

The

Pirate Speaks

Pirate Art
December 2013



The Pearl High School Newspaper since 1948

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Photos by: Mrs. Felicia Lee

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The Medieval

There are many definitions of what Chamber Singers or Chamber Choirs can be; the standing definition of such a group is the choral equivalent of a chamber ensemble, using voices instead of instruments. There are different types of chamber choirs, ranging from barbershops to exclusively female arrangements. One particularly interesting genre of Chamber Singers is called “Madrigals.” Madrigals usually imitate the Renaissance time period and early Baroque eras. Their unaccompanied arrangements essentially pull together various traditional European ideas and combine them into one musical product. Most groups that acquire this philosophy of singing dress themselves in the old-fashioned Renaissance and medieval attire, bringing a new approach and style to the music industry.

A more local assembly of a group reflecting madrigal characteristics can be found here at Pearl High School. The PHS Chamber Singers consist of 24 carefully selected students who meet outstanding musical qualifications. With their remarkable vocal talent and skills, the Chamber Singers are led and taught by Mrs. Angie Rawls. This hard-working lady has been working with the Chamber Singers for 21 years and she has been the head director for four years. Although she has been with this group of singers for so long, she still appreciates the atmosphere of her job saying, “I really enjoy seeing the students work together as a unit to make music. I love when they begin to take ownership of the group.”

Before this group of vocalists was called the Chamber Singers, they were known as “The Pace Setters.” The Pace Setters were a pop group that eventually evolved into the costume-wearing Chamber Singers. This shift in character of the singers was introduced by the choral director, who was Donna McCommons at the time, first in 1990. This particular choir director had a love and appreciation for Renaissance music, and therefore implemented it into the music and style of the Pace Setters, forming them into the Chamber Singers.

In order to become a part of this group of Chamber Singers, students were required to go through a thorough process to filter out the best of the best. There are two rounds of this process, both of which are observed by judges. The first part of the process is a blind a-cappella audition; after that, they must wait for a callback. If they are called back, they must participate in singing with the entire group. Mrs. Rawls described what the judges are looking for in students, which is “finding the right blend and balance of voices.” Because of the level of difficulty of the music and arrangements of the Chamber Singers, students must also have a sight reading score of 95 or above. Once they are accepted into the group, they must acquire a costume. “They must represent the royalty of the 15th and 16th centuries,” stated Mrs. Rawls.



King and Queen.

Seniors Joey Collins and Holly Erwin dressed up for their last year of Chamber Singers. “Because I have been in this group the longest with Joey Collins, we have the honor of being king and queen this year!” said Holly.

Musicians

By: **Emily Crawford**

Darby Saulsbury, a junior at PHS and member of the Chamber Singers said, “We are ‘from the Renaissance age’ and we sing darker music.” Although they do not call themselves “Madrigals,” this elite collection of singers includes all of the elements a group of Madrigals requires. Mrs. Rawls said that Madrigals is a “term for a particular type of song from the 15th and 16th centuries.” The songs that the Chamber Singers perform are usually Madrigals.

This entertaining crowd of students participates in several performances throughout the year. “We perform for all Pearl Singer performances. During Christmas, we perform at numerous churches as well as nursing homes, senior centers, etc.” stated Holly Erwin, a senior at PHS and member of the Chamber Singers. They also compete in the District of State Competition sponsored by the Mississippi High School Activities Association (MHSAA) and participate in invitational festivals around the state of Mississippi.

Another custom of the Chamber Singers is hosting a Madrigal Dinner. The first one was in 1995 and they have continued to present several dinners since then. Mrs. Rawls describes this event by saying, “We create an ‘old world’ with a castle set, decorations, and food. We have jesters, a king and queen, and perform a play and a concert.”



Music Selection.

The pieces the Chamber Singers perform are usually Madrigal songs. Madrigal songs are the “pop” music of the 15th and 16th centuries.

Being a part of the Chamber Singers is a unique experience for these students. “I love Chamber Singers. I love every person in there, we are all so talented and I’m glad we can make beautiful music together,” said Darby. The style of music and customs of the group are well regarded and highly appraised by both the performers and audiences. Mrs. Rawls said what makes the Chamber Singers special compared to other singing groups is “their work ethic - they know a lot is expected of them and they always deliver.”

“They always deliver.”



The “Honors” Class.

The Chamber Singers show off their Renaissance apparel while grouped with their partners. Mrs. Rawls described this group as “an additional group of student musicians with a desire to grow in their musicianship...almost like an ‘honors’ class.”

Photos by: Emily Crawford

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Life on STAGE

By: KATIE SIMS

To say that senior Joey Collins likes music would be an understatement. “I can feel the music while I’m singing,” said Joey. A member of Pearl Singers, Chamber Singers, and Quartet, he has participated in choir and drama since 7th grade. “Music has been my passion since junior high . . . it helped show me the kind of future I could have.”

In one of his favorite Pearl High School productions, “Forever Plaid”, Joey played the part of *Smudge*. The thing he enjoys most about singing and acting is “. . . the feeling that I get.” “The best part is being on stage. You know you’re the entertainment . . . You get to bring smiles.”

Joey also participates in his church band and writes and records songs. “Some are Christian, some are love, and some are rock,” he said. “Having Christ in me inspires me to write about Him because He gives me the talent.”

Joey has a voice coach, Winona Costello, who also coached Skylar Lane and Lance Bass. At Costello’s suggestion, Joey attended a one-week singing program in New York, where he auditioned before a Broadway play director. Joey said, “I feel like I have a voice that voice experts are looking for.”



Joey Collins performs with his band in The Walk at First Baptist Church, Pearl.

“Proof of Your Love” by For King and Country is a song that holds a special value to Joey. “I want to be an influence by having the love of Christ and showing it to others.” One of his favorite quotes was said by Tom Cruise in *Vanilla Sky*: “Every passing minute is another chance to turn it all around.”

Joey intends to major in music at William Carey University. He left with this: “Never give up on your dream. Because if you work on your dream, you’ll achieve everything that you want.”

“You get to bring
smiles.”

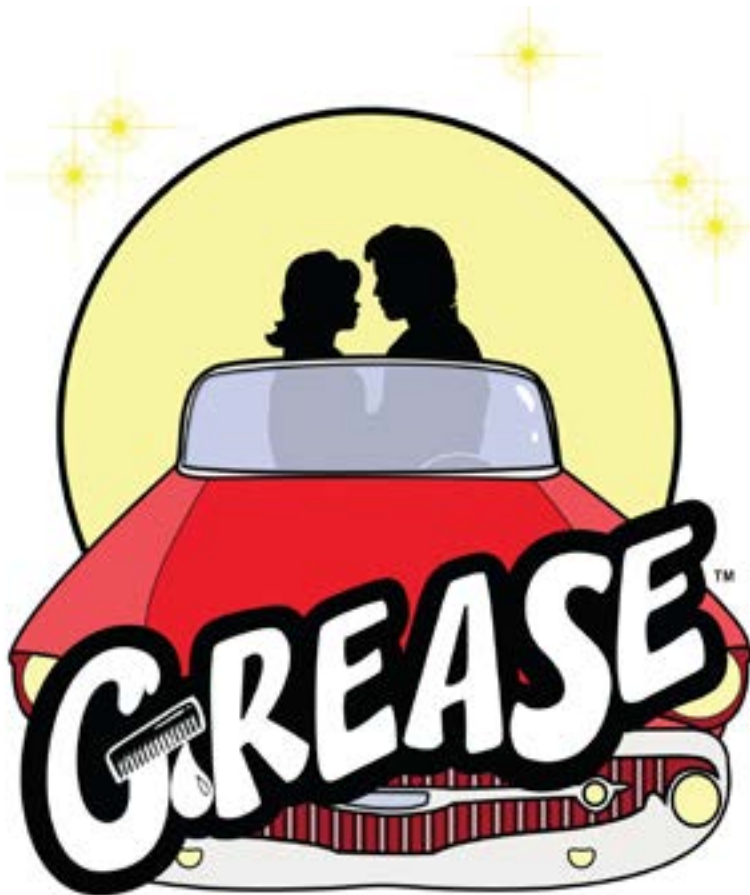
Get Your Play On

By: **Zak Burrow**

Mr. Erick Weeks, proud member at Pearl High School, is one of the drama teachers at Pearl High School. This is Mr. Weeks first year to be a part of the Pearl Public School District. A University of Southern Mississippi graduate and a participant of several theatrical camps, he is now a theatrical director for the upcoming musical *Grease*. A theatrical director is a person who comes up with the creative side of the musical such as the costumes and the set. He is also a part of several other events including the *Madrigal Feast*, *High School Musical Junior*, and several one act musicals.

“What inspired me to pick this play is because it is an iconic musical, fun, and it is a great musical for this age group to show off their talents and what they have learned in class,” said Mr. Weeks. The musical *Grease* has a lot of history at PHS. On February 28, and March 1 and 2, PHS will have produced *Grease* for its third time. The first time it was showcased was in 1987. The second time was the first musical to be in the William H. Dodson, PAC, in 2001. He said, “*Grease* has become an iconic play for Pearl and will be shown every 10 to 11 years.”

The musical is distributed by Samuel French, a licensing company, and will be relatively close to the story. It will be approximately an hour and 30 minutes. Mr. Weeks and the students will practice for two months to get this musical right. He says the toughest part of trying to produce a play is expenses. “It becomes a staple,” said Mr. Weeks. The play will cost around \$4,000. Tickets will be \$5 for students and senior citizens, and \$8 for adults.



Grease Auditions

Pearl High students will have the opportunity to audition for lead characters, supporting roles and chorus members on Tuesday, December 10, at 1:00 pm in the choir room. To audition, students must be in choir or drama or a member of the Thespians. Mr. Erick Weeks will be the theatrical director and Mrs. Angie Rawls will be the musical director.

“*Grease...*
the iconic play
for Pearl.”

My Three Words

By: **Brealand Bowie**



ALL STATE TEAM

The PHS boys cross country team finished third overall in the 5A state championship. Tenth graders Shamar Tucker (left) placed fifth and Nakenbe Fleming (right) placed eleventh. They were selected to the All State Team.



ALL STATE TEAM

The PHS girls cross country team finished second overall in the 5A state championship. Ninth grader Javier Hoard (left) placed sixth. Eleventh graders Samantha Morgino (right) placed eleventh and Antwinette McCloud (center) placed thirteenth. They were selected to the All State Team.



“A” FIELD DAY

Students attended a field day to celebrate PHS receiving an A rating on the Mississippi Accountability Model—the highest academic rating that a school can receive from the State Department of Education. Pictured are eleventh graders Edy Paredes (left) and Alexis Bulman (center) and tenth grader Latayja Johnson (right).



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Prove Your Passion

By: *Madison Byrd*

Mrs. Felicia Lee, a Delta State graduate, has been working at Pearl High School for five years. Mrs. Lee is a firm believer in using Art as a creative outlet: "I had a teacher, when I was young, tell me that the grass had to be green, the sky had to be blue, and the flowers had to be red. I just did not think that was right, because I had purple flowers and an orange sky."

Mrs. Lee defines art as "the creative process", a vague definition proving her belief that individuals should make their own rules. Mrs. Lee's Photography students are currently working on a project that requires them to write, film, edit and produce their own horror movies.

"I really like teaching Art I and Photography because every student can excel at their own pace. Each student kind of has their own style. Seeing someone feel successful when they finish a project is really, really awesome."

Mrs. Lee was once a little girl painting pictures for her mom to hang on the refrigerator; she has always had an interest in art. "Originally, I wanted to be an art therapist, but there aren't many avenues for that in the South, especially in the state of Mississippi." If she were making her career choice today, "I would probably be a philanthropist, even though that's not really a career, it's somebody who helps people... If I wasn't teaching or married with a child right now, I'd be teaching in a hut in Africa."

When Mrs. Lee isn't parenting her two-year old son, she likes to attend Crossroads Film Festival and even watch a particular 48 Hours Film Festival online. Outside of film festivals and parenting, Mrs. Lee enjoys researching new artists and projects; this is how she discovered her favorite artists Rene Magritte and Salvador Dali, who are surrealist, and Andy Warhol, a "Pop-art" painter and photographer.

"Art helps you become more creative, you have a higher level of thinking with art than you do with a lot of other subjects. It's a lot of problem solving." Mrs. Lee is not the only artist in her family; both her father and brother enjoy art as well. According to Mrs. Lee, "The best part of my job is seeing when the light bulb goes off in a kid, especially the ones that come in not very interested and realize: 'Holy cow, this is something I can do!' And watching the 'art bug' bite somebody, which is what I call it."

Mrs. Lee encourages her students to be creative by starting out every year with simple projects that give amazing outcomes. Her advice to new coming artist: "Prove your passion. Find something, whether it's running, or drawing, or ROTC, or math, or whatever, find it and go with it."



Just another typical work day for Mrs. Lee, helping her students with their artwork. Mrs. Lee enjoys drawing her own Visual Journals, as seen in the article background, to describe her current emotions and feelings. To see more of Mrs. Lee's work, visit her personal website at www.feliciaflee.tk.
Photo by Madison Byrd

Pearl High School's

By: **Emily Waters**

Pearl High School is a place that has a little something for everyone. If someone enjoys athletics, it has a plethora of sports such as football, basketball, soccer, softball, baseball, bowling, tennis, and volleyball. There are a vast array of clubs and activities in which students can participate. One of the crown jewels of the school is the Art Department. Mrs. Felicia Lee, Mrs. Vicky Miley, and Mr. Josh Bagwell help students harness their creative side, polishing the diamond so to speak. The Pirate Speaks wanted to pay tribute to the time and work that the students put into their art.

Class: Photography
Student: Carrie Brower
Grade: 11th



Class: Photography
Student: Heather Hall
Grade: 11th



ART

Class: Advanced Drawing
Student: Chris Guillotte
Grade: 11th



Class: Photography
Student: Addy Benton
Grade: 11th



Class: Advanced Drawing
Student: Karla Romero
Grade: 12th



Class: Advanced Drawing
Student: Addy Benton
Grade: 11th



Class: Photography
Student: Autumn Strickland
Grade: Former Student

Class: Photography
Student: Autumn Strickland
Grade: Former Student



Class: Photography
Student: Autumn Strickland
Grade: Former Student



Thank you to all the teachers and students who made this possible.
The Pirate Speaks

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Don't Stop Till You Get it Right

By: **Carrie Brewer**

Clinton native, Jordan Langworthy, has loved music ever since she was born. “I was jammin’ in the womb!” Langworthy grew up around music. Both of her parents are talented musicians. She said her father is her biggest inspiration. “He made you feel good about yourself. He made you feel as if what you did mattered.” Despite her shyness, she sang in the school choir. “I was very shy. It wasn’t until college that my shell was broken. It still can’t be found.” She majored in music education at Mississippi College. She said her voice is her primary instrument, but she can jam out on the piano. “If I were to describe myself in three words, I would say ‘I is kind, I is smart, and I is important.’”

Ms. Langworthy said in regards to her music, “I am very eclectic. I love all kinds of music except country. It makes me gag.” This week, her favorite singer is Jennifer Hudson. Her favorite music to teach is jazz. She has an “in your face” teaching style. “Don’t stop until you get it right!” says Langworthy.

“Ms. Langworthy is a great teacher,” said Marlon Mosley, one of Langworthy’s students. “She knows what she’s doing.” As a first year teacher, she has a lot on her plate. Ms. Langworthy teaches general music, freshman choir, women’s choir, directs women’s chorus, the jazz ensemble “Encore”, the sixth grade girls choir, and is the musical director for High School Musical Jr. Despite her busy schedule, Langworthy still finds time to shop till she drops.

Ms. Langworthy concluded her interview with, “I just want to say that if I were a necklace, I would be a pearl necklace, because it is classy, beautiful, and expensive. Go Pirates! Aaaaarg!”



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December 23 - January 3

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January 6

Report Cards

January 9

School Holiday

January 20

School Holiday or

Adverse Weather Make-Up Day

February 17

Merry
Christmas

Do It Yourself with



Step One:

Begin your DIY galaxy project by choosing the color of your back drop (white works best) and the colors of your soon-to-be planets.

Step Two:

Spray paint your planets using the different colors. Make as many planets as you like!



Step Three:

By using scraps of paper from an old magazine, blot the planets to give them texture.

Step Four:

Lightly spray the bottoms of your planet using black spray paint. This gives them value and depth.



Step Five:

Place any round object over the planets. You can use an old pan, pot or bowl. This will keep the planets safe from any unwanted paint.

Raven Morgan

By: *Bella Kyzar*



Step Six:

Spray the surrounding areas with black paint. This creates the galaxy around the planets.

Step Seven:

Remove the covers from your planets and use an old paint brush to splatter white paint across the paper, creating stars.



Step Eight:

Turn your white spray can over and lightly press until a stream of paint comes out. This technique creates comets!

Step Eight:

Using a ruler, stand it up horizontally and spray white paint along the edges to create large stars.



Step Nine:

Give your DIY galaxy project some final touches and sign the bottom!

Holiday Time

By: KATIE SIMS

Fall is passing
Winter approaching

Spirits are high
Cloudy the sky

Holiday cheer
From far to near

All about
People shout

For they all know
The joy that will grow

This time of year
With loved ones held dear

We dream of sugar plums
And hear little toy drums

Music fills the air
As children run about without care

Lights all twinkle
And the snow a sprinkle

It is the time
When being a Scrooge is a crime

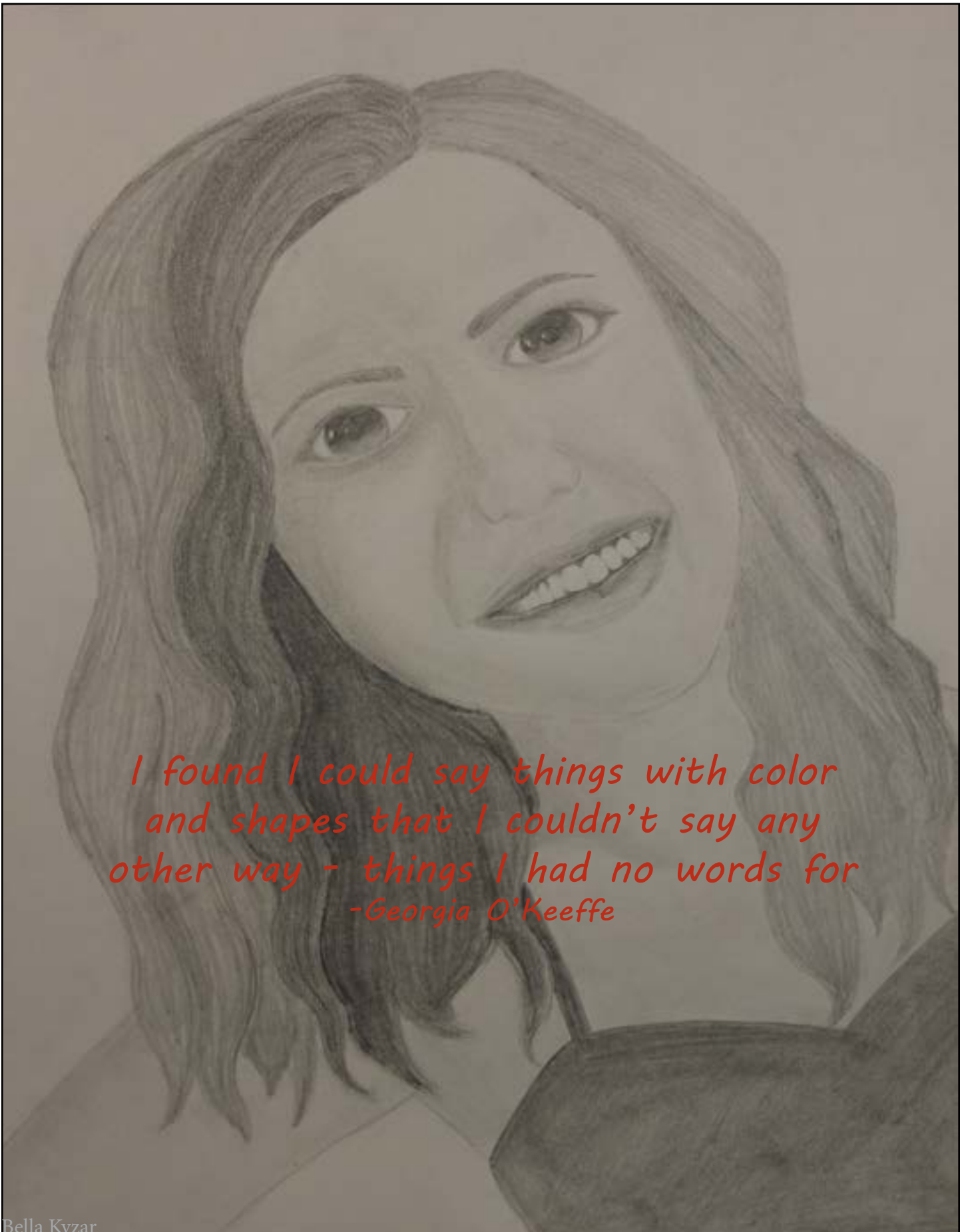
These are things to remember
This December

As Fall is passing
And Winter approaching

FUN PAGE

Finish the picture!!





*I found I could say things with color
and shapes that I couldn't say any
other way - things I had no words for
-Georgia O'Keeffe*