Sept. 1, 2015, was one of my more exciting days as president of Coastal Carolina University. Moving to the Sun Belt Conference marks a new and promising beginning for Coastal. This decision wasn’t just about FBS football. It was about what the Sun Belt Conference and FBS classification can mean for the institution as a whole.

When the Sun Belt first approached us three years ago, we weren’t ready. Times have changed. We’ve had great success in athletics, and our academic profile has improved, with new majors at the graduate and undergraduate levels. When the discussions reopened in June, all the dominoes lined up and everything fell into place.

Clearly, our athletic success put the spotlight on Coastal. But when the Sun Belt visitation team came to campus, the discussions focused on academics. The Sun Belt schools wanted to make sure that our academic quality was consistent with their institutions. We scored very well.

One of the most significant benefits will be in branding. We will be one of three FBS institutions in South Carolina, joining Clemson and University of South Carolina. This puts us in an entirely different league, giving us broader market exposure and better opportunities for quality student growth.

Money is another consideration. The dues that we pay the Big South are increasing, and the money we get back is declining. Our net income from the Big South was roughly $60,000 last year. As an FBS member, we will receive over $1 million a year. Here’s how it breaks down: There is a $2 million buy-in. We don’t have to pay that up front; we can take $50,000 last year. As an FBS member, we will receive over $1 million a year. Here’s how it breaks down: There is a $2 million buy-in. We don’t have to pay that up front; we can take

Can we grow our fan base enough to attract an average 15,000 fans per football game? Consider the following factors. A significant entourage follows FBS schools. We may get breaks down: There is a $2 million buy-in. We don’t have to pay that up front; we can take

In athletics, and our academic profile has improved, with new majors at the graduate and undergraduate levels. When the discussions reopened in June, all the dominoes lined up and everything fell into place.

Clearly, our athletic success put the spotlight on Coastal. But when the Sun Belt visitation team came to campus, the discussions focused on academics. The Sun Belt schools wanted to make sure that our academic quality was consistent with their institutions. We scored very well.

One of the most significant benefits will be in branding. We will be one of three FBS institutions in South Carolina, joining Clemson and University of South Carolina. This puts us in an entirely different league, giving us broader market exposure and better opportunities for quality student growth.

Money is another consideration. The dues that we pay the Big South are increasing, and the money we get back is declining. Our net income from the Big South was roughly $60,000 last year. As an FBS member, we will receive over $1 million a year. Here’s how it breaks down: There is a $2 million buy-in. We don’t have to pay that up front; we can take

Can we grow our fan base enough to attract an average 15,000 fans per football game? Consider the following factors. A significant entourage follows FBS schools. We may get

FEATURES

12 | Top Tier Chanticleers
A CCU education was the key component in the success of these five individuals, the first to be recognized in a new alumni spotlight series.

24 | Chants in Cuba
It was a historic week for the CCU basketball team — in more ways than one.

32 | Making of an Icon
Our heroic new Chauncey sculpture was created right here on campus.

38 | Piano Man
Remembering professor and pianist Gary Stegall.
CCU has ranked for campus beauty

CCU has been named one of the Most Beautiful Coastal College Campuses by Best Value Scholarships, a company that provides rankings on different aspects of colleges and universities. CCU was No. 12 of the top 30 most beautiful coastal college campuses in the United States. It ranked higher than colleges such as the University of North Carolina, Wilmington, and the University of Hawaii. The beach colleges were chosen and ranked based on the following criteria: location emphasizing easy access to beaches; awards and recognition; student enjoyment; the number of notable alumni; and other characteristics, such as historical significance, and environmental friendliness.

Scholarships honor late senator

CCU established two new scholarships for the Fall 2015 semester that honor the memory of state Sen. Clementa Pinckney, who was slain in the June 17 mass shooting in Charleston's Emanuel AME Church. The $2,500 scholarship will be awarded annually to one male and one female student from South Carolina’s District 45, which Pinckney represented in the state senate. The first recipients are Tiffany Darlington and Nazair Wilson. The district includes parts of Anderson, Beaufort, Colleton, Charleston, Colleton, Hampton and Jasper counties. Approximately 340 current CCU students are from the district.

“Senator Pinckney worked hard to advance educational opportunities in his district and throughout the state,” says CCU President David A. DeCente. “He understood that education was the means to a better future for all South Carolinians, and he was dedicated to helping people achieve their dreams through knowledge.”

Eligibility for the Senator Clement C. Pinckney Memorial Scholarship is determined by specific criteria, including demonstrated financial need and the maintenance of at least a 1.0 grade point average. The award can be renewed for up to four years.

“In the midst of this tragedy, Coastal Carolina University recognizes the work of Sen. Pinckney as an activist for justice and individual rights,” says Travis Overton, CCU’s vice president of student rights and responsibilities and the dean of students. “In honor of his service, this scholarship will be awarded from District 45 to pursue higher education. The tragedy has affected several students in our community, and the establishment of this scholarship focuses on the true meaning of Sen. Pinckney’s work.”

For more information about the scholarship, contact CCU’s Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships at 843-349-2131 or email finaaid@ccsu.edu.

Faculty, students create special camp

“Camp Smiles” is a new summer camp for kids who don’t usually get the opportunity to go to camp. The five-week camp, offered for the first time this past June and July on the CCU campus, offers summer recreation and learning activities for children with seven disabilities.

The camp grew out of a need expressed by Anita Howell, the mother of a 10-year-old boy named Ryan who has cerebral palsy. Howell approached Jenna Cobb, director of the Chanticleer Center for Literacy Education in the Spaldoni College of Education, who reached out to CCU special education professor John Delport. The group began meeting last year to reach out to CCU special education professor John Delport. The group began meeting last year to...

Gus Gaynor performs with disco legend Gaynor

In its 27-year history, the Coastal Inspirational Ambassadors, CCU’s student gospel choir, never had a moment quite like this. On Aug. 10, the group performed with disco legend Gloria Gaynor at her Carolina Opry concert. Masned in their teal choir robes, the students swayed and harmonized in perfect pitch as they sang three gospel songs, all new numbers that appear on Gaynor’s latest CD.

The show was the culmination of a relationship between the celebrity singer and the college choir that began in 2015 as part of Gaynor’s participation in CCU’s Women in Philanthropy and Leadership (WPL) Conference in February. Prior to the conference, Gaynor attended a choir rehearsal at the Lackey Chapel.

“We were star-struck when we met her that first day,” says Eia Richardson, choir president and a senior majoring in intelligence and national security. “But she was so cool, she made me feel like I was just talking to my auntie.”

Gaynor talked to the students about the importance of their work as members of a gospel choir. “She really validated the ministry of our organization,” says Dominic Prince, student director of the choir and a senior majoring in special education and international business.

“She stressed the importance of practicing what we preach.”

Later, at the WPL conference, the choir surprised Gaynor, one of the keynote speakers, with a pop-up performance of her hit song “I Will Survive” after her speech. Some members of the group were in the audience and some were sitting in side rooms. “She really lit up when we jumped up and started singing,” says Prince. After her speech, the students sang it again and the spontaneously joined in. “Not many people get to experience something like that.”

The choir had a couple of practices with Gaynor over the summer for the Carolina Opry show. Then the big day arrived. “We weren’t nervous at the sound check, but when it came to the actual show, we knew we couldn’t mess up,” says Richardson.

In the green room after the show, Gaynor accepted roses from the choir and said goodbye to her new friends.

“It was a night to remember for the choir, which is one of the most visible and one of the oldest student organizations on campus. Says Richardson: “We just did what we always do—times 10!”

Enrollment tops 10,000 students

CCU’s enrollment topped over the 10,000 mark for the first time with the beginning of the Fall 2015 semester. On Aug. 14 and 15, CCU’s “ChantiCrew,” a 500-plus group of volunteer students, faculty and staff members, helped move in more than 4,200 returning students, the highest number of students ever to live on campus.

The opening of two impressive new residence halls—Tradition and Chanticleer—that house about 635 freshmen gives a major boost to CCU’s on-campus student housing. The two new halls represent the first phase of a four-building community that will eventually accommodate a total of 1,274 first-year students, with a level of amenities that will change the equation for student living at CCU.

The new complexes offer spaces for community gatherings, apartments for live-in staff and faculty, reception and meeting space, and laundry facilities. Two more residence halls will be finished in Fall 2016, completing the final phase of this $85 million project that will help meet its strategic goal to grow its enrollment to 12,500 students by 2020.
CCU’s shark man in ‘jaws’ of media frenzy

Google the words “Dan Abel shark attack,” and you will get a good idea of how CCU’s resident shark biologist spent his summer. Abel did a total of 27 media interviews, many for major national broadcast and print organizations, in the wake of the shark attacks on the North Carolina coast in June and July. His appearances (on air and on-line) on the CBS Evening News, CNN, NBC News, the Weather Channel (“Wake Up with Al”) and in the pages of USA Today, the Charlotte Observer and other news outlets raised Abel’s profile as an expert in his field and spread the CCU name to new audiences. (“Wake Up with Al”) and in the pages of USA Today, the Charlotte Observer and other news outlets raised Abel’s profile as an expert in his field and spread the CCU name to new audiences.

The reason that Abel was so hotly pursued by the country’s top media on this story is a fortunate accident of timing. The National Geographic Channel had produced a documentary, Killed by Sharks, featuring Abel prominently in interviews. Nat Geo sent out a news release promoting the show just before the sharks began to bite in North Carolina, which prompted the CBS Evening News to call Abel to comment on the attacks. This appearance led other news organizations to seek him out, and soon enough he was in demand all over.

ELS Center raises CCU’s international profile

A group of CCU international students paid a visit to the President’s Reception in September. ELS Center Director Susan Harrell is standing in the front row on the far left. Approximately 20 students are taking classes in the ELS Center now, nearly half of whom are Chinese students enrolled in the Sino-American 1+2+1 program. This unique dual degree program allows Chinese students to earn degrees at their home institution in China as well as from CCU. Classes are offered in four-week sessions, according to Harrell, with a total of 13 sessions a year. Since the office opened last spring, students from 14 different nations have studied English at the center, including such countries as Brazil, Gabon, Taiwan, Venezuela, Panama, Moldova, Russia, Vietnam and Mexico.

Archarios turns 25

Archarios, CCU’s student-run art and literature magazine, is celebrating its 25th anniversary in Spring 2016. Since its founding in 1990, the publication has won more than 80 national awards, including Best of Show in 2015 from Associated Collegiate Press/College Media Advisors.

Visual arts professor Paul Olsen, the faculty adviser of Archarios since its first issue, is stepping down after this year. During his long tenure, he has served as guide and counselor to dozens of student designers and editors. “I will miss it,” he admits. “It’s been great being a part of a vehicle that gives students confidence and something to be proud of. They get to say that their work has been in an award-winning magazine against schools like University of South Carolina and University of South California.”

The next issue will be distributed on OINO Day, April 22, 2016.

Quick Fact

Shark attacks occurred on N.C. beaches within a three-week period in June and July.

CCU starts food-waste composting program

The University started a food-waste composting program at two of its dining halls in Fall 2015. The new program was developed by the TD Campus and Community Initiative and Aramark, CCU’s food service provider, in partnership with SMART Recycling.

The composting takes place in designated collection bins in Chauncey’s Choice and Hicks Dining Hall. Aramark staff separate and collect the compostable material from meals, including all post-consumer food scraps, processed foods, dairy products, fruits and vegetable scraps, cooked meats, as well as paper napkins. SMART Recycling hauls the food waste material from the dining halls to the Horry County Solid Waste Authority’s compost site on S.C. Highway 90 in Conway.

The goal of the program is to reduce CCU’s food waste and to capture 70 percent of the compostable material from the dining halls. Food waste composting will significantly decrease the amount of waste going into the landfill, and will increase the benefits of composting for the local community.

“After piloting the food waste composting behind the scenes with Aramark, we hope to introduce this composting opportunity to the public in the future,” said Jennifer Sellers, CCU sustainability coordinator for the TD Campus and Community Sustainability Initiative. “Food can be a prevalent waste issue as it takes up substantial space in the landfill. We see composting as a sustainable method to reduce this waste.”
FOOTBALL TAILGATING EVENT

The first home football game of the 2015 season against Western Illinois attracted a record crowd of 10,311 Chanticleer fans, many of whom enjoyed tailgating before the event. The Chants won the contest 34-27.

Kevin Radin, Joshua Sagona, Michael Curry

Loretta Cergol, Barb Brooks

Skip, Miles, Janice and Maren Saliano, Sam and Debra Weiss, Linda Costron, Michel and P.G. Winstead, Jennifer Walters

FOOTBALL TAILGATING EVENT

HOME OPENER

Lance, Savannah and Marjorie Thompson

Lauren Myers, Tatiana Mynheer, Katherine Gallucci, Alva Bellamy

Skip, Miles, Janice and Maren Saliano, Sam and Debra Weiss, Linda Costron, Michel and P.G. Winstead, Jennifer Walters

Laurie, Railey and Holly Smith, Aubrey and Sheila Sullivan

Wayne Vereen, Murry Chesson, Bob Collins

The first home football game of the 2015 season against Western Illinois attracted a record crowd of 10,311 Chanticleer fans, many of whom enjoyed tailgating before the event. The Chants won the contest 34-27.

Dean and Patti Mcclure, Rose Marie and Chris Schwab

Sarah Margie, Robin Wendt, Amanda Doughton

Breanna Hoobler, Chloe Madison

Zack Castor, Jonathan Carter, Carson Shirley

Morgan Carnley, Brean Ethridge, Katie and Zack West

David Ethridge, Lauren and Peter Healdge, Morgan Carnley, Brean Ethridge, Kati and Zack West

Lauren, Rainey and Kiley Smith, Aubrey and Sheila Sullivan

Dean and Patti Mcclure, Rose Marie and Chris Schwab

Sarah Margie, Robin Wendt, Amanda Doughton

Breanna Hoobler, Chloe Madison

Zack Castor, Jonathan Carter, Carson Shirley

Morgan Carnley, Brean Ethridge, Katie and Zack West

David Ethridge, Lauren and Peter Healdge, Morgan Carnley, Brean Ethridge, Kati and Zack West

Lauren, Rainey and Kiley Smith, Aubrey and Sheila Sullivan

Dean and Patti Mcclure, Rose Marie and Chris Schwab

Sarah Margie, Robin Wendt, Amanda Doughton

Breanna Hoobler, Chloe Madison

Zack Castor, Jonathan Carter, Carson Shirley

Morgan Carnley, Brean Ethridge, Katie and Zack West

David Ethridge, Lauren and Peter Healdge, Morgan Carnley, Brean Ethridge, Kati and Zack West

Lauren, Rainey and Kiley Smith, Aubrey and Sheila Sullivan

Dean and Patti Mcclure, Rose Marie and Chris Schwab

Sarah Margie, Robin Wendt, Amanda Doughton

Breanna Hoobler, Chloe Madison

Zack Castor, Jonathan Carter, Carson Shirley

Morgan Carnley, Brean Ethridge, Katie and Zack West

David Ethridge, Lauren and Peter Healdge, Morgan Carnley, Brean Ethridge, Kati and Zack West

Lauren, Rainey and Kiley Smith, Aubrey and Sheila Sullivan

Dean and Patti Mcclure, Rose Marie and Chris Schwab

Sarah Margie, Robin Wendt, Amanda Doughton

Breanna Hoobler, Chloe Madison

Zack Castor, Jonathan Carter, Carson Shirley

Morgan Carnley, Brean Ethridge, Katie and Zack West

David Ethridge, Lauren and Peter Healdge, Morgan Carnley, Brean Ethridge, Kati and Zack West

Lauren, Rainey and Kiley Smith, Aubrey and Sheila Sullivan

Dean and Patti Mcclure, Rose Marie and Chris Schwab

Sarah Margie, Robin Wendt, Amanda Doughton

Breanna Hoobler, Chloe Madison

Zack Castor, Jonathan Carter, Carson Shirley

Morgan Carnley, Brean Ethridge, Katie and Zack West

David Ethridge, Lauren and Peter Healdge, Morgan Carnley, Brean Ethridge, Kati and Zack West

Lauren, Rainey and Kiley Smith, Aubrey and Sheila Sullivan

Dean and Patti Mcclure, Rose Marie and Chris Schwab

Sarah Margie, Robin Wendt, Amanda Doughton

Breanna Hoobler, Chloe Madison

Zack Castor, Jonathan Carter, Carson Shirley

Morgan Carnley, Brean Ethridge, Katie and Zack West
The Office of Alumni Relations hosted a social in June for alumni who live in the Washington, D.C., area. The event was held at the Boulevard Woodgrill in Arlington, Va.
Their conclusions appear to have rankled some scholars in this field of history. Akita and Palmer, based on a careful analysis of archival documents and recent scholarship, allege that Korea suffered less under Japanese rule than is traditionally thought. Based on the authors' revisionist scholarship, the book centers on American fiscal studies and post-9/11 terrorism. The book continues Palmer's revisionist scholarship and examines Japan's policies in Korea from 1910 to 1945. In this new book, CCU history professor Brandon Merwin Asia 1910-1945 provides a basic economics refresher for MBA study. Edwards, who joined the CCU faculty in 2002, teaches macroeconomics at both the entry and intermediate levels. During his time at CCU, he has also developed courses on U.S. economic policy and national security. His research expertise centers on American fiscal studies and post-9/11 terrorism.

In this new book, CCU history professor Brandon Palmer and fellow Asia historian George Akita, an emeritus professor at the University of Hawaii, re-examine Japan's policies in Korea from 1910 to 1945. The book centers on American fiscal studies and post-9/11 terrorism. During his time at CCU, Edwards has also developed courses on U.S. economic policy and national security. His research expertise centers on American fiscal studies and post-9/11 terrorism.

Lines of Scrimmage: A Story of Football, Race, and Redemption
By Joe Oestreich and Scott Pleasant
University Press of Mississippi

In the fall of 1989, local headlines as well as the hearts and minds of the Conway community were fixated on football. When African-American quarterback Carlos Hunt was benched in favor of a less experienced white player, 31 of the team's black players quit in protest and boycotted the season. The ensuing controversy, embodied in principal antigonists H.H. Singleton, the local NAACP leader, and Chuck Jordan, Conway High School's head football coach, divided the town along racial lines and stirred a sense of civic unrest over issues that had been dormant for many years.

The gridiron struggle attracted national media attention and was covered in Sports Illustrated and USA Today and on ABC News. Joe Oestreich, associate professor of English, and Scott Pleasant, coordinator of CCUWriting Center, have teamed up to write a history of this defining moment of local history. Alternating between "Then" and "Now" chapters, the authors demonstrate how the events of that season still resonate in the football culture of Horry County.

Learning to Love Kimchi: Letters Home From a Peace Corps Volunteer
By Carol Cissel

This memoir by CCU accounting instructor Carol Cissel revisits her adventures as a Peace Corps volunteer in South Korea during the 1970s. A few years ago, Cissel came across a shoebox filled with long forgotten letters she had written to her mother from Korea. Reading them, she was moved by the experience of rediscovering her youthful self and the events that helped to determine the course of her life. She writes in the introduction: "As I dove into the letters, I found myself chuckling and sometimes gasping at my naiveté.... At other times, I was delighted and amazed by the stories and details of my daily life in Korea. At still others, I shed a few tears, re-experiencing the beginning of the relationship with my late husband.... When I told [my] son about finding the letters, he encouraged me to write the book I had always talked about writing." The letters form the basis of Cissel's story.
Coastal Carolina University has played a decisive part in molding the lives and careers of thousands of young men and women. With degree in hand and high expectations, they leave campus armed with the knowledge, skills and determination to make a difference in the world. This new series introduces you to five CCU alumni who are among the best in their field.
It didn’t matter if it was tic-tac-toe, cards or basketball in the driveway. Amber Campbell ’04 was never given any preferential treatment when competing with her three older brothers. In fact, the sibling competition at home in Tucumcari, N.M., was so intense that their parents were often forced to double as referees.

“They let me be rough and tumble and that helped me to be a more confident and assertive person and an aggressive competitor,” Campbell says of her brothers, Brian, Donnie and Mike. “I wouldn’t change it for the world. I love them to pieces, and we’re all still very, very close. We had a lot of fun growing up.”

When Campbell joined CCU’s women’s track and field team as a freshman, her forte was the shot put and discus. Soon thereafter, her coaches introduced her to the javelin and to the hammer and weight throws. A quick study, she finished her collegiate career as the most decorated student-athlete in school history. Her many accolades include being a five-time All-American, two-time Big South Female Athlete of the Year, six-time Big South Track and Field Most Outstanding Athlete and a 16-time Big South Champion in four different events.

Since she graduated from CCU in 2004, Campbell’s success in the hammer throw has propelled her into the international spotlight. The five-time World Outdoor Championships competitor and two-time USA Olympian (2008, Beijing; 2012, London) says her psychology degree is put to use each time she steps into the sport’s 7-foot-wide circle to throw an 8.82-pound metal ball attached to a steel wire. Her personal-best throw of 241.6 feet was set in 2014 at the National Track League invitational in Edmonton, Canada.

“Having a degree in psychology has definitely made me a more cerebral athlete,” she said. “I think about the mind-body connection more. Whenever I start to feel anxious, I channel that energy to enhance my performance. It also allows me to give myself more positive affirmations. And having a coach [David Vandergriff, Ph.D.] who is a psychologist has also helped tremendously. We are able to talk about different theories. It has given us common ground to build our athlete-coach relationship.”

The hammer throw demands a tremendous amount of strength and coordination. But as an experienced international competitor, Campbell knows all too well that finding success inside the throwing circle also takes a great deal of mental aptitude.

“In my head, I run through all the technique points I’ve worked on to try and put together that perfect throw,” she said. “It’s a delicate balancing game, making sure I am focused but also having fun and not taking myself too seriously.”

Campbell’s drive to keep competing at the highest level is fueled by her faith. It keeps her grounded and not wrapped up in her impressive list of past accomplishments.

“At the end of the day, if I don’t have Christ, if I am not centered, if I am not able to show the love that He wants us to, it’s all for naught,” Campbell said. “It really helps me keep things in perspective. It’s not all about the here and now, but building for the hereafter.”

Campbell believes she has yet to reach the pinnacle of her sport. She works out five days a week in hopes of representing the U.S. at the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

“I still love it,” says Campbell, who is in her seventh year as a volunteer assistant coach for CCU’s student throwers. “There is still a burning desire to get up and get better every day. That is what keeps me motivated. I believe you should do whatever makes you happy. If it puts a smile on your face, go for it!”
Earn an Emmy Award nomination.

That was a goal Michael Kelly ’92 set for himself after he earned a bachelor’s degree in performing arts from Coastal Carolina University. In July 2015, the seasoned TV and big screen performer was nominated for Outstanding Supporting Actor in a Drama Series for his role as the ruthless political fixer Doug Stamper in Netflix’s House of Cards.

“My mom always encouraged my siblings and me to write down our goals and go after them,” said Kelly, who grew up in Lawrenceville, Ga. “It is such a thrill to get my first Emmy nomination. I was absolutely beside myself. It’s an incredible feeling.”

The fourth season of House of Cards will premiere in 2016. The political drama series, the first to be offered on Netflix’s streaming service, earned 11 Emmy nominations in 2015. Kelly admits that when he first signed on for the project, he was somewhat skeptical about whether or not anyone would even see the show.

“At the time, Netflix wasn’t what it is today,” he said. “For me, that was the unknown. Now, looking back three to four years later and seeing what Netflix has done is totally amazing. It’s a very good representation of who we are as a people now. We want our information when we want it. You can Google anything and get the answer immediately. That’s the times we are living in. And that is what Netflix gives you.”

In the series, Kelly’s Doug Stamper serves as the chief of staff and loyal hatchet man to Frank Underwood, a cutthroat South Carolina politician who rises from Democratic Majority Whip in the U.S. House of Representatives to become the 46th president. Underwood is played by Oscar-winner Kevin Spacey, who won a Golden Globe for his portrayal of Underwood last year.

Kelly says the opportunity to create a character outside of his wheelhouse is what he enjoys most about playing the icy Stamper.

“I am the type of person who can never stop smiling,” Kelly said. “I am so grateful for everything that I have and for everything I have been able to do. To play a guy who never smiles, who hardly even emotes, I get a real kick out of doing that.”

When Kelly came to Coastal on a cross country scholarship in the late 1980s, his plan was to study political science and become a lawyer. But, after taking an elective acting class, his whole outlook on life changed. He credits his pursuit of an acting career on constant encouragement from now retired CCU theatre professors Sandi Shackelford and Chuck Whetzel.

Kelly’s big screen career is also soaring, thanks in part to his distinguished work in House of Cards. He appeared with an all-star cast (Jake Gyllenhaal, Josh Brolin, Keira Knightly) in Everest, playing mountain-climbing author Jon Krakauer. Another of his recent films is Secret in Their Eyes, a crime thriller starring Chiwetel Ejiofor, Nicole Kidman and Julia Roberts. In all, Kelly has appeared in 27 movies and 31 TV shows and series, including The Sopranos, The Good Wife and Law & Order.

“I would not be where I am today without my degree from CCU,” Kelly said. “I was the first person to graduate [from Coastal] with a performing arts degree. I was naïve enough to believe that since that is what I earned my degree in, that is what I’d make a living doing. That naiveté would serve me well. When I got to New York, I never gave up. I knew I had the education and the foundation from Coastal Carolina University to pursue what I wanted to do, which gave me great confidence. Coastal holds a very special place in my heart.”

Actor reaches new heights in a brilliant career

**michael KELLY**
Richard Pilosof ’83 has a long history of making sound investments. One of his very first transactions was buying a car from a local junkyard while he was attending Coastal Carolina University. For $800, plus the cost of much-needed repairs, he secured reliable transportation for the occasional round trip between campus and his native Canada.

Coastal turned out to be the perfect fit for Pilosof, who was looking for a school where he could hone his tennis skills and develop as a person. He appreciated the convenience of the small campus and classes, which gave him the opportunity to forge meaningful relationships with many of his professors. It’s also where he discovered his future calling in the business world.

“I had a couple of really good role models,” Pilosof said. “One of them was Dr. Raymond Curtis, who was a business professor. He taught me how to follow the markets and encouraged me to read about certain elements of finance. He showed great enthusiasm to help me as long as I was willing to help myself.

“The combination of being away from home plus the personal experience with some of the professors allowed me to feel more competent and mature as I moved into the workforce. It was a great experience.”

Upon graduating with a bachelor’s degree in finance, Pilosof quickly made a name for himself back home in Canada. In 1987, at age 27, he became the youngest managing director for the Royal Bank of Canada Capital Markets. Eleven years later, after working his way up the ranks and developing superior skills as a bond trader, he was asked by RBC to lead the business integration of a bank merger in London. During the next decade, Pilosof managed and built RBC’s international capital markets platform into a major operation with sites in London, Hong Kong, Sydney and New York. He was credited with significantly increasing RBC’s percentage of revenues earned from operations outside of Canada.

Today, Pilosof is a managing partner and CEO of RP Investment Advisors. Established in 2009, the Toronto-based money management firm specializes in active investment grade credit funds and interest rate management.

“We developed this firm on the basis that high net-worth individuals would require alternative ways to look at bond investing,” Pilosof said. “We are a hedge fund, and that has allowed us to be a specialist in an area that was underdeveloped in Canada. By creating a good team, developing a sound structure and putting a good board in place, we have been able to grow the company quite substantially. We started with $25 million of assets under management and have increased that to about $2 billion. It’s been a great experience developing and leading a company with great partners. Like any good team, it’s a true partnership.”

This approach has served Pilosof well through the years, whether as a member of the Chanticleer men’s tennis team or in running Canada’s largest institutional fixed-income business. When he visited campus in March 2015 for the first time since graduating 32 years ago and saw the transformed Coastal of today, he knew the time was right to reconnect and invest in his alma mater.

Pilosof and his wife, Karen, have made a significant gift that will name the investments lab within CCU’s Wall College of Business Administration the RP Investment Advisors Financial Services Laboratory. Located on the first floor of the Wall Building, the state-of-the-art lab is equipped with a 15-foot ticker display with scrolling financial information; two large screen televisions that provide access to financial news channels; 22 student terminals with dual monitors; and world-class investment management software.

“Coastal was a happy and important part of my past,” Pilosof said. “And I want it to be an important part of my future.”
One truly knows the origin of the hamburger, but it has long been a staple of the American menu. Today, the U.S. burger market is a $73 billion business. So it should come as no surprise that Chanticleer Holdings Inc., which has made a name for itself with chicken wings and the iconic Hooters restaurants, is now heavily investing in the hamburger market.

Mike Pruitt ’84, the company’s chairman and CEO, was a stellar baseball player at Coastal Carolina University, helping the Chanticleers reach the College World Series in 1982 and 1983. The Maryland native says the success he’s experienced as a businessman, and formerly as a student-athlete, would not have been possible without the support of many people at Coastal. They include the late chancellor emeritus Edward “Dick” Singleton, retired finance professor Gerald Boyles, former accounting professor Jim Eason and Andy Hendrick, retired professor who taught business-related law.

“All of them were great mentors of mine,” said Pruitt, who earned a business degree from Coastal. “Professor Hendrick taught me something that I have never forgotten. He said that in business, you should figure out what you are good at and learn about as much as you can so you can be great at it. Then in all the other areas of business, learn enough so no one can pull the wool over your eyes, and you’ll do just fine. I took that to heart.”

Indeed he has. Established in 2005 and headquartered in Charlotte, N.C., Chanticleer Holdings (HOTR on Nasdaq) owns and operates multiple restaurant brands in the U.S. and internationally. It is a franchisee owner of Hooters restaurants in Australia, South America and Europe, and two locations in the U.S.

The company’s latest venture is in the better burger market, a concept Pruitt refers to as a throwback to yesteryear.

“Real quality burgers, milkshakes and fries,” he said. “Fresh ground beef, never frozen. Our business view is that the younger generation, and even some of the older generation, is steering away from fast food chains. They like the local concept that has built a loyal following. All the companies we have acquired had a very strong, localized following.”

Chanticleer Holdings’ portfolio now includes American Burger (Charlotte), BGR: The Burger Joint (Maryland/Washington, D.C./Virginia area), BT’s Burger Joint (Charlotte) and Little Big Burger (Portland, Ore.). BGR was voted “Best Burger in DC” and second in “Best Fries” in 2015 Best of Washington, D.C., metro area in Washingtonian magazine.

When Pruitt finds the time to take a breather from his ever-growing suite of companies, which also includes Just Fresh restaurants, a Charlotte-based fresh food-focused casual dining establishment, he often turns his attention to his alma mater.

He fondly recalls his strong relationship with the late Robert “Bob” Brooks, who was chairman of Hooters of America Inc. (HOA) and one of the University’s most generous donors. In 2006, shortly before Brooks’ death, Chanticleer Holdings purchased a minority ownership interest in HOA, and in exchange, it was also given the right of first refusal to buy HOA in the event of a future change in ownership. Chanticleer exercised this right and acquired HOA in January 2011.

Through the years, Pruitt, much like Brooks, has been a staunch advocate for Coastal, supporting both the University and the Chanticleer baseball program.

“I bleed teal,” Pruitt stated. “There is a strong nucleus of people who are committed to doing what we can to support Coastal. I always tell people that the foundation I received from my business degree allowed me to have the ability to give back to Coastal and to the things that I am passionate about. I always think in terms of paying it forward. If you get the opportunity, always remember that someone before you gave you that opportunity.”
Kim Brown Strickland ‘94 owes a lot to the Walmart Supercenter No. 643. The store on 76th Avenue North in Myrtle Beach is where she launched her impressive career with the big box retailer, logging countless hours as a cashier while she was a student at Coastal Carolina University.

After attending morning classes at CCU, the Bassett, Va., native would head straight to 643 for her 1-9 p.m. shift. That was her routine three days a week, and working on weekends was a given. Strickland, now a corporate vice president at Walmart’s world headquarters in Bentonville, Ark., recalls that being a full-time student while holding down a full-time job had its challenges.

“For me, it was all about the discipline of maintaining my grades and trying to support myself,” she said. “Both of those things are what really built my foundation. The combination of learning the business at Walmart throughout college and the technical skills I learned from my Coastal classes is what helped to define my later success with the Walmart Corporation. I really, truly believe that.”

Walmart employs 2.2 million associates worldwide and serves more than 140 million customers each week at more than 11,000 stores in 27 countries. It’s the only company Strickland has ever earned a paycheck from during her professional career.

After earning a bachelor’s degree in marketing from the Wall College of Business, the former cashier transitioned into the internal audit department. For eight years, she worked around the world in Europe, Asia and South America, where she audited financial controls and processes within stores.

“When Walmart acquired new stores in another country, my team’s role was to convert their financial systems from the old to the new and value their assets,” Strickland said. “That was probably the best time of my career. I was able to live in England and Japan and travel extensively around those countries. It was a great opportunity that Walmart gave to me. My leadership team had a lot of faith in me.”

The retail giant’s confidence in Strickland led to several more promotions. Upon returning to the U.S., she continued in internal audit as director of corporate audit, leading the team/process for Sarbanes-Oxley, a federal law that requires top management to individually certify the accuracy of their company’s financial information. From there, she gained experience in budgeting and planning, and in 2006 was named to the position of vice president of corporate financial planning and analysis.

Along with her heavy work responsibilities, Strickland is actively involved with Walmart’s Women’s Officer Caucus, which focuses on connecting, inspiring and empowering strong female leaders. In 2011, she returned to Myrtle Beach as one of the featured speakers at the inaugural Women’s Leadership Conference sponsored by Coastal’s Women in Philanthropy and Leadership.

Strickland’s most recent role is vice president for finance and strategy for Walmart’s health and wellness sector, where she oversees the finance team that supports the company’s pharmacies, vision centers and clinics. She says her success in climbing Walmart’s corporate ladder can be directly attributed to her disciplined work ethic, her ability to multitask and break through barriers that she gained from her international experiences, and the foundational education she received at CCU.

“All of my Coastal professors were really great,” she said. “Being able to have one-on-one access with them was very important for me. Whenever I had a question, I knew I could go directly to them. I always got the access and help I needed.”

“Businesswoman rises to Walmart vice presidency”

Kim Brown Strickland

A strong foundation
The Coastal Carolina University men’s basketball team made history last summer, becoming the first NCAA Division I basketball team to visit Cuba. NCAA rules allow foreign tours by intercollegiate teams once every four years. The Chanticleers, led by veteran head coach Cliff Ellis, faced the Cuban National Team in three games Aug. 8 to 10. Along with playing basketball on the island, the team led clinics for Cuban children and experienced the culture of the nation, which has been essentially off limits to Americans since the U.S. and Cuban governments severed relations in 1961.

By CODY BAYS
Photography by ALEX SOUZA
The Chanticleers boarded the flight to Havana at the Tampa International Airport. It seemed like a normal basketball road trip—save for passports, extra forms and the Spanish language announcements by the flight attendants. Any sense of normalcy evaporated as soon as the plane's wheels made contact with the tarmac in Havana. With that first screech of rubber on cement, there was loud applause and ruckus from the passengers on board—emotions of joy as native Cubans returned to their homeland to visit their families, some for the first time since leaving the island.

Once they arrived in the Havana airport, there was yet another form to fill out—a declaration of goods for the Cuban customs agents—before going through security. Although the luggage service was slow, the delay allowed the team travel party to observe some of the items that their fellow passengers were bringing into the country. These, all shrink-wrapped at the Tampa airport, ranged from pillows to bicycles to flat-screen televisions to track lighting fixtures.

The Chants then filed onto a bus destined for the Parque Central, the team hotel. Along the route, the bus passed the Sports City arena and several other eye-catching structures, including the city’s primary square where Fidel Castro spoke to the country during his rule and the site of Pope Francis’ recent visit.

Arriving at the hotel, the team was briefed on the evening’s itinerary by Coach Ellis. All student-athletes and most members of the coaching and support staff were then given 50 Cuban pesos—equivalent to roughly $4—to spend on a street vendor snack on the streets near the hotel. Getting food with Cuban pesos was much easier in theory than practice. Not only were the players easily identifiable due to their matching Russell Athletic polos, but the sight of nine men 6-foot-3 or taller drew attention from both native Cubans as well as tourists from other countries.

“The streets were filled with welcoming locals who always introduced themselves and smiled,” said freshman guard Christian Adams. “It was a great experience to see that even though they don’t have all the wealth and technology we have in America, it doesn’t affect their happiness.”
After the games ended, the Chanticleers held a trio of basketball clinics. The first featured the Coastal coaching staff—head coach Ellis, associate head coach Benny Moss and assistant coach Stacey Palmore—conducting a clinic for coaches from various levels of the Cuban National Team program and Cuban provinces. In the other two clinics, Chanticleer student-athletes taught skills and drills to youth players in Havana and Matanzas.

"Being able to teach and have fun with Cuban children at the basketball clinics was very rewarding," said freshman center Josh Coleman. "The children here love the game of basketball. They really seemed to enjoy learning the steps, moves and basics of the game—passing, dribbling and shooting. Teaching Cuban kids the game of basketball made me feel great, and hopefully they felt the same way."

At the conclusion of each clinic, the Chants gave the attendees T-shirts, basketballs and other gifts. Senior guard Aaron Law even gave the shoes off his feet to an underprivileged child whose own sneakers were worn out.

The Chanticleers played their three games against the Cuban National Team at the Havana Sports City, which is also the country’s Olympic training grounds. The arena itself was antiquated, with old light fixtures and individual window air conditioning units. The court was old and had been painted over several times—no where near the quality that the team is accustomed to at the HTC Center. Prior to the opening game of the series, the teams and coaching staffs continued the longstanding international tradition of exchanging gifts. The Chanticleers presented their hosts with polos and hats featuring the Chanticleer logo along with 40 new basketballs. The Cubans reciprocated with Cuban flag lapel pins.

The most unique aspect of the experience outside of the basketball lines was that neither the words “Coastal Carolina” nor “CCU” were displayed on the scoreboard or announced during introductions. Instead, the Chanticleers were called “Team USA”—no doubt an act of propaganda by the Cuban government and Basketball Federation, a fact that was not lost among the players or coaching staff.

“T o see ‘USA’ on that scoreboard—Cuba vs. USA—was an emotional sight,” said Ellis. “For us to be representing the USA and to see that on television and watch the replay, it was pretty cool.”

For the games themselves, the Chanticleers lost all three—by scores of 76-68, 96-72 and 93-86—but received extended attention on ESPN’s SportsCenter in the process. It’s worth noting that the Cuban National Team is comprised of professionals whose sole jobs are to play basketball for the Cuban Basketball Federation. The players range from age 21 to 34 and are fully experienced in international play. They are the Cuban equivalent to Team USA, which features the best American players, including LeBron James, Kevin Durant, Russell Westbrook, Steph Curry, etc.

At the conclusion of each clinic, the Chants gave the attendees T-shirts, basketballs and other gifts. Senior guard Aaron Law even gave the shoes off his feet to an underprivileged child whose own sneakers were worn out.

After the games ended, the Chanticleers held a trio of basketball clinics. The first featured the Coastal coaching staff—head coach Ellis, associate head coach Benny Moss and assistant coach Stacey Palmore—conducting a clinic for coaches from various levels of the Cuban National Team program and Cuban provinces. In the other two clinics, Chanticleer student-athletes taught skills and drills to youth players in Havana and Matanzas.

"Being able to teach and have fun with Cuban children at the basketball clinics was very rewarding," said freshman center Josh Coleman. "The children here love the game of basketball. They really seemed to enjoy learning the steps, moves and basics of the game—passing, dribbling and shooting. Teaching Cuban kids the game of basketball made me feel great, and hopefully they felt the same way."

At the conclusion of each clinic, the Chants gave the attendees T-shirts, basketballs and other gifts. Senior guard Aaron Law even gave the shoes off his feet to an underprivileged child whose own sneakers were worn out.
Embassy. As we were leaving, a mass of people leaned over the barricade
had never traveled abroad, and they adapted amaz-
positive connection.”
interested in making a
and so diligent in their effort to
b
the Cuban children, they were so kind
to lack of cellphone service to language
ingly well when faced with cultural dislocations
young men on multiple levels,” she said. “Most of them
acting with the student-athletes. “I was very proud of the
But she says the most memorable part of the trip was inter-
banners. When they led the clinics for
she specializes in the study of the
African diaspora with emphasis on the Caribbean, she made contacts with scholars in Cuba
related to her field of study during the weeklong visit. In addition, Richards-Greaves, who
speaks Spanish, was a keen observer of the historic significance of the trip for the University.
“The raising of the American Flag was overwhelming, emotional, almost surreal,” she
said. “The cheering, the tears, the shouts of ‘Viva Cuba!’ We were privileged to
be allowed inside the gates and actually stood on the steps of the American
As we were leaving, a mass of people leaned over the barricade
to shake our hands. Coach Ellis even did four or five TV interviews, and
one woman gave him a homemade Cuban flag.”

But she says the most memorable part of the trip was inter-
acting with the student-athletes. “I was very proud of the young men on multiple levels,” she said. “Most of them
had never traveled abroad, and they adapted amaz-
ingly well when faced with cultural dislocations and personal discomforts, from strange food
to lack of cellphone service to language

But the trip was an educational experience for the student-athletes. “These kids were so bright, so curious, so
hungry to learn to appreciate what we have,” said junior guard Elijah Wilson. “They’re kind of stuck back in time in
柬, because he needs them more than I do.”

“They don’t have much over there,” he said. “He asked me for
shoes after the first game. Needless to say, Wiggins obliged.

In addition, Cuba is known
western Europeans and Canadians. In addition, Cuba is known
worldwide for its medical schools, and many African countries
send their medical students there to study.

Walking the streets of Havana, it is easy to see what Cuba was
before the Cuban Revolution. The architecture of the buildings
is strikingly beautiful, and street art is abundant, with sculptures
sculpting nearly every intersection. The 1950s-era automobiles
look brand new and give the city a kind of retro feeling. Even the
Cuban capital building is directly modeled after the U.S. Capitol
in Washington, D.C.

However, the average Cuban earns roughly $20 a month, barely
enough to live on, even with the country’s cheap prices. Multiple
generations of families share the same home. Overall, the country
lacks the means to maintain itself. The impact of the communist
Castro regime has left the nation without valuable resources and
many basic items that Americans take for granted on a daily basis.

Even the Cuban National Basketball Team struggles for resources, as demonstrated by a Cuban player asking Coastal’s Wiggins for his
shoes after the first game. Needless to say, Wiggins obliged.

“They don’t have much over there,” he said. “He asked me for
my shoes, and I had an extra pair so I decided to give them to him
because he needs them more than I do.”

Despite the poverty, the Cuban people are very welcoming,
joyful and appreciative of what they have. “It was a great learn-
ing experience to see how different America is from Cuba,” said
junior guard Elijah Wilson. “They’re kind of stuck back in time in
terms of the cars, how they do things and how the businesses look.
Going there, you really learn to appreciate what you have here in
America. We really do have a lot compared to them. We’ve got to
learn to appreciate what we have here.”

WITNESSING HISTORY

The Chanticleers were scheduled to return to the USA on
Friday, Aug. 14. However, that morning U.S. Secretary of State
John Kerry was scheduled to preside over the official ceremony
to raise the United States flag at the American Embassy in Havana—a
historic moment that Ellis wanted her team to experience.
With the help of Congressman Tom Rice, Ellis and the Coastal
Carolina group tried to secure a place inside the U.S. Embassy
gates in advance of the trip. When that didn’t work, Ellis tried
again with a direct request the day of the ceremony. At first, he
was told that only his coaches and two players would be admitted,
but Ellis persuaded the U.S. security detail to let the entire team
and travel party inside the embassy’s courtyard gates as American
representatives to witness the historic moment.

“W e were within 50 feet of John Kerry,” said Ellis. “It was an
emotional experience. The three Marines who took the flag down
in 1961 made good on the pledge to be there when the flag was
raised again. It was a tremendous moment in history that I know
some point in time our players will truly appreciate witnessing.”

“We were as close as you could get,” said junior guard Shavonlin
Wiggins. “There were a lot of people outside the embassy, but
we had the opportunity to be inside the gates. I truly felt proud
to be an American as I watched the flag raised and heard the ‘Star
Spangled Banner’ played.”

OVERALL REFLECTIONS OF CUBA

The Chanticleer contingent found that the real Cuba differs
from the country presented by U.S. media. Yes, it is a land of great
poverty that lacks the abundance and technology of fully devel-
oped first world nations, but it is far from a third-world country.
Cuba has a civic infrastructure that provides electricity, water
and Internet access—although limited and government-
regulated. The country is even a popular tourist destination
for the rest of the world, particularly

Gillian Richards-Greaves, an assistant professor of history at CCU, was the faculty representative for
the CCU trip to Cuba. A Guyanese-American anthropologist who specializes in the study of the
African diaspora with emphasis on the Caribbean, she made contacts with scholars in Cuba
related to her field of study during the weeklong visit. In addition, Richards-Greaves, who
speaks Spanish, was a keen observer of the historic significance of the trip for the University.

“W e were as close as you could get,” said Ellis. “It was an
emotional experience. The three Marines who took the flag down
in 1961 made good on the pledge to be there when the flag was
raised again. It was a tremendous moment in history that I know
some point in time our players will truly appreciate witnessing.”

“We were as close as you could get,” said junior guard Shavonlin
Wiggins. “There were a lot of people outside the embassy, but
we had the opportunity to be inside the gates. I truly felt proud
to be an American as I watched the flag raised and heard the ‘Star
Spangled Banner’ played.”

OVERALL REFLECTIONS OF CUBA

The Chanticleer contingent found that the real Cuba differs
from the country presented by U.S. media. Yes, it is a land of great
poverty that lacks the abundance and technology of fully devel-
oped first-world nations, but it is far from a third-world country.
Cuba has a civic infrastructure that provides electricity, water
and Internet access—although limited and government-
regulated. The country is even a popular tourist destination
for the rest of the world, particularly

Cuba has a civic infrastructure that provides electricity, water
and Internet access—although limited and government-
regulated. The country is even a popular tourist destination
for the rest of the world, particularly
Like Penn State’s Nittany Lion and Tommy Trojan at the University of Southern California, the new bronze Chauncey sculpture that welcomes fans into CCU’s TD Sports Complex is destined for iconic status.
ur gleaming new Chauncey sculpture was installed at the entrance to the TD Sports Complex in October 2015. Created by Logan Woodle of CCU’s Department of Visual Arts, this proud, combative figure is destined to become a Coastal Carolina icon for generations into the future. This photo essay chronicles the evolution of the sculpture from his nativity as a clay model to his public debut.

The Chauncey sculpture began its life in the summer of 2014 as a 12-inch-tall maquette, or clay model (1). Next, Woodle built a 7-foot-tall steel sub-structure, covering it first with a yellow spray foam foundation and then a layer of oil-based clay weighing about 400 pounds (2).

After the sculpting was completed, the team applied four separate applications of silicone (in pink, 3), providing the basis for a fiberglass “mother mold,” or support shell (in blue, 4). The molds were then removed in pieces (5) and their interiors were painted with wax.

Next came the casting process. Using equipment CCU acquired for this and future sculpture projects, 2,100-degree liquid bronze was poured into the molds (6). After the pieces cooled, Woodle “chased” them, hammering down inconsistencies and creating a uniform texture (7). The tigwelding then began, when all the bronze pieces were assembled (8). Finally, a “liver of sulfur” patina was applied and the entire sculpture was carefully waxed before the final installation (9).
some college campuses, the relationship between the arts and athletics is cold and distant. Athens and Sparta. That’s not the case at Coastal Carolina University, and it’s one of the reasons I love working here.

This relationship between arts and athletics began about 50 years ago when an English professor, Cal Maddox, came up with the idea of naming our mascot “the Chanticleer,” a name selected from that old warhorse of British lit, The Canterbury Tales. The institution had been trying to create a distinctive identity long before our independence in 1954. For a while, during our early association with the University of South Carolina, we were the Gamecocks, and we had some other names, including, for one season, the Spartans. But I really like the idea that, back then, Coastal was casual enough that one person could say, “How about the Chanticleers?” It wasn’t focus grouped. It wasn’t tested for marketing purposes. It just fit.

Over the years, on occasion, there has been talk about changing mascots, but it’s never gotten very far. We love Chauncey. It’s wonderful when I’m on the road and people ask me about our unique mascot. For me, the significant thing is that there was a moment early in our institutional history when the academic side, the artistic side and the literary side were united with the athletic side. It was built into the identity of our athletic programs and thus became part of the identity of the institution. So when we say, “Chants Up,” and when we say, “We’re all Chanticleers,” it means more than our attendance at athletic events. It says something about our values, and it says something about our identity as an academic community.

That relationship is manifested in the statue you see over my shoulder. University athletics needed a symbol that would be central to our new sports complex. We knew the symbol had to represent our history as well as look to the future. We could have commissioned a sculpture by a professional from outside our institution, which would have been perfectly appropriate and would have shown that we are patrons of the arts. Instead, led by an enlightened president and upper administration, we came together and decided, rather than spending money on a commissioned sculpture, to build a world-class bronze-casting facility right here on campus that will be used for generations. That decision helped set our visual arts program apart. This statue, of course, will primarily be associated with our winning athletic teams. But whenever I walk by it, I will remember that our art students were part of its creation from the very beginning. That they had their hands on the equipment. They helped take it from a sketch, to a model, to reality. At Coastal, they were not set aside, pushed back and told, “Let the adults do this.” That’s not our culture, it’s not who we are, and it doesn’t reflect what we can be.

The greatest part of the credit for the beautiful and evocative piece behind me goes to Logan Woodle, our artist. Over the past year and a half, it has often seemed as though the sculpture studio and the bronze-casting studio were a 24-7 operation. On Saturdays, rainy days and cold days, Logan fought not just the elements, but also the element of bronze. He had to work with that substance, dangerous heat, specialized equipment and a new facility that we were learning how to use on the fly. However, following the great Coastal tradition, we say, “Let’s try it. We will figure it out as we go.”

Our founders uttered those same words, I imagine, in 1954, and it hasn’t been a bad philosophy. Logan did everything necessary to bring this project in on deadline. He sacrificed his personal time. He certainly sacrificed other projects he could have done. There were frustrations, and there were moments we were wondering if this was going to come together. What makes me so proud is that when he got through this, worked around the problems and then fought through to the end, he wasn’t just making a Chanticleer, he was a Chanticleer.

Remarks by Dan Ennis, dean of CCU’s Thomas W. and Robin W. Edwards College of Humanities and Fine Arts, at the Chauncey sculpture dedication ceremony, Oct. 30, 2015

WE'RE ALL CHANTICLEERS

Dedication ceremony: The new Chauncey sculpture (left and center) sits in the TD Sports Complex. (far left, top to bottom) Name a ‘C’ Chanticleers post with both Chaunceys at the dedication ceremony:

President David DeCenzo introduces a new CCU icon, the Chanticleer pride the crowd.
The CCU community was saddened recently by the death of pianist Gary Stegall. A member of the faculty since 1998, he had distinguished himself during his tenure both as a musician and teacher before his retirement in 2014 as professor emeritus. Highly regarded all over the world, literally—from North and South America to Europe, Africa, the Middle East and Asia, even performing by special invitation at St. Peter’s Basilica in the Vatican.

“Gary always met me with a smile and a joke. Sometimes his jokes were of a musical nature, but they were usually just silly and, of course, clever. One of my favorite collaborations with Gary was my first solo flute recital at CCU. It included a large work by Johann Sebastian Bach that was difficult and stressful. I programmed it as the finale and I was anxious about it. As we walked out on stage, the audience started laughing. I looked behind me and Gary followed us on stage wearing a white powdered wig—like the wig Bach wore in his most famous portrait. He did NOT tell me he was going to do that! Although I was caught off guard, his antics taught me two important life lessons. First: Do not take yourself too seriously. Second: At the moment we as performers walk on stage, the hard work is done. The performance is the time to have fun making music. I’ll miss making music with Gary.”

“Gary was the one who drove me around campus and acted as tour guide. It was a wonderful introduction to the University and the Grand Strand area. I remember fondly our collaboration on Schumann’s Dichterliebe that I performed as part of the interview. His playing was so beautiful and expressive.”

“He was a champion of Belgian composer Joseph Jongen, whose work he recorded and studied as a Fulbright scholar. Gary held advanced musical degrees from the University of Maryland and the University of South Carolina, as well as the Diplôme/prix d’excellence avec grand distinction from Académie de musique de Boitsfort of Brussels, Belgium.

The Gary Stegall Annual Pianist Scholarship has been established in his honor. His friends at Coastal Carolina University remember him as a masterly pianist, a consummate musician and a colleague with a mischievous wit.”
This past fall, the first phase of a new 1,270-bed student housing facility opened its doors to first-year students. This new complex offers a range of amenities and services designed to enhance the academic and community life of Coastal Carolina University students as never before.

**IN THE HOUSE**

**THE MUNCHIES:** Aramark’s “Pie By Night” delivers hot, fresh pizza pies to the dorm rooms nightly until midnight.

**KEEPING IT CLEAN:** A cleaning service makes sure that each suite’s bathroom is sparkling clean every two weeks.

**HITCHING A RIDE:** The campus shuttle service provides students with rides around campus and to surrounding areas.

**TEAL HALL:** Coming in 2016.

**TRADITION HALL:** Opened Fall 2015.

**CINO HALL:** Opened Fall 2015.

**Pavilion Area:** The pavilion area offers sheltered picnic tables and a large gas fireplace.

**ALL WASHED UP:** Free washers and dryers are located in each building. You can check the availability of the machines online.

**THE BEST THINGS ARE FREE:** WiFi and hardwire Internet access, cable television, washers, dryers and campus shuttle service are all free for each resident.

**1,270 FIRST-YEAR CCU STUDENTS WILL OCCUPY THE NEW UNIVERSITY HOUSING COMMUNITY BY FALL 2016.**

**UNIVERSITY HOUSING EMPLOYS:**

- **79 Resident Assistants**
- **40 Student Assistants**
- **200 Student Workers**

**IN THE MARKET:** The on-location convenience store in Tradition Hall is called the P.O.D. Market.

**THE UNITS CONSIST OF FIVE DOUBLE-OCCUPANCY LARGE BEDROOMS.**

**AFTER 5 P.M., ONLY RESIDENTS ARE ABLE TO GAIN ENTRY WITH A CINO CARD SWIPE.**

**MOVING ON UP:** CCU’s faculty, staff and the “Chant Crew” assist incoming students during Move-in Day.

**THE THREE-STORY BUILDINGS ARE COEDUCATIONAL HOUSING DESIGNATED FOR FRESHMEN/FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS.**

**KEEPING IT CLEAN:** A cleaning service makes sure that each suite’s bathroom is sparkling clean every two weeks.

**THE BEST THINGS ARE FREE:** WiFi and hardwire Internet access, cable television, washers, dryers and campus shuttle service are all free for each resident.

**PLENTY OF ELBOW ROOM:** There are professional-grade community kitchens, community spaces, TV lounges and multipurpose rooms in each building.

**SPECIAL INTEREST HOUSING IS AVAILABLE (STUDENTS FORM COMMUNITIES BASED ON MAJORS, INTERESTS, ETC.).**

**SERVICE WITH A SMILE:** The community desk service is available in all buildings (open 12 hours – Tradition Hall desk is open 24/7).

**CATCHING SOME ZZZ’S:** Each suite is equipped with extra-long, twin-size beds (36 by 80 inches).

**IN THE MARKET:** The on-location convenience store in Tradition Hall is called the P.O.D. Market.

**IN THE MUNCHIES:** Aramark’s “Pie By Night” delivers hot, fresh pizza pies to the dorm rooms nightly until midnight.

**HITCHING A RIDE:** The campus shuttle service provides students with rides around campus and to surrounding areas.

**THE MUNCHIES:** Aramark’s “Pie By Night” delivers hot, fresh pizza pies to the dorm rooms nightly until midnight.

**KEEPING IT CLEAN:** A cleaning service makes sure that each suite’s bathroom is sparkling clean every two weeks.

**HITCHING A RIDE:** The campus shuttle service provides students with rides around campus and to surrounding areas.

**THE MUNCHIES:** Aramark’s “Pie By Night” delivers hot, fresh pizza pies to the dorm rooms nightly until midnight.

**KEEPING IT CLEAN:** A cleaning service makes sure that each suite’s bathroom is sparkling clean every two weeks.

**HITCHING A RIDE:** The campus shuttle service provides students with rides around campus and to surrounding areas.

**THE MUNCHIES:** Aramark’s “Pie By Night” delivers hot, fresh pizza pies to the dorm rooms nightly until midnight.

**KEEPING IT CLEAN:** A cleaning service makes sure that each suite’s bathroom is sparkling clean every two weeks.

**HITCHING A RIDE:** The campus shuttle service provides students with rides around campus and to surrounding areas.

**THE MUNCHIES:** Aramark’s “Pie By Night” delivers hot, fresh pizza pies to the dorm rooms nightly until midnight.

**KEEPING IT CLEAN:** A cleaning service makes sure that each suite’s bathroom is sparkling clean every two weeks.

**HITCHING A RIDE:** The campus shuttle service provides students with rides around campus and to surrounding areas.

**THE MUNCHIES:** Aramark’s “Pie By Night” delivers hot, fresh pizza pies to the dorm rooms nightly until midnight.

**KEEPING IT CLEAN:** A cleaning service makes sure that each suite’s bathroom is sparkling clean every two weeks.

**HITCHING A RIDE:** The campus shuttle service provides students with rides around campus and to surrounding areas.

**THE MUNCHIES:** Aramark’s “Pie By Night” delivers hot, fresh pizza pies to the dorm rooms nightly until midnight.

**KEEPING IT CLEAN:** A cleaning service makes sure that each suite’s bathroom is sparkling clean every two weeks.

**HITCHING A RIDE:** The campus shuttle service provides students with rides around campus and to surrounding areas.
Teal Shaded Campaigns

Brent Reser, CCU’s social media and online marketing coordinator, came up with another fun summer campaign for 2015. CCU students were invited to send in a photo of themselves wearing Chanticleer custom sunglasses from their summer vacations for a Facebook campaign called “A Teal Shaded Summer.” In a sister campaign called “A Teal Shaded Career,” alumni were asked to send in a similar selfie from their workplaces. The result was a colorful travelogue spanning two continents, with Coastal folks wearing eye-popping Coastal shades in all kinds of locations. Meet a few of our CCU community members, past and present, in far-flung places.

Teal Shaded Summer
1. Brian Gibson (Waccamaw River)
2. Jada Bynum (Stonehenge Wiltshire, England)
3. Evan Claggett (Zion National Park, Utah)
4. Destiny Lewis (North Dakota State University)
5. Zoe Lindner (Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming)
6. Taylor Dateisman (Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming)
7. Devonte Peterson (Washington, D.C.)

Teal Shaded Career
8. Davis Luker (Wild Africa Trek Guide-Disney)
9. Kara Booth (Scribe-Grand Strand Medical)
10. Sidney Mathis (Second Grade Teacher-Palmetto Bay)
11. Joe Grant II (Captain-U.S. Army, 82nd Airborne Division)
12. Haley Kosmatka (Audiologist-Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary)
13. Michelle Russo (Nickelodeon Producer-New York)
14. W.L. Davis (Real Estate Appraiser for W.L. Davis Associates-Charlotte)
Class Notes

1977
Rebecca T. Godwin retired in June 2015 from Bennington College, where she taught literature and writing. A novelist and short-story writer, she founded and was faculty editor of plain chic, Bennington’s national anthology of undergraduate writing.

Clark B. Parker has been appointed by Gov. Nikki Haley and confirmed by the South Carolina Senate as superintendent of education, an appointment he calls an “honor and privilege.”

1978
Mary Joan Beley received the 2015 South Carolina Republican Party Polito Memoir Award. She volunteers with the American Red Cross and helps with refugees through her church. She also writes articles about disasters and humanitarian causes. Beley is a member of S.C. Press Association and Overseas Press Club. She lives in Tega Cay, S.C., with her husband and two children, Troy, 8, and Zoe, 6. She is a stay-at-home mom and is involved with the school PTO.

Clayton S. Cook, a second-grade teacher at Maryville Elementary School, has been named the Georgetown County School District Teacher of the Year. He is also Maryville’s technology facilitator. In 2009, he earned an M.Ed. in distance learning from Colorado State University. In 2013, Cook completed two courses toward a master’s degree in technology and educational leadership – simultaneously – from CCU. He and his wife Kimberley have four children: Jordan, McKusan, Ragan and Colby. The Cooks live in the Brownies Ferry area.

Capt. Steven D. Roff is owner of Barrier Island Guide Service in Pawleys Island. A U.S. Coast Guard licensed captain, Roff worked as a marine biologist for 15 years and has participated in multiple fishing tournaments.

Erin Donovan-Boyle was appointed executive director of Ocean State Tall Ships; as campaign coordinator for U.S. Sen. Jack Reed. She has previously worked as director of outreach and communications for the Mayforth Group, a government relations firm in Providence, R.I., and Washington, D.C.; and as a funding specialist and project manager for the Newport County Coastal Resources.

2001
Erin Donovan-Boyle was appointed executive director of Ocean State Tall Ships; as campaign coordinator for U.S. Sen. Jack Reed. She has previously worked as director of outreach and communications for the Mayforth Group, a government relations firm in Providence, R.I., and Washington, D.C.; and as a funding specialist and project manager for the Newport County Coastal Resources.

2004
Sandy Hoffman Davis is the new director of operations and project management at the Myrtle Beach Regional Economic Development Corp., where she is responsible for accounting, human resources, project management and providing support to the MBEDC. She previously worked in accounting and taught at Horry-Georgetown Technical College.

Annette L. Grandolfo works in special education with individuals diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder. She earned a master’s degree in special education with applied behavior analysis specialization from Montana State University at Billings in 2014. She is a board certified behavior analyst and lives in Portland, Ore., where she works for Western Psychological and Counseling Services, providing in-home treatment for individuals ages 7-17 diagnosed with autism.

Jasmine Brown Jackson, the reigning Mrs. Virginia, competed in the Mrs. America competition. A former Chantelighter, she and her husband Joshua have been married for five years and have two boys, Joshua, 6, and James, 4. She teaches Elite Athletics, a health and fitness program.

2005
Woody Ford III was named the 2015 Citizen of the Year by the Myrtle Beach Area Chamber of Commerce. He is director of operations at Blue Cross Blue Shield of South Carolina, a part-time instructor at Midlands Technical College and active in the Myrtle Beach community. Ford is also a past president of the CCU Alumni Association board of directors.

2006
Sandy Hoffman Davis is the new director of operations and project management at the Myrtle Beach Regional Economic Development Corp., where she is responsible for accounting, human resources, project management and providing support to the MBEDC. She previously worked in accounting and taught at Horry-Georgetown Technical College.

Annette L. Grandolfo works in special education with individuals diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder. She earned a master’s degree in special education with applied behavior analysis specialization from Montana State University at Billings in 2014. She is a board certified behavior analyst and lives in Portland, Ore., where she works for Western Psychological and Counseling Services, providing in-home treatment for individuals ages 7-17 diagnosed with autism.

Jasmine Brown Jackson, the reigning Mrs. Virginia, competed in the Mrs. America competition. A former Chantelighter, she and her husband Joshua have been married for five years and have two boys, Joshua, 6, and James, 4. She teaches Elite Athletics, a health and fitness program.

2008
Meredith L. Alexander and Matthew Byrd were married on June 26, 2015. A reception was held on July 18 at Labrador Country Club in Hurtville. Meredith is employed with Harry County Schools.

Forber Alger was crowned Mrs. International 2011 in July. The pageant is designed to showcase the accomplishments and commitment of married women. She and her husband3 have three children.

Amy S. Pauckenstein is the CEO of Aggie Academy Management Group, a tennis academy designed to bring top quality tennis programs to communities. While at CCU, she was a member of the women’s tennis team.

 Ashton Williams Sullivan is the new social worker at Warwick Medical Center in Edgefield, S.C. She also works part time at the Allan Crowder Center and the Pavilion, the mental health portion of Allan Regional Medical Centers. She earned a master’s degree in social work from the University of South Carolina in 2010. She and her husband live in Ridge Spring.

2010
Kathryn E. Callahan was named the parts and accessories sales coordinator at 2 Marine of North America, LLC – a subsidiary of Marine SA, the world’s largest manufacturer of rigid inflatable boats, inflatable boats, inflatable rafts and inflatable equipment, and the world’s oldest manufacturer of inflatable boats. She works directly with customers and with the company’s sales representatives and dealers network.

2003
Dee N. Webb earned the Diamond Award (employee of the year) from Land South Construction in Jacksonville, Fla. She leads the company’s accounting department and manages day-to-day operating activities such as payroll, budgeting and financial reporting.

2006
Sandy Hoffman Davis is the new director of operations and project management at the Myrtle Beach Regional Economic Development Corp., where she is responsible for accounting, human resources, project management and providing support to the MBEDC. She previously worked in accounting and taught at Horry-Georgetown Technical College.

Annette L. Grandolfo works in special education with individuals diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder. She earned a master’s degree in special education with applied behavior analysis specialization from Montana State University at Billings in 2014. She is a board certified behavior analyst and lives in Portland, Ore., where she works for Western Psychological and Counseling Services, providing in-home treatment for individuals ages 7-17 diagnosed with autism.

Jasmine Brown Jackson, the reigning Mrs. Virginia, competed in the Mrs. America competition. A former Chantelighter, she and her husband Joshua have been married for five years and have two boys, Joshua, 6, and James, 4. She teaches Elite Athletics, a health and fitness program.

2008
Meredith L. Alexander and Matthew Byrd were married on June 26, 2015. A reception was held on July 18 at Labrador Country Club in Hurtville. Meredith is employed with Harry County Schools.

Forber Alger was crowned Mrs. International 2011 in July. The pageant is designed to showcase the accomplishments and commitment of married women. She and her husband3 have three children.

Amy S. Pauckenstein is the CEO of Aggie Academy Management Group, a tennis academy designed to bring top quality tennis programs to communities. While at CCU, she was a member of the women’s tennis team.

 Ashton Williams Sullivan is the new social worker at Warwick Medical Center in Edgefield, S.C. She also works part time at the Allan Crowder Center and the Pavilion, the mental health portion of Allan Regional Medical Centers. She earned a master’s degree in social work from the University of South Carolina in 2010. She and her husband live in Ridge Spring.

2010
Kathryn E. Callahan was named the parts and accessories sales coordinator at 2 Marine of North America, LLC – a subsidiary of Marine SA, the world’s largest manufacturer of rigid inflatable boats, inflatable boats, inflatable rafts and inflatable equipment, and the world’s oldest manufacturer of inflatable boats. She works directly with customers and with the company’s sales representatives and dealers network.
Michael Kelly was named the market research coordinator at Omni Hotels & Resorts in Chicago. He previously was the on-site marketing executive at Marriott’s OceanaHilton-Wilis at Grande Dunes.

Gina M. Lavoice is a business development manager with Palace Resorts, which offers five-star, all-inclusive vacations in Mexico and Jamaica. Before joining the Palace Resorts team, Lavoice worked for more than two years as a front-line sales executive at Wyndham Vacation Ownership, where she was recognized for her outstanding sales accomplishments.

In 2013, Brittany E. Henderson made her LPGA debut at the Manulife LPGA Classic in June.

Kevin Kane was honored at the CCU 2014 CCU Alumni Association banquet for his service on the CCU Alumni Association board of directors.

Kevin Kane earned a bachelor’s degree in marine science with a minor in coastal geology from CCU in 2013. In July, he joined the Peace Corps for a two-year stint in a small village in the Philippines. He is working to improve the ecosystem there by establishing a marine-protected area for local corals, sea grasses and mangroves. He also is creating a sustainable fishery for the village.

Originally from Connecticut, Marino was active on campus. He supported sustainability legislation as a senator in the Student Government Association. As a result, he was named a Campus Compact Newman Civic Fellow, which recognizes students who demonstrate a personal commitment to creating lasting change for the better in their communities. He also served as co-chairman for Relay for Life, helping to establish the annual Shawn R. Ponton Memorial Car Show fundraiser as a tribute to a fellow classmate who lost his life in a car accident.

Immediately following graduation from CCU, Marino held an education/conservation internship at the Bald Head Island Conservancy in North Carolina. He also was an education assistant at the Mote Marine Laboratory & Aquarium in Sarasota, Fla., and helped with whale tagging in California.

Kristen A. Lang was named the market research coordinator at Omni Hotels & Resorts in Chicago. She previously was the on-site marketing executive at Marriott’s OceanaHilton-Wilis at Grande Dunes.

Gina M. Lavoice is a business development manager with Palace Resorts, which offers five-star, all-inclusive vacations in Mexico and Jamaica. Before joining the Palace Resorts team, Lavoice worked for more than two years as a front-line sales executive at Wyndham Vacation Ownership, where she was recognized for her outstanding sales accomplishments.
Giving above and below the waterline
by Andrew Raak '08

Back when I was walking around the campus as an undergraduate, the thought of having my name attached to a building seemed an impossibility. I never had goals of becoming so wealthy that I could donate enough money to erect a building or facility on campus that would bear my name. Fortunately, however, I have since realized that money isn’t the only gift that makes a difference.

While working as the captain and dive coordinator for a local PADI (Professional Association of Diving Instructors) 5 Star resort in Murrells Inlet, two undergraduates approached me with an idea of starting a new scuba diving club on campus. Mike Hanney and Tim Carrara sought my guidance on setting up a club, the Aqua League, that would be fun and exciting way to grow the dive program.

I thought that this might be a great way to begin my philanthropic donations to the University. With a campus of over 10,000 students and a large marine science program, the competition to enroll in the University’s scuba course can leave some students dry. So, the founders of CCIU’s Aqua League created the appropriate channels to allow new members to obtain scuba certifications. With that system in place, the new club exploded, soon becoming one of the largest on campus. I donate my time to assist this terrific club in an advisory role.

This initial effort to give back to the University that had given me so much was so gratifying that I began to wonder how else I could continue to help and possibly inspire the next great marine scientist. When I heard that CCIU was building the much-needed science building (Swain Hall), I contacted the Office for Philanthropy. Again, any monetary donation I could make would be only a drop in a bucket, so I had another thought.

Over the years I have developed my hobby of underwater photography to the point that my work has been recognized internationally. For my initial donation, I selected a number of prints that focus on local marine life along the South Carolina coast, and these framed pictures now hang on the walls of the new Swain Hall. I’ve pledged to continue to give new images each year to create an ongoing gallery. Hopefully these images will inspire students on campus to achieve great things in order to protect the ocean that we love.

Philanthropy does not always have to be written on a check. As the old saying goes, “No matter how small the gift, it’s the thought that counts.”

See more of Raak’s work on his website at www.RaakBottomImaging.com.