optimizing your time so that you are maximizing your social, personal, and artistic needs and minimizing everything else that doesn't fuel your progress in those areas.
- What's a song that always makes you want to sing?** Good Old-Fashioned Lover Boy by Queen, and most songs by Queen.
- What do you miss most about SCGSAH?** I miss the extremely supportive faculty, really mentors, especially those in the music department. They are all still incredible role models to me, and I feel so lucky to be actively performing alongside many of them now.
- On what television show would you most like to be a character/contestant?** Jeopardy! I love all things trivia and learning new things.
- What's the best thing that's happened to you this week?** I'm currently playing violin at a summer music festival, and I feel that I've unlocked a new level of my playing when it comes to creativity, originality, and boldness. Hearing the improvement you are making in your art is one of the best feelings ever.
- What does the definition of success mean to you?** Pure happiness, which takes work in all areas of life to discover and requires upkeep. It's one of those things that is more about the journey than the destination, in my opinion.
- How did your Governor's School experience and education impact you?** SCGSAH allowed me to pursue music as the forefront of my education, which led me to discover the deep love I had for it and the great desire to build my life around it. I still learned important life and career skills and made some wonderful friends who I will be connected with forever through the small world that is the music industry. I have already found several career successes and grown so much as a human being thanks to my time as a Govie that ended just five years ago.



ABOUT JULIA

Julia Jacobsen is a Brazilian American violinist and violist from Greenville, South Carolina, and is currently based in South Florida. She recently graduated from the University of South Carolina, earning bachelor's degrees in violin performance and marketing while studying with Dr. Ari Streisfeld. This fall, Julia will begin her master's studies at Lynn Conservatory under Andrés Cárdenes.

Julia finds deep joy through collaborative performance, especially in orchestral and chamber music. Currently, she serves as the Principal Second Violinist of the Spartanburg Philharmonic and is a Section Violinist of the Aiken Symphony. Julia also frequently plays with the Greenville Symphony, South Carolina Philharmonic, Long Bay Symphony, and other orchestras in the Carolinas. In previous summers, she has attended the American Institute of Musical Studies (AIMS) in Graz, Austria, the National Symphony Orchestra Summer Music Institute, Decoda Chamber Music Festival, Interlochen Violin Institute, and Emerald Coast Chamber Music Festival. Her musical endeavors have led her to perform in major venues such as Carnegie Hall and the Kennedy Center. In parallel with her music pursuits, Julia has held marketing roles at Boulanger Initiative, Spoleto Festival USA, the Interlochen Center for the Arts, the USC School of Music, and the Aiken Symphony.

Diversity, equity, accessibility, and sustainability are at the heart of Julia's work. At USC, she has completed projects that expanded access to educational resources for students pursuing music in higher education, introduced newly arranged works by women composers to the violin repertoire, and produced a planetarium concert raising awareness of environmental concerns in Columbia, South Carolina, to promote effective preservation efforts.

Julia was introduced to the violin at age 11 through her middle school orchestra class, directed by double bassist Brian Gencarelli, and shortly thereafter began private lessons with Michele Cockram. She spent the latter half of high school at the South Carolina Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities (Class of 2020), where she served as Senior Class President and Concertmaster of the Concertato String Orchestra and Sinfonia Chamber Orchestra. During that time, she was a winner of the Greenville County Youth Orchestras Concerto Competition and received multiple awards from the Carolina Youth Symphony for outstanding service and musicianship.

In her free time, Julia enjoys playing with her cat, Alma, stargazing and exploring the nearest nature walk, diving into books of all genres, and organizing many facets of her life into spreadsheets.

25TH ANNIVERSARY HIGHLIGHT

DRAMA ALUMNI READING



As part of our 25th Anniversary celebration, we were thrilled to welcome Drama alumni Hassiem Muhammad ('14) and Sasha Maya Ada ('12) back to campus for an unforgettable evening of artistry and connection.

Hassiem and Sasha led inspiring master classes with current Drama students, sharing insights from their professional journeys and reigniting the spirit of collaboration that defines the Governor's School. That evening, they returned to the Sakas Theatre stage alongside summer instructor Darion McCloud for a powerful staged reading of the Tony Award-winning play *Red*.

The performance was moving, thought-provoking, and a true testament to the lasting talent and passion that lives on in our alumni community. After the reading, guests and employees gathered at the beautiful Grand Bohemian Lodge to mingle with the cast and celebrate a memorable night.



SENIOR SEND OFF: *CELEBRATING the CLASS of 2025*



On Wednesday, May 24, the Alumni Office proudly hosted the annual Senior Send Off Dinner, bringing together students, staff, and alumni for an evening of reflection, inspiration, and celebration. Held in the Sakas Theatre, the event was the result of a meaningful collaboration between multiple departments across campus, united in their commitment to honoring this important milestone for the Class of 2025.

The evening featured a powerful address from Dr. Carly Porter Phinizy (Visual Arts, 2001), a proud member of the school's inaugural residential class.

Dr. Phinizy shared her journey since graduating from the Governor's School, emphasizing the importance of remaining connected to the school and one another as active and engaged alumni.

Currently serving as the Director of Academic Operations for the College of Arts and Humanities at Clemson University and President of SECAC—a national nonprofit dedicated to advancing education in the arts—Carly holds a PhD in Art History from Virginia Commonwealth University. Throughout her career, she has led as an artist, educator, and advocate, championing the power of the arts and humanities to shape meaningful lives and communities. Her words reminded students that while their time as Govie students may be ending, their journey as Govies is just beginning.



Following the dinner, students headed to the courtyard for a celebratory send-off, complete with a photo booth, KONA shaved ice, yearbook signings, and the beloved tradition of class duck signing—a fitting close to their time together on campus.

The celebration continued the next day during graduation rehearsal, where each senior received a class photo, an alumni sticker, and a letter from Alumni Advisory Council Chair Josh Myers (Drama, 2006). In his heartfelt message, Josh reflected on the school's theme, Many Paths, One Community, Govie Unity, encouraging graduates to embrace the unknown with confidence and creativity:

"Many of you are probably excited, fearful, or nervous about the future. You have nothing to

worry about. Whether you pursue the arts or go in another direction, it will be okay. Life has many interesting twists and turns, and you will land where you should be. My passion for service was nurtured at SCGSAH through CATS. But I never dreamed that experience would catapult me to roles in the federal government, nonprofit sector, and now as an attorney in private practice. Be open to where your creativity leads you."

As the newest members of our alumni community, the Class of 2025 joins a vibrant network of artists, leaders, and changemakers who continue to shape the world in meaningful ways.

It was great to see Govie alumni at the Gala!

Thank you to all our incredible alumni who joined us for the 25th Anniversary Gala! Your presence made the evening truly special. Congratulations to Joshua Dantzler and Carolyn Bolton, our honored alumni award recipients—we're so proud of all you've accomplished!

As we continue celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Governor's School, we invite you to honor the impact it had on your creative journey! Support current students and ensure that future generations of artists can benefit from the same inspiring environment that helped shape your talents.

Here are some ways to plug in:



Engage Your Employer

Whether through corporate sponsorship or giving matches, check out your employer's giving options.



Leave a Legacy

It's never too early to consider estate planning! Consider including the Foundation to support future Govies!



Give Now!

Make a gift to support meal plans, Guest Artists, Outreach, or even your former department!



Attend Performances & Events

Grow the Govie audience by coming back for student performances and alumni events.

