



ALUMNI NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2025

at the
Governor's School

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About the Cover:

Guest exhibition by painter, sculptor, and educator Winston Wingo.

Currently based in Spartanburg, SC, Winston Wingo has exhibited work throughout the United States and in Canada, France, and Italy. He is the artist behind the "Technocrat" sculpture in the pavilion across from Lipscomb Gallery, first installed on campus back in 2001.

Mr. Wingo visited campus in October to speak to students about his process of transforming drawings into three-dimensional sculptures featured in the exhibit.





FROM the PRESIDENT

Dear Alumni,

On behalf of the world's finest artistic community, I'm pleased to bring you greetings from the Governor's School. I trust that each of you had an amazing summer and that your fall semester is off to a fantastic start.

After an amazing summer of activity in Greenville and throughout the state, we launched the new academic year with a full schedule of activity in true Govie fashion. We welcomed 115 new Govies to the community in August with a total of 236 students in residence. Our returning students were quick to welcome their newest classmates and assist them in the transition to life in our very special learning community.

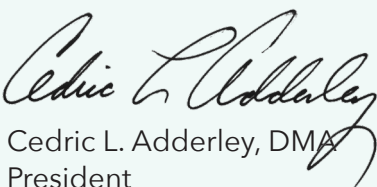
In addition to the exciting events of our annual extended orientation, the student body was thrilled to see our fully renovated gymnasium which has become our headquarters for community meetings and large gatherings for the entire campus community. The gym is the first in a series of major capital projects to be completed as we will now turn our attention to upgrading the Dining Hall and Residence Hall in the months ahead.

Our Office of Outreach has again hit a significant milestone in providing services in all 46 counties of the state for the second year in a row. With this record of achievement, we are working toward a sustainability structure that will allow multiple impact points in each county annually. This level of fully realizing our mission will ensure that our efforts connect with every region of the state and ultimately become our new normal.

In the months ahead, please be on the lookout for invitations to participate in the research process for our next long range strategic plan. Your input regarding your experiences as a student and your life beyond the walls of the Governor's School is essential to the planning process as we look to the future of our programs for the next several years. We expect a flexible schedule of focus groups and other opportunities to ensure your voices are included as we look toward the next phase of artistic, academic, and fiscal growth for the Governor's School.

As always, we would love to see you at a performance or event on the campus or throughout the state as your schedules permit. The 2025 fall performance and event calendar can be found at the following link - www.scgsah.org/calendar/events. I thank you for your continued support of the Governor's School and look forward to your participation in our scheduled events in the future.

Sincerely,



Cedric L. Adderley, DMA
President

CAMPUS & DEPARTMENTAL NEWS



We are PROUD to announce that our Interim Director of Public Safety, Robert Arnold, has been appointed as our new Chief of Police!

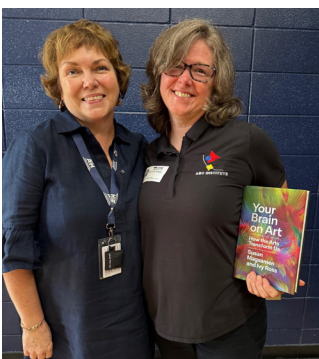
Mr. Arnold has served the Governor's School for 12 years. Starting as a security specialist, he has been a certified state police officer for the past

9 years. Prior to joining our campus community, Mr. Arnold served 24 years in the U.S. Air Force in military law enforcement with assignments in Special Operations and Air Base Ground Defense.

Mr. Arnold has always been a friendly face on campus, engaging with students and keeping our community safe. According to him, this is his dream job, and his goal is to enhance the public safety and security of our campus.

Are you watching Untamed on Netflix? Be sure to stick around for the credits!

Film Department Chair Kevin Human served as a producer on the hit series, created by Mark L. Smith and Elle Smith, and starring Eric Bana, Sam Neill, Rosemarie DeWitt, and Lily Santiago. This gripping show, which explores federal law enforcement in U.S. national parks, captivated audiences and secured the #3 spot on Netflix this year. It was just renewed for a second season.



Dr. Kim Wilson, director of the **Arts in Basic Curriculum Institute**, was on campus in August to join our school-wide summer reading discussions.

Our focus was "Your Brain on Art: How the Arts Transform Us," by Ivy Ross and Susan Magsamen.

The book looks at what neuroscience shows us about the effects of creating or experiencing art in all forms and at all levels of expertise. Dr. Wilson kicked off the morning with a few words about how the ABC Institute sees the book helping to support the case for access to art and art education in particular



In August, SCGSAH spent a wonderful afternoon connecting with families, alumni, and local educators at the beautiful USC Aiken Etheredge Center. In addition to learning more about our school, guests enjoyed a global music performance by faculty members Lauren and Jeff Vaughn, followed by dance solos from our students. Local student dancers also participated in a Modern/Contemporary master class with Dance Department Chair Elizabeth Wright.

A special thanks goes to **USC Aiken** for hosting our group and to Provost Dr. Phillip Bridgmon, who shared his experience as a Govie parent!

Our Office of Outreach had so much fun at Horry-Georgetown Technical College Conway campus in July leading Coastal Creatives programming! Rising 8th-10th graders had the opportunity to use their skills in expressing ideas and building networks to participate in arts challenges throughout the week. We are looking forward to continuing this program in 2026 with Saturday sessions and summer programming.



MEET SCGSAH'S NEW DIRECTOR of ADMISSIONS - KIP ALTMAN



My career began in education, a foundation that has influenced my subsequent roles in operations and management. I hold degrees and certifications from Francis Marion University, the

University of South Carolina Upstate, and Furman University. My early experience as a teacher at Southside High School and Blue Ridge Middle School led me to a role as an International Baccalaureate (IB) Middle Years Programme Coordinator with Greenville County Schools at Northwest Middle School and Travelers Rest High School. In this role, I was responsible for the certification and implementation of the IB curriculum, as well as training teachers in the IB model. This experience laid the groundwork for my later work in training and professional development.

Following my time in public education, I transitioned to LEARNING-FOCUSED, a K-12 professional development provider, where I served as Trainer and Consultant Coordinator. This role expanded my skill set to include client support, recruitment, and human resources. I was responsible for coordinating hiring, onboarding new staff, and organizing logistics for national conferences. This position allowed me to leverage my educational expertise in a corporate setting, focusing on improving customer service and professional development.

My most recent role as Director of Operations for Limestone University's Online program and Graduate Studies program represents the culmination of my experience. Here, I applied my operations and personnel management skills to a higher education environment. My responsibilities were comprehensive, including working with the recruiting and advising teams, processing applications, liaising with various university departments, and managing program logistics.

I am excited to become a part of the Govie family at the South Carolina Governor's Schools for the Arts and Humanities and look forward to helping the community thrive and grow for years to come.

ALUMNI NEWS



Alexander Wood (Visual Arts, '04) has authored the historical study ***Building The Metropolis: Architecture, Construction, and Labor in New York City, 1880 -1935*** which was published by The University of Chicago Press. Alexander is a historian of American architecture. His work focuses on New York City and he has a particular interest in urban, social and labor history.

From the Governor's School Alexander went on to earn a B.Arch. at Cooper Union in New York City followed by a S.M.Arch.S. at MIT and a Ph.D. in Architecture Studies at Columbia University. Following his formal education he held the Helen and Robert Appel Fellowship in History and Technology at the New York Historical Society. He is teaching Architectural History courses at Massachusetts College of Art and Design (MASSART) and resides in Boston, MA



This summer, Elaine Quave (Visual Arts, '01) exhibited work at the **The South Carolina Festival of Flowers Juried Art Show**. This exhibition is hosted annually by **The Arts Center of Greenwood** in concurrence with the award-winning Festival of Flowers. The exhibition showcased contemporary art from throughout the state and southeast.



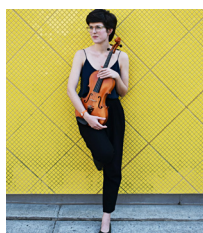
Emma Barnes McClure's current show "Office Hours" was on display at USCB Center for the Arts. For art professors, office hours extend into their studio practice, where they explore techniques and concepts to

enrich their pedagogy. This collaborative exhibition celebrated the creative exchange between Instructor Emma Barnes and her painting students.



Sara McKeown White (Visual Arts, '01), Executive Director of the Mental Health Coalition of Teton Valley, Idaho, has been honored with the 2025 Dawn Banks Nonprofit Leadership Award! This award recognizes nonprofit leaders who embody compassion, collaboration, and a lasting impact in their communities. **Read more about Sara's**

inspiring leadership here.



Music alum Carrie Frey (Viola, 2010) just released an album featuring four string quartets, all written for and performed by her creative community, The Rhythm Method! You'll definitely want to check it out **here**.



Alex Mason (Music '12) has been cast as a Mainstage Performer on the newest Disney Cruise Line ship, the Disney Destiny. The Disney Destiny will feature Broadway-style shows 'Disney Hercules,' 'Frozen, A Musical Spectacular' and 'Disney Seas the Adventure' in the Walt

Disney Theatre, along with a multitude of ship wide entertainment experiences themed to heroes and villains. The Disney Destiny will set sail on its maiden voyage November 20 from Port Everglades in Fort Lauderdale, Fla



Our community mourns the loss of artist **Jackson Tanner**, whose creative journey began with the Governor's School more than four decades ago. Tanner was part of the inaugural class of the Summer Honors Program in 1981, an experience that sparked his lifelong commitment to the arts.

Following his studies, Tanner went on to a distinguished 20-year career in government service, including his role as Supervisory Collections Manager at the Smithsonian Institution. Alongside his professional achievements, he continued to make art, developing a distinctive painting technique using Golden Fluid Acrylics to create richly textured, vibrant surfaces.

In 2019, the Governor's School proudly hosted a solo exhibition of Tanner's work in the Lipscomb Gallery, showcasing the depth and originality of his artistic vision. The following year, he answered the Visual Arts Department's national call for entries from alumni to submit work to go into the new music building. His colorful piece, "Kyklos," continues to greet students, employees, and visitors as they enter the building.

According to his wife, one of Tanner's last wishes was to donate the items in his studio to our Visual Arts Department. This generous donation of art books, paints, and supplies will help provide the same creative spark for our students that first ignited his career.

The Governor's School is deeply grateful for Jackson Tanner's enduring contributions to both our community and the wider arts world. His legacy will continue to inspire us.

SUMMER '25

PROGRAMS:

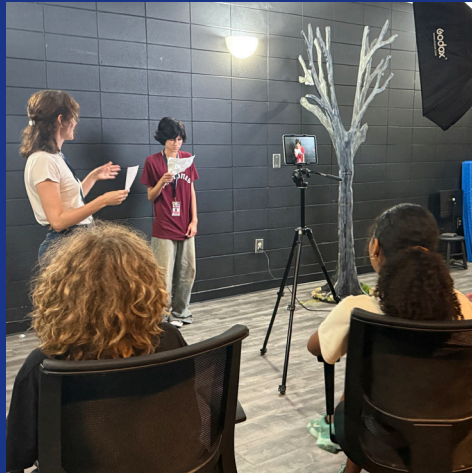
A Season of Creativity and Growth



This summer, the Governor's School campus was alive with imagination, hard work, and joyful expression as 447 students from across South Carolina came together for the 2025 Summer Programs. Participants immersed themselves in Creative Writing, Dance, Drama, Film, and Visual Arts, each program designed to challenge and inspire young artists as they explored their craft.

Throughout June and July, students dedicated themselves to building skills, discovering new techniques, and forging friendships that will last long beyond the summer. The energy and enthusiasm they brought to campus were matched only by the pride and excitement they shared at the end-of-program presentations, where families and friends gathered to celebrate their incredible growth.

From powerful performances to stunning artwork and innovative storytelling, these young artists showcased not only their talent, but also their courage, collaboration, and creativity.





25 QUESTIONS

WITH BROOK SILL

1. **Where were you born?** Spartanburg, South Carolina
2. **What one thing really makes your day?** The simple, extraordinary, beauty of a flower on the side of the road.
3. **What three words would you use to describe yourself?** Adventurous, Compassionate and Fearless
4. **Do people ever say you look like a celebrity? Which one?** I get Margot Robbie a lot and I'm not mad about it! :)
5. **Are you an introvert or an extrovert?** I think people from the outside would guess extrovert, but I am actually much more introverted than people realize.
6. **What is your favorite movie?** This is so hard to choose, but I am a sucker for *Pride and Prejudice*. I also love all Wes Anderson films.
7. **What was your first job?** I grew up on a golf course and one of the first jobs I could get at a young age was a cart girl selling drinks and snacks to the players on the course. A fun fact, my big brother actually holds to record of shooting 60 on the course.
8. **What is your pet peeve?** I actually have something called misophonia, which is an emotional reaction to certain sounds, so loud smacking or chewing unfortunately drives me crazy.
9. **What was your major in college?** Communications and Theater
10. **What book is on your nightstand?** I typically read mostly non-fiction, but at the moment I couldn't resist seeing what all the rave is about with Sarah J. Maas's series *A Court of Thorns and Roses*.
11. **What is your favorite comfort food?** A spicy rigatoni pasta or a warm homemade chocolate chip cookie. (:
12. **What is your dream vacation?** Honestly, my dream vacation includes a lot more exploration than relaxation. I would love to go on a proper adventure one day, leaving my phone behind and traveling with just a backpack to possibly Vietnam for a few weeks. I'd love to rent a dirt bike and explore different villages and local towns, making my way up to Ha Long Bay. Another dream vacation would be taking a boat down the Nile in Egypt and diving into to the wild history there.
13. **What's a skill you've always wanted to learn?** I have always wanted to learn how to play the piano.
14. **What's something about you that people would be surprised to know?** I'm much goofier and weirder than I come across. (: Once you get to know me, I'm quite silly and don't like to fit into a box.
15. **What part of the driver's test are you most likely to fail?** Probably parallel parking. My first experience driving was with my dad's very large truck, which made parallel parking more of a challenge.
16. **What advice would you give to a current Govie?** Truly enjoy each moment, each day. It can be so easy to become hyper focused on the dreams you have in your head for the future, but the future will only contain the good stuff if you're careful enough to bring it along with you. Fall in love with the process and remember you have a uniqueness in your creativity that is yours and yours alone, and it will always be enough.
17. **What was the first concert you ever went to?** Kenney Chesney
18. **Outside of the studio, are you a good dancer?** I like to think so. (:
19. **What's a song that always makes you want to sing?** Are You Gonna Be My Girl by Jet
20. **On what television show would you most like to be a character/contestant?** The role of Elsa Dutton on *1883* would have been a dream role.
21. **If you could have any superpower, what would it be?** To take away people's pain.
22. **What would the title of your autobiography be?** Entelechy - a word that is defined by the realization of potential
23. **What's your proudest accomplishment?** Raising \$50,000 for an orphanage in Peru. Spending my 20s in the pursuit of my dreams.
24. **What does the definition of success mean to you?** The degree in which we are able to be fully present in a moment. Another definition I love dearly is by Ralph Waldo Emerson, who says, "To laugh often and much; to win the respect of intelligent people and the affection of children; to earn the appreciation of honest critics and endure the betrayal of false friends; to appreciate beauty; to find the beauty in others; to leave the world a bit better whether by a healthy child, a garden patch, or a redeemed social condition; to know that one life has breathed easier because you lived here. This is to have succeeded."
25. **How did your Governor's School experience and education impact you?** My experience at the Governor's School continues to age like fine wine, growing richer and more meaningful with each passing year. To be surrounded by fellow peers who are each there because of their deep passion for their art form is such a unique high school experience that I will never take for granted. It felt like a movie to be apart of. Spending Friday nights watching your friends perform in plays and hearing the melody of a student play the ukulele on the way to class are tiny moments ingrained in my mind. I find myself often wishing I could go back in time and experience it over again.

ABOUT BROOK

Brook Sill is an actress from South Carolina who holds a recurring role on Golden Globe nominated show *Landman* (Paramount+). She can also be seen on some of Netflix's most successful shows including *Stranger Things*, *Outer Banks* and *Cobra Kai*. Brook's love for not only story telling but adventure began at a young age taking her around the world and can be seen co hosting on *Global Child* on all airlines as well as *Peacock*. Dance was her first artistic love leading her to a degree at the South Carolina Governor's School for the Arts followed by graduating with honors at Clemson University for Theater and Broadcast communications.



GUEST ARTIST GIVING CHALLENGE

Do you remember the thrill of working with a guest artist—or the spark of inspiration you felt while watching one perform at the Governor's School? Those moments left a lasting impact on generations of Govies, shaping not only their artistry but also their future paths.

This year, the Alumni Advisory Council is challenging our alumni community to come together and make that same impact for today's students.

Bringing a guest artist to campus requires a meaningful investment of resources to cover travel, lodging, and other expenses, but the impact on our students is truly priceless. These visiting artists spark curiosity, broaden perspectives, and inspire the kind of artistic growth that defines the Govie experience.

Your gift will help sponsor these transformative opportunities, ensuring current and future Govies have access to the same unforgettable inspiration that you once received.

JOIN THE GUEST ARTIST GIVING CHALLENGE TODAY.

Be the reason a student discovers new possibilities in their art.

www.scgsah.org/alumni/guest-artist-fund

Previous Guest Artists include:



Rosa
Mercedes



Rita
Dove



Laurie
Anderson



Katleen
Kelly



Jasmin
Johnson



Christopher
Martin



Jarell Howard
Rochelle

ALUMNI INSPIRE THE NEXT GENERATION DURING SUMMER PROGRAMS

Alumni engagement was another big highlight of the 2025 Summer Programs. A total of 18 **SCGSAH alumni** returned to campus this summer to serve as instructors, residential life coordinators, and program assistants—sharing their time, talent, and passion with students. Their mentorship offered participants unique insight into the Governor's School experience and the path of a working artist, helping students see firsthand where their own journeys could lead.

Beyond the classroom, alumni voices came together in a **campus-wide panel discussion**, where they spoke candidly about their personal and professional experiences. From what first inspired them to attend

SCGSAH to the choices they made in college and beyond, alumni offered honest reflections on both the rewards and challenges of their careers. Students eagerly engaged in a lively Q&A session, asking about artistic inspiration, career decision-making, and the realities of pursuing creative work.

The involvement of alumni not only enriched the summer experience but also reinforced the enduring impact of SCGSAH. By serving as role models and mentors, they provided students with a powerful reminder that the lessons learned here extend far beyond campus—shaping futures, building resilience, and strengthening the creative community for generations to come.

ARTS INSTRUCTORS:

Christina Brown (*Music, '20*) - Music
Chloe Compton (*Visual Arts '15*) - Visual Arts
Aidan Forster (*Creative Writing, '18*) - Creative Writing
Jake Fowler (*Music, '13*) - Music
Michael Matthews (*Music, '16*) - Music
Andre North (*Music, '05*) - Music
Elaine Quave (*Visual Arts, '01*) - Visual Arts
Maggie Olszewski (*Creative Writing, '19*) - Film Specialist

DEPARTMENT CHAIR:

Lauren Vaughn (*Music, '06*) - Music

PROGRAM ASSISTANTS:

Skye Flodder (*Visual Arts, '24*) - Visual Arts
Emma McArtor (*Creative Writing, '22*) - Creative Writing
Carlyn Pysell (*Dance, '25*) - Dance
Carrena Spann (*Drama, '23*) - Drama
Kate Tolchinsky (*Music, '24*) - Music

SUMMER RLCS:

Xia Bowens (*Music, '20*)
Claire Harvey (*Visual Arts '24*)
Natalie McElhinny (*Drama, '21*)
Ella Prevatte (*Visual Arts, '23*)



CARRENA SPANN

What was your favorite part of being back on campus this summer? There's no single aspect of being back on campus that takes the cake. It was like being enveloped by nostalgia - walking the halls, working alongside my former teachers, vicariously re-living rite-of-passages (through watching all the students experience them for the first time). All of the remembering just made me so grateful for every moment.



LAUREN VAUGHN

Do you have a favorite moment or memory from this summer? One highlight of my summer was collaborating with recent alumni who were formerly my students on two faculty recitals. It was incredibly meaningful to share the stage with them and to witness firsthand how they have continued to grow as musicians during their college journeys.



CHLOE COMPTON

What do you miss most about SCGSAH? I miss the community – the faculty, staff, and students created such a unique and inspiring atmosphere. That sense of belonging helped shape me as an artist and ultimately inspired me to pursue teaching in the arts.



ELAINE QUAVE

Do you have a favorite moment or memory from this summer? A favorite moment of the summer is getting to see students view their own artwork up on the walls in the gallery. It's a really meaningful thing to be able to look at all the collective work that they make during the program.

Stay Connected. Stay Engaged.

To make sure you're always in the loop with the latest news, campus updates, employment opportunities, and performance calendar, we need your updated contact information!

Activate or update your 360Alumni profile today: scgsah.360alumni.com

YOUR PRIVACY, YOUR CHOICE.

Adjust your profile settings to share as much—or as little—as you'd like.

SHARE YOUR STORY!

Add your personal and professional milestones to your profile so we can celebrate with you.

QUESTIONS about activating your profile? Contact us anytime at alumni@scgsah.org.

LET'S KEEP BUILDING CONNECTIONS THAT LAST A LIFETIME.



Calling All Alumni

The Alumni Advisory Council (AAC) is seeking new members in 2025, and we want you to be part of it! This is your chance to stay connected, give back, and help shape alumni engagement through educational, cultural, career, and social opportunities.

The AAC is a dedicated group of 15-20 members who serve two-year terms. As an advisory partner to the Alumni Office, you'll play a meaningful role in supporting and advancing the mission of the Governor's School.

Ready to get involved? Fill out the interest form!
<https://trst.in/GpCDjd>



traveled to the Newberry County Public Library to host our first Public Librarian Professional Learning Retreat.

Thanks to our partners at the SC State Library, children's librarians from across the state were able to attend a free professional development workshop in preparation for their summer reading community engagement series, Color Our World. This specially designed training session used our award-winning Spark program to support the use of literacy-based drama strategies in library programming across the state.

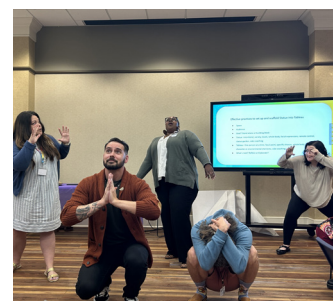
Spark is a multi-layered initiative that engages beginner level drama strategies to support literacy efforts in elementary schools statewide by helping students

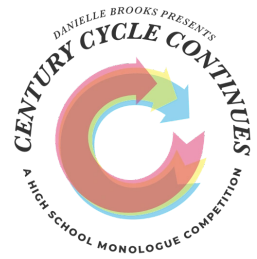
OUTREACH: *LIBRARIAN RETREAT*

The Office of Outreach started a new adventure last spring, as our team

connect the actor's basic skill set to reading and storytelling. The same strategies that are successful in elementary school settings work equally as well in a public library setting, thanks to the authentic connection between drama, reading, writing and oral communication. Participants learned a variety of easily replicable activities, and they participated in, and reflected on, a Spark lesson.

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.





DANIELLE BROOKS PRESENTS

THE CENTURY CYCLE CONTINUES

MONOLOGUE COMPETITION AND ANNIE EDGE SCHOLARSHIP



Photo by Foster Lew

Academy Award nominee Danielle Brooks is an acclaimed Broadway, film and TV actor, best known for her roles in "Orange is the New Black," "The Color Purple," "A Minecraft Movie," "Peacemaker," and "Instant Dream Home." She is a Grammy winner (2017), a Screen Actors Guild winner (2015-2017), a Tony Award nominee (2016), a Primetime Emmy nominee (2021), and an Academy Award nominee (2024).

Danielle is a 2007 graduate of the Governor's School's Drama Department. She earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts from The Juilliard School.

The Century Cycle Continues Monologue Competition, presented in the spirit of August Wilson's celebrated ten-play cycle, is a tribute to the enduring tradition of Black American storytelling on stage. Conceived and hosted by Academy Award-nominee and SCGSAH alumnus Danielle Brooks, this event challenges the next generation of performers to breathe life into the words of contemporary and classic Black playwrights, proving that while the cycle may be complete, the narrative is still being written.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR THE CCC?

- High School students* between the ages of 14-18 years old living in South Carolina.
- 10 Finalists will be chosen to compete live at SCGSAH on February 28, 2026.

*SC Governor's School students are not eligible for the CCC competition

"Creating The Century Cycle Continues Monologue Competition with SCGSAH is a profound full-circle moment driven by gratitude. My success, from the foundation built at the Governor's School to my acceptance at Juilliard, was secured by a \$20,000 legacy from my late godmother, Annie Edge, who believed in my dreams as if they were her own. This competition is my way of honoring her belief and giving back to the place that shaped me. My greatest desire is to ignite the fire in the next generation of artists and show them that achieving high levels of success is not just a dream, but can be their tangible reality on the very stage where my own journey began."

- Danielle Brooks

ANNIE EDGE SCHOLARSHIP (Only For Govie Seniors)

The Annie Edge scholarship will be awarded to one senior attending the South Carolina Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities that delivers the best contemporary monologue from a play written by a black playwright. Three students will be chosen to compete live on February 28th for the grand prize of \$5,000.

For more information visit: www.cccmonologuecompetition.com

BLACK WOMEN
ON BROADWAY

Songwriters in the ROUND *across* SOUTH CAROLINA

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**Two Incredible Nights.
Two South Carolina Cities.
One Unforgettable Experience.**

Join the Governor's School Foundation *twice* this year for Songwriters in the Round, where award-winning Nashville songwriters bring their music to life. Reconnect with fellow Govies and help keep the arts alive for the next generation.

All proceeds from both events support current and future students.

BUY TICKETS NOW

Hilton Head Island
HONEY HORN
OCTOBER 23, 2025
6PM



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SAVE THE DATE

Greenville
FLUOR FIELD
MARCH 26, 2026
6PM

event details to come!

www.scgsah.org/songwriters

A&H SC Governor's School
for the Arts and Humanities
FOUNDATION

ALUMNI NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2025

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