

March 2019

ALUMNI NEWS

at the
Governor's School



SC Governor's School
for the Arts and Humanities

Contents

- 1 From the President**
- 2 Alumni Spotlight: David Hawkins**
- 4 Keep Your Eye on These Govies**
- 4 Departmental & Campus News**
- 6 To Russia With Love, by Sam Breazeale**
- 7 A Govie in Italy, by Tyrese Byrd**
- 8 New Alumni Advisory Council Members**
- 9 A Message from John Ott**
- 10 Abroad in Europe, by Tiffany Wei**
- 12 Admissions Update**
- 12 On the Horizon: Spring 2019**
- 12 Classnotes: Life Events**
- 12 Hey Alumni—we need your help!**
- 13 Welcome Rochelle Williams**
- 13 School Store Merchandise: SALE**
- 14 How You Can Help**

About the Cover

Drama seniors attending the Unified Theatre Auditions in Chicago, where they received callbacks from the nation's top conservatory and college theater programs, including three callbacks from The Juilliard School and two from the Carnegie Mellon School of Drama for Music Theater.



From the. President

Dear Alumni,

Greetings from the Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities! We're halfway through the spring semester and ready for the final weeks of another great school year. It's been an amazing year of activity with numerous student achievements and performances on the campus, throughout the state, and across the globe.

As we began the spring semester, we welcomed Ms. Rochelle Williams to the Govie community as the new Executive Director of the SCGSAH Foundation. She comes to the Governor's School from the Middle Tyger Community Center where she served as the Director of Development. Having established a long record of success in fundraising with several organizations in North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia, you'll be pleased to know that Ms. Williams has already made her mark with several major gifts and has set a goal of establishing stronger ties with alumni as a major priority for the upcoming year. I hope that each of you has the opportunity to meet and interact with her in the very near future, as I know that you will be pleased with her work on behalf of the Governor's School.

The Dance Department hosted the inaugural *Grand Jeté* Ballet Competition on Saturday, March 2, on the Governor's School campus. Forty-eight ballet students from across the state participated in master classes and competed for cash prizes totaling \$7,500. Also, in the spirit of competition, the Creative Writing Department will host the first annual *Govie Writing Awards* later this month. This initiative is a state-wide contest for young writers in grades 6-12, allowing them opportunities to win gift cards from a local indie bookstore. Awards are named for the department's founding faculty members, Jan Bailey and George Singleton, and will be given in the areas of fiction and poetry.

In true Govie fashion, seven students earned recognition as 2019 National Merit Scholarship finalists. The winners will be announced later this spring and we expect nothing but the best news in the very near future.

You'll also be pleased to know that sixty-one music students, faculty, and parent chaperones embarked upon the biennial European Performance Tour during spring break. The group will begin their adventure in Leipzig, Germany, and have public concerts and tours in both Berlin and Dresden while there. Added highlights of the tour include a performance in the world-renowned Semper Opera House and attending a performance of the Berlin Philharmonic.

As always, I invite you to join us for a performance or event on the campus. It's always a pleasure to meet our alumni and I look forward to continued interaction with those of you who visit often. As always, I thank you for your support of the Governor's School and I hope to see you soon!

Sincerely,

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

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

1. **Where were you born?** I was born in Greenville, SC, just a few miles away from the Governor's School campus.
2. **What one thing really makes your day?** A great night's sleep. Seeing someone help another. Bacon helps too.
3. **What is your most marked characteristic?** Like my late grandfather, my most marked characteristic is my ability to make a connection with anyone I meet.
4. **Do people ever say you look like a celebrity? Which one?** I've gotten a lot of celebrity doppelgangers before, but the one that I agree with the most is Layne Staley from the band Alice in Chains. Maybe I like it most because I've always felt I have a little rock-n-roll in me.
5. **Are you an introvert or an extrovert?** There is no doubt, I am an extrovert. On the extremity of it, in fact.
6. **What is your favorite movie?** My favorite movie is either *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* (which I first saw the night before graduation in Smith Recital Hall) or *Sweet Dreams*, the story of Patsy Cline.
7. **What was your first job?** My first job was actually a small business I started at age 12. I began washing cars in my neighborhood for a little extra cash, and it turned into a full blown business. By 14, I was making thousands of dollars a month detailing almost everyone's cars in our subdivision.
8. **What is your pet peeve?** My pet peeve may sound judgmental, but it's honest. It irritates me when people choose to be victims instead of survivors. The choice to revel in the negative and to blame others triggers me.
9. **What is your favorite thing about Greenville?** My favorite thing about Greenville is that it has grown up at the same rate I have. I left Greenville at 18, vowing never to return. The last 15 years have been just as much an opportunity for my hometown as for me. Though we still have a long ways to go, I'm excited by the direction Greenville seems to be going.
10. **What was your major in college?** My major was Acting/ Theater, but I did not finish. I moved to NYC at 19 for an internship with *New York Fashion Week*.
11. **What book is on your nightstand?** *When We Were Three*. This is my second time reading the travel logs of photographer George Platt Lynes, publisher Monroe Wheeler, and writer Glenway Wescott.
12. **What is your favorite comfort food?** My favorite comfort food is Green Bean Casserole. I could eat the entire pan at Thanksgiving.
13. **What is your idea of a dream vacation?** A dream vacation for me is anywhere coastal where I can eat, drink, and dance like a local.
14. **What store would you choose to max out your credit card?** I'm a huge fan of Nordstrom Rack. In fact, I refer to it as Nordstrom Crack. SHOES!
15. **What is the "coolest" Govie experience you have ever had?** It's every time I met a fellow graduate. It's an immediate bond, an immediate kinship and support system.
16. **What is your favorite thing to cook?** I love cooking pies! My favorite is a creative take on an old-fashioned cocktail. I use fresh cherries and oranges, and of course a healthy dose of whiskey! They make great holiday gifts.
17. **What's something about you that people would be surprised to know?** I used to professionally train and show llamas across the Southeastern US. I would travel with my llamas, sleep next to them in farm stalls, and compete for awards in obedience and grooming. Fun fact: Llamas are impossible to domesticate as pets. They don't care for affection and prefer to stay to themselves, which

makes for a challenge when your job is to make them do as you ask. It was an amazing lesson in "intention vs. action."

18. **If you were trying out for a singing reality show, what song would you sing?** I would probably sing "Folsom Prison Blues" by Johnny Cash. It's my go-to karaoke song, and always gets the party started.

19. **What was your favorite subject in school?** My favorite subject in school was probably Lunch. I was, and am highly social. And I love to eat.

20. **What advice would you give to a current Govie?** This is an important question, and I'm honored to be able to provide a response. My advice to a current Govie would be to remember to not take yourself, or this school, too seriously. Your life is waiting for you beyond those gates after graduation. You will change, you will fail, you will succeed, but if you can do all of that while laughing at yourself, you're already ahead of the game. And clean your room!

21. **What was the first concert you ever went to?** Nickel Creek, an under the radar bluegrass band was my first concert. My friend Lily and I sang and danced like total fan-girls. People thought we were crazy.

22. **Are you a good dancer?** Hell yes I'm a good dancer. And I won't let anyone else tell me differently.

23. **What are your hobbies?** I don't think I have hobbies, I have passions. They include lots of philanthropic work. I have my own nonprofit called Houston's Help, a fund for those who cannot afford emergency pet surgery. And I proudly work with AID Upstate, as an HIV+ client and supporter. Having lived with HIV for 6 years, it's important for me to speak my truth, and to help end the stigma associated with the disease. #iampoz. I also own a public relations agency, which takes up a lot of my time. When I'm not working or volunteering, I'm spending as much time with my friends, family, and puppy, Harlem, as I can.

24. **What was your last vacation?** My last vacation was to Puerto Rico just months after Hurricane Maria hit. Everyone told me that it was unsafe and a terrible idea to go on the trip. But I knew that they needed me just as much as I needed them. As a US territory that solely survives on tourism dollars, I found it to be my duty as an American to go down, spend my money, and show people back stateside that Puerto Rico was ready for us. It's amazing how much fun you can have without running water or electricity when you're in paradise.

25. **If you could invite five people, living or dead, to dinner, who would they be?** 1. Patsy Cline. 2. My maternal grandmother Louise, who I never had a chance to meet. 3. Adele. 4. Michelle Obama. 5. Houston, my lab-rottie mutt who passed away last year.

26. **What do you miss most about SCGSAH?** SCGSAH was the first time in my life that I felt like I was in my element. After years of torment and violent bullying from my original school, it felt like I could finally let down the wall and begin to develop meaningful friendships. It was a beautiful feeling to know I was exactly where I was supposed to be. Those moments don't happen often in your life!

27. **What hashtag best describes you?** #levelup, because I should always be looking toward how to better myself, my career, my friends and family, and my community.

28. **On what television show would you most like to be a character/contestant?** Selfishly, I would love to be on *Queer Eye for the Straight Guy* on Netflix. I think I could offer a great perspective for those who have struggled with self worth and addiction, which, let's face it, would be most of us!

29. **If you could have any superpower which would it be?** If I could have any super power, it would be the power to heal. To heal myself, to heal my friends and family who are hurting, and to heal this nation as a whole.

30. **What would the title of your autobiography be?** *It Ain't Over Yet: Stories of Personal Resilience*.

31. **What's your proudest accomplishment?** My proudest accomplishment was coming out as HIV+ in 2018. Having lived with HIV for 6 years, I felt the shame, the guilt and the hurt of keeping this dark secret. I realized that if I was going to make it to the next chapter of healing, I had to become transparent about my status. By doing that, I'm able to educate those around me and hopefully inspire others to do the same.

32. **What's the best thing that's happened to you this week?** The opportunity to answer these thoughtful and memory provoking questions.

33. **How did your Governor's School experience and education impact you?** There are probably countless ways my attendance helped me in my career. But the thing I tell people most is how classic actor training laid the groundwork toward becoming a successful small multi-business owner. There are many surprising parallels!

ABOUT DAVID

Born in Greenville, SC, David M. Hawkins originally went to Easley High School before being accepted in the South Carolina Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities. He was the first ever student to audition and be accepted in to two disciplines, Theater and Writing. David chose Theater and graduated from the program in 2004.

Upon graduation, he was offered acceptance in theater conservatories at California Institute of the Arts, Rutgers, and SUNY Purchase. Having always held a passion for New York, David chose Purchase and completed one year of the program. An invitation to join an illusive internship program with *New York Fashion Week* propelled him to leave college and move to NYC at age 19 to begin a career in public relations. there, he worked for some of the largest firms in Manhattan, and with companies such as NYFW, Evian, JC Penney, Bravo Network, Style Network, The Travel Channel, The Food Network, and more.

David decided to leave corporate life and start his own public relations consulting company in 2008. He has lived in Lower Manhattan, Brooklyn, West Hollywood, Asheville, NC, and 3 years ago returned to his hometown. Back to his roots, David is still working in public relations with many local small businesses and marketing firms. In his free time, he runs his own 501(c)3 charity, Houston's Help, an emergency pet surgery fund for those in need. He also regularly donates time and resources to AID Upstate, a local non-profit which provides medication, housing, therapy, and other resources to those living with HIV in the upstate. Be sure to ask him about his beloved lab, Harlem.

DAVID HAWKINS

Photo: Chelsea Ashford

KEEP YOUR EYE ON THESE GOVIES!



Sponsored by SC Bach, 2015 alumnus **Gabe Smallwood** traveled through Florence, Greenville, and Columbia in February performing the works of Bach.

Gabe was a nationally recognized composer by the time he arrived at the Governor's School as a tenth-grader. As a student project for the University

of Leipzig this semester, he completed a keyboard suite that J. S. Bach left in fragments. You can learn more about Gabe [here](#).



Randy Fultz (Music, 2013) recently won a full-time bassoon position with the U. S. Army Field Band based in Fort Meade, Maryland. The Field Band is one of the army's premiere ensembles and acts as a "musical ambassador," touring regularly both nationally and internationally.



2003 Music alum **David Dorn** was selected as a nominee for Piano/Keyboard Player of the Year by the Academy of Country Music Awards. The show will broadcast live on the CBS Television Network on Sunday, April 7, at 8:00 p.m. ET/PT from the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas.



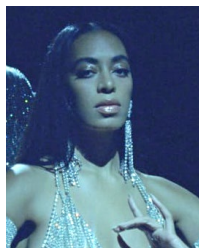
Gray Davis (Dance, 2004), a 13-year company member of the American Ballet Theatre, is joining the teaching staff of the Georgia Academy of Dance. Gray is retiring from ABT this year and has accepted a new position with Georgia Academy of Dance and the Performing Arts as their Artist-in-Residence. He will be overseeing the GAD Conservatory Program as well as the Pre-Professional Level Program.



2009 Visual Arts alumna **Tatyana Grechina** is a multidisciplinary artist making magic in Greenville. Learn more about her work [here](#).

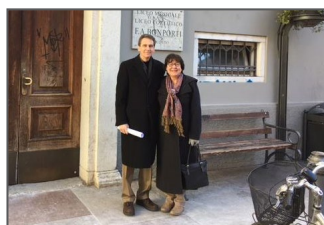


It was so exciting to see **Brandon Micheal Hall** (Drama, 2011), star of the television drama *God Friended Me*, on *Live with Kelly and Ryan* in March! **Watch** as he talks about meeting fellow Anderson native Chadwick Boseman and gives mention to the Governor's School.



A day after releasing her new album, *When I Get Home*, Solange unveiled a 33-minute accompanying video, described as an "interdisciplinary performance art film." The video is the work of New York City-based artist and 2004 Governor's School alumnus **Jacolby Satterwhite**, who animated, directed, and produced the project. Learn more about this performance art film [here](#).

DEPARTMENTAL & CAMPUS NEWS



In January, music faculty member **David Hamilton** attended a conference in Milan, Italy, and presented a talk on the Governor's School at a conservatory in Trento, Italy. The conference included attending an opera at the famous opera house, La Scala, participating in a session on

Ambrosian Chant at the church and school of San Ambrosio in Milan, visiting the new Stradivarius Museum in Cremona, as well as networking with many other orchestra and wind conductors about foreign travel with school groups.

Later in the week, Dr. Hamilton traveled to the area of Lake Garda where he visited the conservatories at Riva del Garda and Trento. While in Trento, he gave a presentation about the Governor's School at the "high school" of the Trento Conservatory. Additionally, he was able to visit the Duomo and the Church of the Trinity, two important churches where the Counter Reformation Council of Trent was held in the sixteenth century.



Summer Honors Program Music Alumnus ('87) **Phillip Boykin** received a Grammy nomination for Best Musical Theater Album for *Once On This Island*. Phillip has always credited our founder, Dr. Virginia Uldrick, for planting the seed that grew into his love for performing.



Junior **Nina Martin** won *Kenyon Review's* Patricia Grodd Poetry Prize for Young Writers, and junior **Martha Schaffer** was selected as a runner-up. Their poems were chosen out of 900 submissions by young writers in 47 states and 18 other countries.

Both poems will be published in the Sept/Oct 2019 issue of *Kenyon Review*, and both students will receive scholarships to the Young Writers' Workshop this summer. Learn more about this honor and read Nina's award-winning poem at kenyonreview.org.

It's always a pleasure to have **Mayor Knox White** on campus! Mayor White joined us for our Community Meeting on February 1 and shared updates on the exciting developments in the City of Greenville.



Our president, **Dr. Adlerley**, and Director of Outreach and Community Engagement Carol Baker represented the Governor's School at the State House in February for Arts Advocacy Day. They met with legislators and rallied with other advocates to encourage them to support the arts and arts education in South Carolina.



The University of South Carolina Symphony Orchestra, featuring nine Govie alumni, had the privilege of performing Brahms' *First Symphony in C Minor* during the General Session at the SC Music Educators' Association Conference at the Columbia Metropolitan Center. The concert was followed by a standing ovation.

The **Governor's School Choir** performed in January at Governor McMaster's inauguration at the South Carolina State House. The event was broadcast live on SC ETV.



CONSTRUCTION UPDATE



Work continues on the new music building, but with a much slower rate of progress. Over the last three months, 45-plus "weather days" have delayed installation of some foundations, walls, and the lower-level concrete floor. Installation of the structural steel for the upper floor is scheduled to begin in the next 2-3 weeks.

That will make a significant difference in the appearance of the project. The contractor is scheduling weekend work to make up time, but the completion date may extend past the beginning of the 2019 school year.

PRESIDENTIAL GUEST ARTIST SERIES

The Governor's School's Presidential Guest Artist Series presents two internationally renowned artists each year to educate and inspire students and the community through master classes, group discussion, free public performances, and more.

In November we welcomed LINES Ballet founder **Alonzo King** to campus. King has been called a visionary choreographer who is altering the way we look at ballet and was described by *The New York Times* as having "astonishing originality." His ground-breaking work has been featured in prominent ballets worldwide and has earned him inclusion on the list of America's "Irreplaceable Dance Treasures" by the Dance Heritage Coalition in 2015.



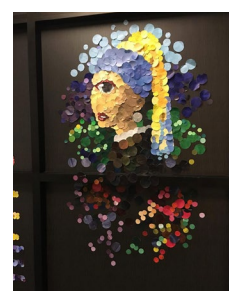
We are looking forward to having **Garth Fagan** on campus in April. Well known for his Tony-winning choreography for Disney's musical *The Lion King*, Garth Fagan has been called "a true original," "a genuine leader," and "one of the great reformers of modern dance." Fagan is the founder and artistic director of the award-winning and internationally acclaimed Garth Fagan Dance, now celebrating its 48th season. Learn more about Mr. Fagan [here](#).



The **Music Department** departed on March 15 for a performance tour of Germany. They began their journey in Leipzig, and in addition to presenting a public concert, they visited places such as the Bach, Grassi, and Mendelssohn Haus Museums. The tour continued in Dresden, where travelers were again featured in a public concert as well as in a performance at the world-renowned Semper Opera House. The journey culminated in Berlin where participants enjoyed a performance of the Berlin Philharmonic in addition to presenting their own public concert.



This is the eighth European trip for the Music Department. The trip lasted March 15-23 and occupied most of spring break. Forty-six students, four faculty, and eleven parents participated in this travel adventure.



Mr. Yanko's junior painting and color theory classes have completed the 3rd annual Color Dot Installation project, which now adorns the third floor halls of the Visual Arts building. Students selected their spaces and themes and painted lots and lots of dots. As Mr. Yanko proudly declares, "We make our own dots here."

TO RUSSIA WITH LOVE

by Sam Breazeale



If I hadn't decided to go to SCGSAH, I may have had a passing interest in Russia for a short time, but in 2013—when my senior year of high school began—there didn't seem to be any practical reason to pursue it. At my first high school, I think I would have been laughed at and then told to study business, had I expressed a desire to study Russia. Instead, I was surrounded by teachers and classmates who showed me how to live creatively, and who broadened my ideas about what interests were reasonable to pursue, and about which passions were worth developing. From Dean Julie Allen, whose AP Euro class reshaped the way I understood America's relationship with the rest of the world, and whose class on Peter the Great led me to buy a crazy-long biography of him (after which there was no turning back for me regarding Russia stuff), to Dr. Mark Sibley-Jones, who sat in the library with me and tried to help me understand Russian novels, SCGSAH is an institution full of people who encourage curiosity for its own sake.

It's thanks to my SCGSAH teachers that I was confident enough not to listen to the advisors and professors who told me not to study Russian my first year of college, and thanks to my SCGSAH peers—who have taken every imaginable, wild path since our graduation—that I decided to try to do

what I most wanted to do after college, even after some semesters in which I almost failed my Russian classes. My senior year, I applied for the State Department's Critical Language Scholarship, and for a job teaching English at a private school in Russia. In the meantime, I split all my time between studying, driving Uber and Lyft, and practicing Russian with Russians over Skype. That was a pretty lonely time, and it was difficult to imagine that I would ever get to the Russian-speaking world. But in March of last year, I learned I'd gotten the job, and soon after that I was awarded the State Department scholarship. I would spend the summer in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, taking Russian classes at Kyrgyzstan's best university, living with a Kyrgyz family, and speaking only Russian (Kyrgyzstan was part of the Soviet Union, and Russian is still widely spoken in Bishkek). Then I would fly straight to Vladimir, Russia, where I would teach for at least the next year.



I can think of only one time when I may have been as terrified as I was on my way to the airport to leave for Kyrgyzstan: August 2012, when my family dropped me off at SCGSAH for the first time. Both times, my imagination was totally unprepared for everything ahead of me, and both times I felt like I was about to leave behind everything familiar. Of course, both times, this was equal parts true and untrue, but my Governor's School experience taught me to remember amid the anxiety that there were most likely wonderful things ahead in the Post-Soviet World. (Although my Governor's School experience didn't prepare me for the *thorough* medical exam in an RV behind the tiny hospital less than twenty-four hours after I landed here).



Now, I get to spend all of my time with Russians—with coworkers in the morning, then with students in the evening, then with friends at night—and of course it's more difficult than ever to say that I know anything about them as a whole. I can say that there is a super annoying cultural norm of "helping your neighbor" by cheating on school assignments (students have told me this themselves, as an excuse, when I call them out for cheating on assignments), but that there's not, in my opinion, the endemic amorality among people that every American news article about Russia implies there is. I think that the idea that anyone might equate the actions of the Russian government with the values of normal Russian people is painful to lots of people, in a way that's easy to understand as an American right now.



If I had to choose the most important thing I learned at Governor's School, beyond any kind of musical technique or cultural literacy, it's the fact that there's no one correct way to live, and that everyone's making things up as they go along, to an extent. I don't know what other institution in

South Carolina could have helped sixteen- and seventeen-year-olds understand that, so thanks, SCGSAH. Realizing that has allowed me to live exactly the way I want right now: suspended between the stress of a demanding teaching job and the joy of my relationships here, which I never would have guessed I'd be able to make.



A GOVIE IN ITALY

by Tyrese Byrd

I had the pleasure of joining Furman University's Music in Italy program this past fall. The program is three months in Arezzo, a small but thriving city right in the heart of Tuscany. The fourteen music students from Furman joined a group of Physical Theatre students from other institutions to study with Italian professors at the Accademia dell'Arte there. Along with studying the language and learning from native professors, we also had the opportunity to travel around Italy and abroad, exploring the culture. What could be more perfect?

We visited several cities in Italy, attending concerts and operas and learning about the art, culture, architecture, and music. Those cities included Florence, Rome, Assisi, Orvieto, Siena, Milan, Venice, and more. A group of us even traveled to Vienna, Austria, during our fall break to see operas at the Wiener Staatsoper, visit the graves of several composers, and hear the Vienna Boys' Choir. Over the course of the semester, we gave several local concerts including two at the house where Petrarch lived in Arezzo. Being immersed in a culture that is so appreciative of music and art really gave me



a new outlook on my music making. I learned that while it is academic, it is primarily expressive. Therefore, great care should be taken to understand the motivation and subtext surrounding the music as much as the nuts and bolts.

Continued on page 13

New Alumni Advisory Council Members



Dr. Megan Murph (Music, 2005) is a Musicologist and Ethnomusicologist currently teaching music history courses at the University of South Carolina Upstate. She received her Ph.D. from the University of Kentucky (2018), M.M. from Louisiana State University (2013), and B.A. from Brevard College (2009). While in college and at the Governor's School, Megan studied piano,

but has also branched out to perform vocal jazz, Shona Mbira (from Zimbabwe), Korean Drums, Balinese Gamelan, and Shaped Note Singing. She has published articles and presented her research pertaining to noise and experimental music internationally and nationally. Currently, Megan serves as the co-chair of the Society for American Music's Experimental Interest Group and the Society for American Music's Conference Site Selection Committee.



Cory J. France is a Columbia native and 2009 graduate of the Governor's School (Music, Percussion) program under the tutelage of the late Sherwood Mobley (Greenville Symphony Orchestra). Since graduating from the music program, he has relocated to Washington, D.C., where he received a B.A. in Communication & Culture (with honors) from Howard University and an M.A. from American University in Strategic Commu-

nication with an emphasis on media advocacy and social impact. His passion for music, storytelling, advocacy, and digital media has afforded him chances to evolve in a variety of areas. In addition to his work in digital at Fleishman-Hillard NY, Penngood, and Adams Morgan (DC); he has supported and managed digital media efforts for music publications like Okayplayer and Couchsessions and creative direction for London-based recording artist, Anaïs, in recent years. As an entrepreneur and social justice advocate, Cory currently serves as the current Communications Director at the South Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault in Columbia, South Carolina, and provides strategic and creative counsel support for a number of multicultural non-profit organizations, publications, and influencers on the East Coast.



Living in the Upstate, **Blakely Francis** (Music, 2012) graduated with a B.S. in Business Marketing from Anderson University in 2016. She is a violinist with the Greater Anderson Music Arts Consortium (GAMAC) Orchestra. She currently is working at Mount Lebanon Elementary School while running her business, Collective Joy Weddings, as a Wedding

Officiant. Blakely is an active volunteer in her community, advocate for the performing arts, and passionate about cultivating relationships. Blakely is constantly networking and planning events for her friends, business, and other people. Most importantly, she is a proud dog mom to her Australian Shepherd/Irish Setter mix, Dublin.



Originally from Pendleton, South Carolina, **Chris Sparace** graduated from the Governor's School in 2009 and from Northwestern University in 2013 with a degree in Music Performance. After graduation, Chris founded the Altamont Brass, a working brass quintet based in the upstate and comprised of faculty from Southern Wesleyan University and Clemson University. Chris also shares a deep passion for cycling and man-

ages the Trek Bicycle Store of Greenville, one of the largest bike shops in the southeast. When he's not out riding, you'll find him playing in groups throughout the upstate as well as keeping a small studio of private students.



Lee Burgess, Class of 2011 (Music), is a native of Pendleton, South Carolina. Lee received his Bachelor of Music Education from the University of North Carolina Greensboro where he studied saxophone under Dr. Steven Stusek (Former N.A.S.A. President), educational practice and philosophy under Dr. Jennifer Walter, and conducting under Dr. Kevin Geraldi and Dr. John Locke. As a performer, Lee has premiered modern saxophone compositions in venues such

as the Navy Band's International Saxophone Symposium and has given numerous solo recitals as a featured artist. As an educator, Lee has led both his wind and jazz ensembles to four consecutive years of earning "Superior" rank-



A Message from the 2019 Chair of the Alumni Advisory Council

by John Ott

I am honored and excited to be chosen as the chair of the Alumni Advisory Council. You're only a Governor's School student for about two years (sometimes a little more and sometimes a little less) but we'll be alumni for the rest of our lives. I want this council to promote Govie values and help foster a sense of community for alumni. Although often we may not always live up to these values, we can still benefit from recognizing them and promoting them through our words and actions while we serve on this council. These are the values that can guide us in our choices during our service to the Governor's School:

- A Govie has a duty to pursue happiness. By pursuing your own happiness, you may just bring light to the world.
- A Govie has a responsibility to help other alumni in their own pursuits and goals, for by helping other govies, one helps their second family.
- A Govie should remember the spirit of creativity and freedom present at the Governor's School and seek to bring that spirit to the outside world.
- A Govie should cherish being a graduate of the South Carolina Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities. This is not only a school for the arts but a school for humanity.

These are core Govie values. Others have made similar statements before (for more ideas on pursuing happiness,

see Aristotle or the Founding Fathers or Ayn Rand), yet we will still say them again. I hope that the graduating class of 2019 will find these values useful as they go into the outside world and become alumni themselves.

As for the council, we will focus on specific goals guided by our values. We will seek to work more closely with the Foundation in order to help build relationships with donors who are interested in helping the Governor's School continue to flourish. We will help support and promote Govie Day so that alumni will have a chance to see Govies they haven't seen in years. Govie Day is much more than a class reunion. Govie Day is a family reunion for our second family.

Governor's School is a school where creative individuals open to new experiences and dedicated to their craft live and learn together. Very few are given such an opportunity. As we continue to live and learn in the outside world, we should take a moment to remember the teachers who supported us and gave us the opportunity to be a part of this community. I thank Scott Gould and George Singleton for opening the gates and allowing me to be a part of this wonderful place.

Outside the Governor's School, a statue of Virginia Uldrick welcomes new arrivals. Inscribed on this statue are the words "I lived for art." May you embrace the spirit of creativity and freedom felt at Governor's School when you pursue happiness in your own lives. As long as there is a Governor's School, you will always have a home here.

Continued from page 8

ings at the North Carolina Music Performance Assessment (MPA). His jazz ensembles have been invited to perform on international stages such as the Virginia International Tattoo and Hullabaloo, and his marching band consistently ranks in the top three at festival competitions. Lee is a member of the National Association for Music Education (NAfME), National Association of Educators (NAE), North Carolina Music Educators Association (NCMEA), and the North Carolina Bandmasters Association (NCBA). He currently serves as the treasurer for the consortium of band directors in the Albemarle Region of North Carolina. In Lee's free time he enjoys playing with his cat and dog, playing tennis, traveling, and continuing his musical studies.



ABROAD IN EUROPE

BY TIFFANY WEI

Even though I was born in Asia and moved to the US when I was very young, traveling has always been an integral part of my life. Though most of my travels were in Asia, I have expanded my love for travel all across the globe, particularly in Europe. My love for European travel started with the Governor's School—on the music department's biannual tour to Europe. My junior year at the Governor's School, we took a tour to Italy, my first time to the European continent. The tour was a whirlwind: seven days of Italian countryside, cities, and towns filled with warmth, amazing food, and beautiful churches. The music scene in Italy was so different yet so beautiful. We performed in remarkable historical venues, some of which are impossible to even find in the United States. We were even one of the first choirs to perform in a mass after the election of Pope Francis at the Vatican. The beautiful scenery, the loveliness of the people, and the amazing gelato instilled in me a life-long love for the European continent.

After my time at the Governor's School, I went to Furman University, double majoring in Music and Political Science. While I was at Furman, I participated in two of Furman's semester-long study abroad trips: Music in Italy (2016) and The Brussels Experience (2017). The first year was essentially a three-month extension of my high school trip in Italy, a well-deserved junior year edu-vacation after the tiring sophomore slump.

The Brussels trip was entirely different because it featured an internship at an institution in Brussels, Belgium. For my internship, I was placed at the European Parliament (one of the legislative branches of the European Union) and this internship helped shape my future career. As an intern, I worked for an Italian member of the European Parliament (MEP) and was delegated the more elementary but still important tasks: preliminary research, drafting legislation, proofreading, and of course making coffee. In my office, I learned how the European Parliament functioned, about the political groups and the national parties, and how bureaucratic offices ran. I attended meetings on my MEP's behalf,

made European friends, and even met the Macedonian President! My experience at the European Parliament paved the way to my current career choice, completing a Master of Science degree in European Union politics at the London School of Economics (LSE) in the UK.

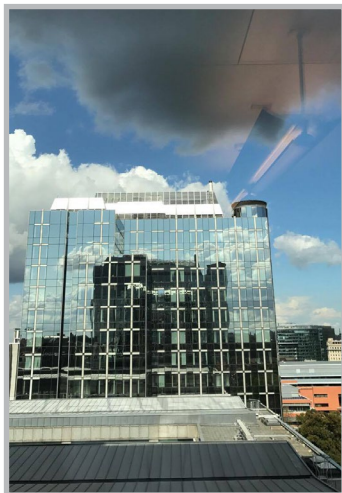
When I first entered the LSE, many people asked me how I became interested in EU politics as an American. I have always had an interest in politics, but my studies abroad prompted me to pursue higher education in the UK. Why not study Europe in Europe? Additionally, Brexit (Britain's exit from the EU) is currently happening, and London is an epicentre of the negotiations, a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for a Europhile like myself.

Studying abroad, is only possible with strong support from my family. Though my family lives in the States they have always been avid supporters of first-hand learning, whether that be visiting historical sites, completing internships, or attending lectures in the foremost social science school. Since I have been away from home since I was fourteen (I entered Govie when I was a baby sophomore), my parents are used to me living abroad. My mother cried the entire way home when I left for the Governor's School, but when I left for my first study abroad in college she just said "*arrivaderci*" and sent me on my way. (They especially like it when they have an excuse to come visit me in Europe! They came to visit

me in Brussels and even got to tour the Parliament!) They are not only financially supportive, but also emotionally supportive. If I ever need anything, they're only a phone call away (well, plus or minus the time difference).

My strong family support and my fortunate educational path have led me to where I am today: with an incredible opportunity to study EU politics at the LSE. Studying abroad has been an experience, no matter which city I'm in, wherever I go there's a lesson to be learned and a world of culture to be absorbed. It's funny to think about where this all started—with just a week-long trip to Italy in high school—and I thank the lucky stars for it all!





SC Governor's School
for the Arts and Humanities
FOUNDATION

ARTISTS *in bloom*

Thursday, April 25

Avenue

110 East Court Street, Greenville, SC

6-8 p.m.

Presented by



Alumni Tickets: \$75

To reserve your tickets visit
SCGSAH.org/giving/events
or email

Amanda.Herlihy@gsafoundation.net

Showcasing South Carolina's most promising young artists and presenting the Young Alumni Award to Brandon Micheal Hall, star of CBS' God Friended Me and one of Variety's "Top Ten Television Stars to Watch"

MORE NEWS ON THE HORIZON



The Governor's School has several new job postings on our website! We're currently seeking qualified applicants for a Residential Life Coordinator, Vice President/Dean, and Vice President of Finance and

Administration. To find out more about the open positions click [here](#).

GOVIE SATURDAYS
2019

Learn more about the Governor's School and tour campus on a Govie Saturday this spring!

March 30 | April 13 | May 18

Information Session: 10:30 a.m. • Tours: 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.
Please call 864.282.3713 to make your reservations.

There are many opportunities for students interested in the Governor's School to visit campus and learn more

about our programs this spring. Encourage someone you know to learn more by joining us for a Govie Saturday!



The first annual **Grand Jeté** student dance competition, hosted by the SC Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities, featured 47 dancers, ages 10-19, from eight dance schools across the state, including one independent dancer. Participants competed by division for cash prizes, which included \$1,500 for First Place, \$1000 for Second Place, \$500 for Third Place, and \$100 gift certificates for The Sock Basket for Honorable Mention.

"Congratulations to the winners and to all of the competitors who danced beautifully and represented our state so well," said Josée Garant, Grand Jeté executive director. "We created this event to provide an opportunity for dance professionals to get to know each other, and where our students can meet new friends, share a common passion, learn to strive in a competitive environment, support each other, be inspired, learn, and grow."

Grand Jeté was adjudicated by out-of-state, world-renowned dance professionals Lorna Feijóo, Francie Huber, and Olivier Pardina, who addressed the attendees during the closing ceremony.

"There was a terrific amount of talent and the day was just flawless," said Huber. "We were so impressed to see the talent from South Carolina. It was just beautiful."

"In ballet, *grand jeté* means big leap forward, and I believe that is truly what this competition represents," said Pardina.

Artists In Bloom

Thursday, April 25, at 6:00 p.m.

Senior Send-Off

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

#GovieDay

Friday, May 24, 2019

Alumni Day

Saturday, October 12, 2019

CLASSNOTES

Life Events

Births

Tiffany Cochran (Dance, 2007) welcomed a daughter, Charlotte Rose.

Barrett Newman (Music, 2004) welcomed a daughter, Sarah Mary.

Susan Gray Hurley (Music, 2002) welcomed a son, Henry Theodore.

Mary Elise Wallace (Music, 2013) welcomed a son, Gabriel Jay.

Brittany Bachman Valerio (Drama, 2003) welcomed a son, Rex Hudson.

Hey, Alumni— we need your help!

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

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

Tell us yours!

Please send all stories to Amanda Herlihy,
Foundation Director of Development
Amanda.Herlihy@gsafoundation.net

School Store Merchandise



Interested in making a purchase?
 Contact the Alumni Office
 for pricing and sizing information.

We are cleaning out the merchandise closet to make room for new items!

The t-shirts shown **below** are available for \$10.

Contact the Alumni Office for available sizes.



Alumni Office:
alumni@scgsah.com



The South Carolina Governor's School for the Arts & Humanities Foundation announced the appointment of Rochelle Williams as its new executive director in January.

At the Foundation, Williams will lead development and business operations. She joined the Foundation as it prepares to launch a year-long campaign to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Governor's School residential campus in downtown Greenville, South Carolina.

Williams, who has a journalism degree from the University of North Carolina, most recently worked as the director of development at Middle Tyger Community Center in Lyman, South Carolina. She served in the same role at the Georgia Network to End Sexual Assault in Atlanta. Williams also had served as a principal consultant and strategist with Gather, a South Carolina-based management consulting firm. In that role, her duties included overseeing mergers, administrative restructuring and organizational development for nonprofits and public agencies nationwide.

A Govie in Italy, continued from page 7

We lived in an old, bright yellow, Tuscan villa located almost a half-mile outside the city, situated on a hill. From there you could see the walled city and the tall campanile of the cathedral with all its grandeur. I was immediately reminded of the quasi-Tuscan villa that I once lived in at the Governor's School. I had a conversation with fellow Govies in the program, Ellen Chamblee (2016) and Shalick Smith (2016) about how the cobblestone and gorgeous views that surrounded us were magical reminders of our time at the Governor's School. We also agreed that the true magic happened inside the buildings both in Arezzo and Greenville. At the Accademia, I felt the great sense of community that I was a part of at the Governor's School. I also had opportunities to explore my art in a new light, especially when in collaboration with the theater students. We also had fabulous instruction and cultural experiences I could never forget. I owe a great deal to the Governor's School regarding my preparation and instruction that set the foundation. I also thank the Govie community that taught me to love and appreciate other artists.

How You Can Help

Spread the word

Shout it out from the rooftops, include your love for SCGSAH when you're talking to your friends or family, or mention us on social media. We love when people give us a shout out!

Join the Fundraising committee on the Alumni Council

Let the Alumni office know you're interested in helping fundraise! We could use your help.

Keep us in the loop

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

Sign up for the Foundation newsletter

Find out what's going on on campus and at the Foundation. Make sure the alumni office has your most current contact information. You can sign up for our newsletter on our website (under Giving) or send our Director of Development an email at Amanda.herlihy@gsafoundation.net.

Advocate for the school

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

Donate to the Governor's School Foundation

Be a onetime donor, or a monthly donor. Support a specific arts area, program, or fund. Set up a fundraiser that supports SCGSAH at your favorite restaurant or bar. Give small, give big. Everything donated directly helps fund artists, activities, and students.

Attend a current event

Come back, reminisce, and bring friends and family with you. Find the upcoming performance calendar on our website.