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Opening Remarks

Where has the first half of fall semester gone? It seems like just yesterday that campus came back to life with the start of classes. The time has flown by and the end of the semester is right around the corner.

In this issue we'll say goodbye to Wall Fellows Board Member Wilson Lowery and welcome Kathryn Cook to the Wall Fellows Board of Directors. We'll get a peek into the induction of the Wall Fellows Class of 2015, hear about the Wall Fellows experience at Wall Connections, and catch up with alumni Patrick Hall.

With warm regards,

Meghan Laffin '14 and Jordan Lauver '15



Wall Fellows Class of 2014
(From top left): Meghan Laffin, Zachary Burns, Naomi Dantzer, Britany Higdon, Cora Panos and Dominique de Wit



Wall Fellows Class of 2015
(From left): Jordan Lauver, Scarlett Trainor, Steven Vanden Heuvel, Ashley Barteck, Chase Vickery and Casey Burnett

Changes to Wall Fellow Board of Directors

As is the case with any organization, there comes a time when a valuable member of the organization moves on. This September, Wall Fellows Board Member Wilson Lowery stepped down from his position on the board after many years of dedicated service. Lowery brought to a diversified set of skills acquired through a lifetime of professional success to the Wall Fellows Board of Directors, having held many mid and upper-level managerial positions for IBM, including serving as chairman of IBM credit corporation and global financing and as IBM vice president of quality and reengineering.



Following his retirement from IBM, Lowery was the executive assistant director for administration for the FBI. He is also the founder of a financial management and reengineering consulting company, WLLP Capital. His diverse and deep knowledge of a many aspects of the business world was a great asset to the Wall Fellows Program.

A new member has been appointed to the Wall Fellows Board of Directors. Kathryn “Kif” Cook has been a resident of the Grand Strand since 1987. For 30 years, Kif was a well-accomplished and respected lawyer. She practiced with the Bellamy Law firm from her arrival in Horry County until she established her own law firm, Cook & Roy, LLC in 2001.



At the start of her local law career, Kif served on the board of the South Carolina Young Lawyers Association as the regional representative for Horry and Georgetown Counties. She was also appointed by the South Carolina Supreme Court Chief Justice to serve on the South Carolina Bar’s Commission on Lawyer Conduct from January 1997 to December 2011.

Elected by her peers in Horry and Georgetown Counties, Kif served as the regional representative on the South Carolina Bar House of Delegates from January 2005 until June 2008. At this point Kif was elected to serve on the South Carolina Bar’s Board of Governors, a position she held until June 2011.

Currently, Cook is the executive director of Waccamaw Community Foundation, a position she has held since January of 2013. She has served on a variety of non-profit boards, including a 16-year tenure with Sea Haven Inc. Cook’s diverse background makes her a welcomed addition to the Wall Fellows Board of Directors.

Inducting the Class Of 2015

On the evening of Nov. 1, six new members officially joined the Wall Fellows family. Ashley Barteck, Casey Burnett, Jordan Lauver, Scarlett Trainor, Steven Vanden Heuvel and Chase Vickery were all inducted as the Wall Fellows Class of 2015 in front of distinguished guest, faculty members, Wall Fellows alumni, family and friends.

The induction ceremony is a Wall Fellows tradition that is an experience not to be forgotten. The inductees of the Class of 2015 began the evening socializing with everyone who came out to celebrate the exciting occasion. The evening then proceeded to the formal induction ceremony at 6:30 p.m.

Sitting on the stage hearing wonderful remarks about themselves and stories from the members of the Wall Fellows Class of 2014, the new members began to realize they weren't being inducted into just a program, but were becoming members of a diverse and highly successful family. "It was humbling to realize how much this program means to those who were members of classes from the program's early years," said Jordan Lauver.

Becoming a Wall Fellow is an honor, but it is one that is not truly understood until after an accepted applicant becomes officially inducted into the program. To shake the hands of dozens of alumni and see how genuinely happy they are to have you be part of their family is a humbling experience that is hard to rival.



Wall Fellows Class of 2015



*President DeCenzo with
Jordan Lauver '15*

Wall Fellows at Wall Connections

Many would agree that as Wall Fellows, we are exemplar students, and university ambassadors. Four Wall Fellows embraced this task this month, and acted as escorts to the four guest speakers at this year's Wall Connections event.

Senior Meghan Laffin served as an escort to keynote speaker Brent Freeman, which was an incredible opportunity for her. Brent Freeman is the CEO and Founder of Roost.com, an online shopping platform geared toward fashion-conscious individuals who want to make a difference through the products they purchase. Freeman said he was inspired by entrepreneurs like TOMS Shoes' Blake Mycoskie, and feels it is his duty to give back.

Laffin said the one-on-one time she got to spend with Freeman gave her an up-close-and-personal look into the mind of an entrepreneur. "Brent told everyone that being an entrepreneur is a mindset more than a job title... and he personified that," she said. "Brent was constantly looking and discussing ways to innovate. He was intrigued by my perspective as a student, and as a journalism minor, I was quite intrigued by him."

Roost.com has seen phenomenal success in the past few years, and for Wall Fellows like Meghan Laffin, this was opportunity was a wonderful chance to network and learn. "Days like those are when all the hard work pays off," she said. "This program changes my life a little bit more every day."

Alumni Spotlight: Patrick Hall

A Wall Fellow graduate from the Class of 2005, Patrick was inducted into the Sasser Athletics Hall of Fame this month, an achievement he says is one of the best he's had in his lifetime.

"It's even more special because it's for more than just football," he said. "It's because of Wall Fellows too, and I'm equally proud of both."



Hall transferred to Coastal in 2003 and played on the first ever Chanticleer Football team. In 2004, he was voted Big South Offensive Player of the Year and Big South First Team All-Conference. Hall led the team to its first ever Big South Championship that year, but says that it wasn't easy, and adversity was a constant.

"There were a lot of hard times," said Hall. "But I don't believe in failure and I don't say *if*, I say *when*."

So when Hall discovered the Wall Fellows program in 2003, he began to map out his steps. "I told myself that I'd get into the program and get an amazing internship," he said. "And I never thought for a moment that I couldn't do it."

Hall went on to be inducted in 2003, and he interned with the Carolina Panthers during the summers of 2004 and 2005. He worked in ticket sales and operations, and got to train with the team in the meantime. During his senior season Hall led the Chanticleers to another Big South Championship and set new records with his career rushing total of 2,214 yards.

After graduation, Hall went on to receive his M.B.A from Southern Methodist University, and he worked for Texas Instruments in 2010. He is currently working as a wireless connectivity solutions planner for Texas Instruments, and is living in Dallas with his wife Chastity. The couple celebrated their one-year wedding anniversary in September.

Hall enjoys his job and attributes much of his success to the support he had through football and the Wall Fellows Program.

"They taught me to give it my all and never give up," he said.

And with his mark still in the record books, and his name in the Hall of Fame, it's clearly a lesson that Hall took to heart.