

# A HISTORY OF COASTAL CAROLINA

**1954** On the evening of July 23, 1954, a group of citizens meets in the Horry County Memorial Library to discuss a daring proposal – the creation of a local college. The group soon becomes a non-profit organization, the Coastal Educational Foundation, Inc. Coastal Carolina Junior College opens September 20, 1954, as a branch of the College of Charleston. Fifty-three students are enrolled, taught by a handful of part-time faculty, with classes meeting after hours in Conway High School.

**1958** Coastal Carolina Junior College becomes independent when College of Charleston discontinues its extension program. Horry County voters approve a referendum which raises taxes by three mills to provide funding for the college.

**1959** The South Carolina General Assembly creates the Horry County Higher Education Commission, a government regulatory agency to oversee use of Coastal Carolina's county tax money.

**1960** The Horry County Higher Education Commission is responsible for a contract that establishes Coastal Carolina Regional Campus of the University of South Carolina, effective fall 1960.

**1961** Members of the Horry County Higher Education Commission and Coastal Educational Foundation, Inc., agree it is time to move to a campus suitable for institutional growth. They select the present site of the University, most of which was donated by Burroughs Timber Company and International Paper Company. A major fund-raising drive raises \$317,000 for construction.

**1963** Ground is broken for the campus and less than a year later Coastal Carolina's 110 students move into the first campus building, the Edward M. Singleton Building.

**1966** With an idea and a gift from William A. Kimbel and L. Maud Kimbel, the Atheneum, the campus symbol, is completed.

**1973** USC Coastal Carolina College adds a junior year; in 1974, a fourth year is added.

**1975** USC Coastal Carolina College awards its first four-year degree.

**1981** Wheelwright Auditorium, the first center for the performing arts in northeast South Carolina, is dedicated. The \$3.1 million facility is funded almost entirely by private donations, including a \$1.2 million gift from the Kimbel family. The facility is named for L. Maud Kimbel's maternal grandfather, John Wheelwright, who was involved with the cotton trade in South Carolina in the early 1900s.

**1983** Coastal Carolina becomes a charter member of the Big South Athletic Conference.

**1986** Coastal Carolina becomes a full member of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA).

**1987** The first on-campus residence halls open.

**1989** Enrollment reaches more than 4,000 students. The number of full-time faculty grows to 175.

**1990** The Campaign for Progress surpasses its goal of \$5.5 million in fewer than five years, spurring growth in capital projects, the arts, and academic enrichment programs.

**1991** On July 23, 1991, the Coastal Educational Foundation, Inc., and the Horry County Higher Education Commission vote to seek legislative approval to establish an independent Coastal Carolina University. USC System President John Palms recommends to the USC Board of Trustees that Coastal pursue independence from the University in name and administration. The trustees adopt President Palms' recommendation in June 1992.

**1993** The South Carolina Legislature passes legislation establishing Coastal Carolina University as an independent, public institution, effective July 1, 1993. Governor Carroll Campbell signs the bill during a ceremony at Coastal Carolina on May 14, 1993. The University's first Board of Trustees meets for the first time July 1, 1993. Ronald R. Ingle is named the University's first president. Coastal Carolina University begins offering its first graduate programs in education in the fall of 1993. The E. Craig Wall Sr. School of Business Administration Building is completed and dedicated in honor of Mr. Wall, who was one of the University's original founders.

**1994** The Eldred E. Prince Building, funded by the Horry County Higher Education Commission, is completed and dedicated. New projects include plans for a humanities building, residence hall/dining facility, athletic administration complex, printing services facility and renovations to existing buildings. The University's first formal Inauguration is held to install President Ingle.

**1996** A new 400-bed residence hall and dining facility is completed for fall 1996 occupancy; the number of students who live in campus residence halls reaches 1,000. President Ingle unveils a \$68 million campus master plan that will guide development of the University to the 50th anniversary of the institution, to be celebrated in the year 2004.

**1997** The Board of Trustees adopts A Journey of Excellence, a plan to guide the University into the next century. The South Carolina General Assembly approves \$11.7 million for the new Humanities and Fine Arts Building.

**1998** The R. Cathcart Smith Science Center is dedicated, and a \$2 million campaign to upgrade the facility is announced. Coastal Carolina offers baccalaureate degree programs in 36 major fields of study through its four academic schools, graduate programs in education, and seven cooperative programs with other South Carolina universities. The E. Craig Wall Sr. School of Business Administration gains accreditation by the American Assembly of Collegiate Schools of Business.

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**1999** The South Carolina General Assembly approves the final funding for the new Humanities and Fine Arts Building. Nobel Laureate Archbishop Desmond Tutu visits the campus as part of the Kimbel Distinguished Lecturer Series. The School of Education gains accreditation by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education. The Board of Trustees approves the sale of revenue bonds to begin construction of a 350-bed residence hall, expansion of the dining facility and University Hall. Football will be added to the intercollegiate mix in 2003; with football, the University will offer 17 NCAA Division I intercollegiate programs.

**2000** To reflect the growth of academic programs and the maturity of the institution, the four academic schools of the University are renamed colleges. The College of Humanities and Fine Arts is named for Thomas W. and Robin W. Edwards. A statewide awareness campaign bolsters the University's visibility. The University endowment tops \$12 million, reflecting a more than 300 percent increase since 1993; the total number of donors increases by 17 percent in the past year.

**2001** University enrollment increases to almost 5,000 students from 47 states and 50 countries. The average SAT for entering freshmen tops the national average. New degree programs are approved for Middle Grades Education, Music, Philosophy, Spanish and Special Education. A major construction boom is highlighted by the opening and formal dedication of the Thomas W. and Robin W. Edwards College of Humanities and Fine Arts, the largest building on campus. A \$1.8 million gift from the estate of Rebecca Randall Bryan marks the largest single cash gift in Coastal Carolina's history. In collaboration with the Georgetown community, the University brings the Freedom Schooner Amistad to Georgetown. The Amistad attracts more than 16,000 visitors, including more than 8,000 school children from Horry and Georgetown counties.

**2002** The University's enrollment rises to a record of nearly 6,000 students. A baccalaureate degree program is offered in Management-International Tourism. The first class of recruits for the new football team begins practice in preparation for intercollegiate play in Fall 2003. State appropriations fall to approximately 23 percent of the total current funds, and tuition and fees represent nearly half of the University's \$63 million operating budget.

**2003** The University offers baccalaureate degree programs in 36 major fields of study and 35 undergraduate minors. The University also offers master's degree programs in education, instructional technology, and coastal marine and wetland studies. A growing array of international programs take students to places such as Australia, Costa Rica, Cuba, England, Ecuador, Galapagos Islands, Germany, India, Japan, Russia and Spain. The University anticipates its anniversary in 2004 with plans for the 50th Anniversary Initiatives, an ambitious campaign to raise private funds to support the academic, physical and athletic needs of the University. A \$1.5 million gift from Burroughs & Chapin Company, Inc., is announced to support the construction of an education and research facility at the University's Waites Island/Tilghman Point property. A \$2 million gift from Loris native Bob Brooks marks the largest single gift in the history of Coastal Carolina and places

the Brooks name on the new football stadium. More than 8,000 fans pack Brooks Stadium on Sept. 6 for the inaugural game of the Chanticleer NCAA I-AA football squad.

**2004** Coastal Carolina offers baccalaureate degree programs in 38 major fields of study and 36 undergraduate minors, including a new bachelor's degree in economics. Coastal serves students and the community with a new location, the Waccamaw Higher Education Center, and sites in Georgetown and Myrtle Beach. The 50th Anniversary celebration officially begins on Founders' Day, September 20, with a formal convocation to honor the three educational institutions that had pivotal roles in the shaping of Coastal Carolina: Horry County Schools, University of South Carolina and College of Charleston. The Spadoni College of Education is named for William L. "Spud" Spadoni and members of his family through a \$1 million gift to the 50th Anniversary Initiatives. The public phase of the 50th Anniversary Initiatives was announced in September with more than \$10 million already committed.

**2005** Coastal Carolina has a record enrollment of 7,613 students; to accommodate the growth, the University continues to extend its physical presence to the East Campus, located in the Atlantic Center on Highway 501. The campus now comprises 52 main buildings on 302 acres. The long-awaited Master of Business Administration degree gains approval, and the Wall College of Business begins accepting MBA students for fall 2006. New baccalaureate degree programs are approved in Communication and in Recreation and Sport Management, bringing the total number of undergraduate degree programs to 39 fields of study. The 50th Anniversary Initiatives campaign raises \$4 million over the \$10 million goal, reflecting the growing community support for the University. For a conference-record seventh time, Coastal Carolina captures the Sasser Cup for athletic program success. President Ronald R. Ingle announces his retirement for June 2007, and the Board of Trustees begins planning the search for the University's second president.

**2006** The university continues record growth with 8,049 students from 44 states and 32 foreign countries enrolled for fall 2006. The freshman class has an entering SAT score of 1,047 and an average high school GPA of 3.32, topping national averages in both categories. The university's operating budget hits \$110 million, 12 percent of which comes from state appropriations. Ground is broken for Adkins Field House following a \$1.8 million gift from Charlotte businessmen and twin brothers Mark and Will Adkins, representing the largest pledge ever received from alumni. Construction for the field house, to be located at Brooks Stadium, is expected to begin in 2007. A university search committee and the board of trustees interview candidates for the position of president of the University.