



**THE JACKSON FAMILY CENTER
FOR ETHICS AND VALUES**
COASTAL CAROLINA UNIVERSITY
P.O. BOX 261954
CONWAY, SC 29528-6054

 [COASTAL.EDU/JACKSONCENTER](https://coastal.edu/jacksoncenter)

 [FACEBOOK.COM/JACKSONCENTER](https://facebook.com/jacksoncenter)

 **834.349.4149**

The Jackson Family Center For Ethics and Values



Newsletter
Spring 2018

Volume 11 | Issue 2

The Jackson Family Center for Ethics and Values is dedicated to inspiring individuals to make ethical and value-based decisions and, thus, lead lives of

**COURAGE,
COMPASSION
and
INTEGRITY.**

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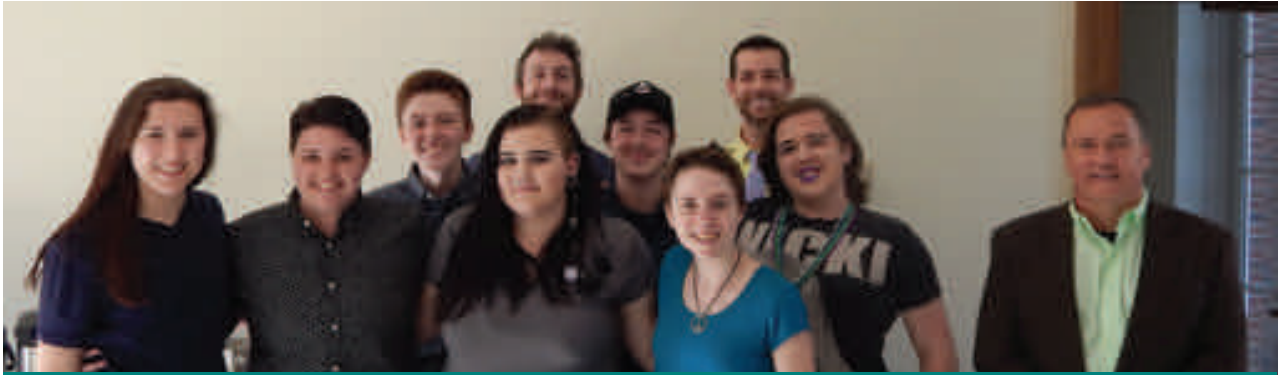
**A MESSAGE FROM
THE DIRECTOR**

The best things in life often go by too quickly. The last five years have passed by in a breeze. I am so fortunate to have had the privilege of guiding the Jackson Family Center for Ethics and Values over these past five years. It has been an incredibly rewarding journey in my professional life, and I want to thank everyone who has made this possible. What excites me the most is that we have been able to convince David Holiday to take over as director. I am confident that David will guide the center to a bright and successful future, and that he will strengthen the role it plays in the campus life of Coastal Carolina University and the community of citizens of Horry County.

Best wishes,

Nils Rauhut
Director
nrauhut@coastal.edu

Transgender and College Life



From left, front row: Krystina Millar, Gregory Stephens, Meredith Persin and Rachel Teichman
Second row: Bennett Schroeder, Clyde Storey, Stacy Jackson and Nils Rahaut
Third row: David Holiday and Justin Poindexter



CCU trustee Samuel Frink asks a question.

Our final Tea & Ethics event of the semester proved to be a much needed conversation among faculty, students and community members alike. The topic of the event was transgenderism and the event was led by a panel comprised of six students and one staff member. Panelists included Clyde Storey (he/him), Gregory Stephens (he/him), Rachel Teichman (she/her), Bennett Schroeder (he/him), Justin Poindexter (he/him), Meredith Persin (they, them) and Stacey Jackson (she/her). After each of the panelists presented to the 35 people in attendance on their own personal experiences at the University as a transgender, the floor was opened up for questions. The discussion that ensued was respectful and hopeful.

UPCOMING EVENTS

April

19
THURS
4:30 PM

SELF-TRANSCENDENCE AND THE MEANING OF LIFE
VISITING ETHICIST + JENNIFER FREY
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA
WALL BOARDROOM, WALL 222

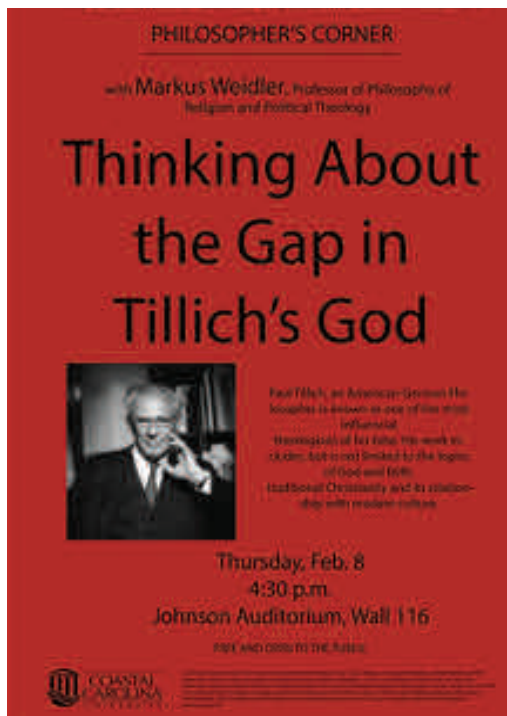
ALL EVENTS ARE FREE and OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Coastal Carolina University (CCU) does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, age, genetic information, mental or physical disability, or status as a disabled or Vietnam-era veteran in its admissions policies, programs, activities or employment practices. For more information relating to discrimination, please contact the CCU Title IX Coordinator/EEO Investigator, Coastal Carolina University, Kearns Hall 104B, Conway, SC; Title IX email titleix@coastal.edu; office phone 843-349-2382; Title IX cell phone 843-333-6229; EEO email eeo@coastal.edu; or the U.S. Dept. of Education Office for Civil Rights at www2.ed.gov/ocr.

Thinking About the Gap in Tillich's God



Markus Weidler, professor of philosophy of religion and political theology at Columbus State University, visited Coastal Carolina University on Feb. 8, 2018, to present the thoughts and criticisms of philosopher and theologian Paul Tillich. Tillich, regarded as one of the most influential theologians of the 20th century, was best known for his examinations of faith, Christian revelation and human experience through modern culture. Weidler offered that there is a tension in Tillich's thinking about God and explored several ways to overcome this tension. Weidler's presentation was well attended by faculty, staff, students and community members. His presentation promoted thought-provoking questions from the audience who appeared engaged with the idea of Tillich's conception of God.



Nils Rauhut, Markus Weidler and David Holiday



A MESSAGE FROM THE INCOMING DIRECTOR

Having worked at the Jackson Center for three years as Ethics Fellow, I have been blessed with the opportunity to serve as director. I write, with a mixture of anticipatory excitement and trepidation, to express my gratitude for this opportunity and to highlight my vision for the center and its programs moving forward.

As I see it, my first job is to maintain the standard of excellence in programming, community outreach and student mentoring set by my predecessors. On behalf of the board, the staff and the multiple generations of Jackson Scholars who have come up under their steady, supportive and inspirational leadership, I would like to extend our warmest thanks to Nils Rauhut, Sara Sanders and founding director Claudia McCollough. In particular, the scholars and I will greatly miss Professor Rauhut; however, we will be glad to have him close-at-hand in the philosophy department, where he will concentrate on teaching and research. We also owe a debt of thanks to Kaitlyn Powalie, a recent Jackson Scholar alumnus, who has done an outstanding job this year as the center's assistant director. We will be sad to lose her, as she heads to UNC Greenboro to study for a master's degree in recreational therapy.

As incoming director, I remain committed to maintaining the excellence of the Center's main programs. First, our public lectures and panel discussions, which bring together the CCU and Horry-Georgetown communities in dialogue, and the Visiting Ethicist program, which brings influential philosophers working in moral theory and applied ethics to Coastal to speak about their work. Second, our annual After School Ethics Academy, in which we offer local sixth grade students a window into college life and a taste of applied ethics. And third, the Jackson Scholar program, which takes promising young leaders on campus and helps them grow into advocates, activists and professionals who live lives oriented around clear ethical values and strong character. Working closely with the Jackson Scholars as their ethics professor, ethics bowl coach, adviser and mentor has been the most fun and rewarding part of my work as Ethics Fellow. They are a central source of inspiration and energy for me, and I look forward to ushering future generations of outstanding Coastal students through the program.

The Jackson Scholars continually raise the bar for professionalism, achievement and service. Next year, our emphasis will be on attracting a class of scholars as focused, passionate, diverse and ambitious as recent generations have been, with a slight emphasis on addressing the program's current gender imbalance. In addition to our usual slate of talks and events, we also hope to offer some new programming next year, such as a series of films combined with ethical conversations, and hosted discussions on difficult ethical issues which aim to bridge divides between student interest groups and communities at Coastal. Please keep an eye out for these new initiatives and the center's reinvigorated presence on social media as we approach Fall 2018!

Finally, on behalf of myself, the scholars, the board of directors, the Jackson family and the other stakeholders in our center, I ask for your continued support, engagement and guidance as the center moves on to this new chapter. We will strive to maintain our proud track-record of excellence and achievement in both academics and service, and to remain a valuable resource for the Coastal Carolina and Horry-Georgetown communities and academics, in a spirit which continues to honor the history and legacy of founders Mary Emily and Nelson Jackson.

Cheers,

David Holiday
Ethics Fellow
dholiday@coastal.edu

GRADUATED SCHOLARS: Class of 2016-2018



Shadaisha Hamilton - Graduates May 2019

“Being a Jackson Scholar helped me become open minded to different concepts and ideas. This program also helped me overcome insecurities and develop as a leader.”



Yaicha Ocampo - Graduates May 2019

“The Jackson Scholar program was my home away from home. It was the place I felt the most comfortable on campus, and it’s great to still be able to go there in my spare time and be welcomed back like I never left!”



Jason Renne - Graduates May 2019

“My time as a Jackson Scholar provided me with an understanding of how to be a better person, both in my community and in my personal life.”



Nicholas Smith - Graduates May 2018

“My time as a scholar was beneficial in many ways. First, it gave me the love for philosophy, which led to my pursuit of a law degree. Second, the community outreach component, especially the public talks, really broadened my perspectives overall. Lastly, I was able to make lifelong connections with the other students within the program.”



Carlie Todd - Graduates May 2018

“While an education from a classroom can provide the foundation for a student's mind, few dare to challenge and develop a student's personal sense of morality. Through this program, I was able to acquire the knowledge and skills needed to not only live my life confidently, but to challenge my judgements and decisions ethically.”

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

Race at CCU: What are our experiences?



Julinna Oxley, Rose Holder, Brendan McPherson, Eric Argueta, Franklin Ellis, and Janki Patel



Julinna Oxley, Rose Holder and Brendan McPherson

As a part of our Tea & Ethics series, “Race at CCU” was a panel discussion that featured faculty, staff and students. The panel was comprised of Julinna Oxley, Rose Holder, Brendan McPherson, Eric Argueta, Franklin Ellis and Janki Patel. Panelists shared with the audience their experiences with race at CCU and the environments that cultivated good and bad discussions regarding race. After the panelists presented, the audience was invited to ask questions of single panel members or the panel as a whole. Enlightening conversations were cultivated between the panelists and the 35 faculty, staff, students and community members who were present.

Why Read Fiction? A Philosophical Defense



David Holiday, Sarah E. Worth and Nils Rauhut

Sarah E. Worth joined us on March 15, 2018, to present her philosophical defense of why we should read fiction. She said that those who read fiction are more likely to have the ability to empathize and show compassion toward others than those who do not read fiction. She talked about the importance of discerning what we read and how often we read it. Worth’s presentation was well received by faculty, students and community members who were present and the topic led to interesting discussions on the future of literature.

INITIATIVES

Community Conversations Initiative



This semester the Community Conversations Initiative group has continued to meet each Wednesday at noon. The group has been following along with the book titled “Crucial Conversations: Tools for Talking When Stakes are High” by Kerry Patterson, Joseph Grenny, Ron McMillan and Al Switzler. Together the group’s discussion and reading of the book has led to fruitful strategies for holding difficult conversations. This semester, as a part of the Community Conversations Initiative, several speakers have been invited to speak to the group about their own personal experiences with having crucial conversations at home, in public and in the workplace.



Sally Hare -

Sally Hare is the founding director of the Center for Education and Community at Coastal Carolina, as well as a professor emeritus and author. Hare is from Charleston, S.C., and loves to learn. She is also a senior facilitator of the national Center for Courage and Renewal which is based on the philosophy of Parker J. Palmer, author of “Healing the Heart of Democracy.” Hare came to speak with the group about her experiences with holding crucial conversations as both a lifelong student and an instructor.



Debbie Conner -

Debbie Conner is Coastal’s vice president for campus life and student engagement. In her role as vice president, Conner often has difficult conversations with faculty, staff and students alike. Conners shared her personal successes and failures with holding crucial conversations, as well as her “how to” as far as engaging in difficult conversations. She spoke about the difference between disagreeing with someone and being offended by someone and how often disagreement is seen as an offense. She also noted how diversity is often regarded as diversiME, where one’s understanding of diversity can be mistaken for ME against the “others.”



Caroline Fairless -

Caroline Fairless likes to wear many hats, from author to ordained Episcopal minister. She spoke to the group about her latest book titled “The God Presumption.” It was a thought provoking and enjoyable adventure as Fairless shared her story and writings with us. She shared her writing by reading from “Confessions of a Fake Priest”, “The Spaces Between Church and Not Church” and “The God Presumption.” Her story was very interesting as she talked about her transitions as a priest and her burning desire to take care of the planet and its web of community.

SCHOLARS AROUND THE COMMUNITY

Women in Philanthropy and Leadership Conference

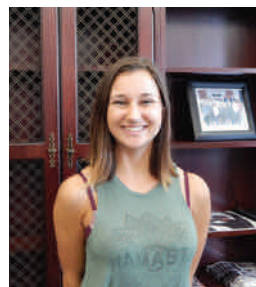


From left to right clockwise: Emily Vallarino, Anaiya Moore, Kyeonna Singletary, Cameron Carroll, Armia Shell, Krystina Millar, Lauren Palazuelos, Kaitlyn Dallis and Rachel Gandy

Each year the scholars are graciously invited by the Jackson Family to join them in attending the annual Women in Leadership and Philanthropy Conference and Celebration. The event is a two-day conference that is hosted at the Myrtle Beach Sheraton Conference Center. This year's speakers included the Bush sisters: Barbara Pierce Bush, CEO and co-founder of Global Health Corps, and Jenna Bush Hager, author of the bestseller "Ana's Story: A Journey of Hope"; Julia Landauer, two-time NASCAR champion; Joan Robinson-Berry, vice president and general manager of Boeing South Carolina; and Cara Brookins, author of "Rise: How a House Built a Family." The conference was a wonderful opportunity for the scholars to become inspired, enjoy the company of one another and the sisters of the Jackson Family, and to network. All of the scholars, both new and returning, spoke highly of the conference and were thankful for the experience.



"The Annual Women in Leadership Conference (WIPL) was a blast! It was amazing being in a room full of powerful women and sharing wisdom and motivation to the young women of the audience. I highly recommend attending this conference seeing that it was an amazing life changing experience!"
~Kyeonna Singletary, 2018-2020



"It's always an honor to be around such inspiring and empowering individuals. After the conference, I tend to find myself reflecting on my future and that in itself is liberating."
~Kaitlyn Dallis, 2017-2019

ETHICS AND LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

On Jan. 29, 2018, the Jackson Family Center began its annual Ethics and Leadership Academy. This year the center had 55 local middle school students from eight different schools participate. The schools that participated in this year's Ethics and Leadership Academy were Myrtle Beach, Loris, Aynor, Black Water, Ocean Bay, Forestbrook, Whittemore Park and Conway. This year's theme was sustainability. We met with the students each Monday for three consecutive weeks. Students were led by the Jackson Scholars who held discussions about sustainability, its ethical impacts and ways to be leaders within our own communities regarding the environment. Some of our Jackson Scholars had the following comments:



Anaiya Moore: 2018-2020

“The Ethics Academy was a great experience where I got a chance to work with extremely bright students. It was a chance to see what our future leaders thought about morality, and what is going on in our world.”



Emily Thibeault: 2017-2019

“The Ethics Academy is such a great way to get younger generations thinking about leadership and sustainability. Also it gives them a glimpse into the possibilities that universities offer and a chance to meet college students.”



Lauren Palazuelos: 2018-2020

“I am incredibly grateful to have had a chance to participate in the ethics academy. I was blown away by the aspirations of these young children. Their intelligence, thoughtfulness, curiosity and creativity were inspiring. They far exceeded my expectations in all respects, and seeing their excitement as they toured Coastal's campus was by far the best part of the entire program.”

On the second week, we welcomed guest speaker Dan Abel from CCU's Department of Marine Science. Abel has spent a great part of his career studying sharks and taking students out to study them as well. His studies have taken him across the world where he has met many people affected by a lack of sustainability. Abel spoke to the students about his experiences encountering sharks and the effects that sustainability can have on our world and its ecosystem.



During third and final week of the Ethics and Leadership Academy, the students had the opportunity to explore Coastal Carolina University. After the students toured the campus, they returned for a short awards ceremony in which each student received a certificate that recognized them for their participation in the Jackson Family Center Ethics and Leadership Academy.

