Women in Philanthropy and Leadership for Coastal Carolina University presents its 10th annual Celebration of Inspiring Women 2020
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Celebration Schedule

Celebration of Inspiring Women
Monday, Feb. 10, 2020
Sheraton Myrtle Beach Convention Center

5:30 p.m.  
Champagne Reception .................................................S.C. Hall of Fame
Music provided by CCU Jazz Quintet featuring Kyle Strain, Mckinley Devilbiss, Timothy Hardwick, Deiondre Mack, T.J. Anderson, and Matthew White, D.M.A. Assistant Professor, Coastal Carolina University

6:15 p.m.  
Seating in the Grand Ballroom

6:30 p.m.  
Welcoming and Remarks
Terri DeCenzo  
Executive Director, Women in Philanthropy and Leadership for Coastal Carolina University

6:45 p.m.  
Dinner
Invocation
Suncera Johnson, 2019 Inspiring Woman Honoree
Music provided by Timothy Hardwick, solo guitarist

7:30 p.m.  
Presentation of Awards
David A. DeCenzo, Ph.D.  
President, Coastal Carolina University
Terri DeCenzo

Honorees
The Honorable Pamela S. Evette
Gayle L. Resetar
The Honorable Jennifer P. Wilson

8:30 p.m.  
Live Auction
Introduction by Tabitha James
Nicole Boone, Emcee  
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9 p.m.  
Closing Remarks
Hatton Gravely  
Director, Women in Philanthropy and Leadership for Coastal Carolina University
Lt. Gov. Pamela S. Evette

Pamela S. Evette is the 93rd lieutenant governor of South Carolina and the first female Republican lieutenant governor.

An entrepreneur and businesswoman, Evette founded Quality Business Solutions Inc. (QBS), a payroll, human resources, and benefits services firm headquartered in Travelers Rest, S.C. Under her leadership as president and CEO, QBS grew from a start-up to one of the nation’s fastest growing small businesses. The company has also been repeatedly honored among the fastest growing and best places to work in South Carolina.

Evette has received numerous business and professional accolades, including the ATHENA Leadership Award®; the Enterprising Woman of the Year Award; the Women Presidents’ Organization 50 Fastest-Growing Women-Owned/Led Companies Award; and as a member of the Impact 50, an annual ranking of the most powerful women leaders of Inc. 5000 companies.

Evette is passionate about, and has been focused on, improving educational performance in her community, assisting the elderly and the young, and helping small- and women-owned businesses. She is a member of Women’s Business Enterprise National Council and Women Presidents’ Organization and serves on the board of directors of the St. Francis Foundation, affiliated with Bon Secours St. Francis Health System, and the National Association of Professional Employer Organizations, where she is also an emeritus member of the state legislative committee.

A native of Ohio, Evette earned a bachelor’s degree in business administration in accounting from Cleveland State University. She lives in Travelers Rest with her husband, David, and their three children as well as her mother, Jennie.

Gayle Resetar

Gayle Resetar is executive vice president and chief operating officer of Tidelands Health. She first joined the organization in 1990, and now has day-to-day operational responsibility for the system. She has held numerous positions, including assistant administrator at Tidelands Georgetown Memorial Hospital.

Resetar also led the construction and start-up effort for Tidelands Waccamaw Community Hospital, which opened in 2002, and Tidelands Health Medical Park at The Market Common, which opened in 2019. She is a fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE) and a past winner of ACHE’s Regents Award for recognition of the young health executive of the year in South Carolina.

Resetar earned a bachelor’s degree in business management from Fairmont State University in West Virginia, and a master’s degree in health care administration from the University of South Carolina.
Jennifer Wilson

Jennifer Wilson is the Chief Judge of the Myrtle Beach Municipal Court. She is in her fifth four-year term and is the only black woman to serve as a Myrtle Beach Municipal Judge.

She chaired the committee to establish the first Homeless Court in Myrtle Beach. The court is designed to address underlying issues of homelessness in lieu of jail time and fines of persons charged with misdemeanors in the Myrtle Beach Municipal Court. The committee met for more than a year, and on May 13, 2019, Wilson presided over the first Homeless Court session. The Homeless Court, held bimonthly, allows repeat offenders to participate in a diversion program instead of jail time or paying a fine. The programs include addiction recovery and courses about coping skills, among other topics.

Wilson grew up in Walterboro, S.C., a small town just south of Charleston. She earned a bachelor’s degree in political science from Spelman College in Atlanta, Ga., and a law degree from Rutgers University School of Law in New Jersey. She served as a law clerk to then Circuit Judge Ernest A. Finney Jr., who was South Carolina’s first black circuit judge and subsequently became the first African American Chief Justice of the S.C. Supreme Court. Her background includes serving as a public defender and prosecutor, and owning a private practice as a criminal defense attorney. In 2010, Wilson earned the Conway branch NAACP Ernest A. Finney Jr. Award for historic achievement and Myrtle Beach’s Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Drum Major for Justice Award.

She is a member of the S.C. Bar, S.C. Women Lawyers Association, and the S.C. Black Lawyers Association.

Wilson’s two children attend Coastal Carolina University, and she has one granddaughter. She attends St. Anne’s Episcopal Church in Conway.
2011
Vivian Ayers-Allen
Dr. Maria G. Buse
Mignon L. Clyburn
Brigadier General Darlene Marie Goff
The Honorable Nikki Haley
Justice Kaye G. Hearn
The Honorable Bonnie McElveen-Hunter
Frances Scott

2012
Sharon Clayton
Dr. Jeanne L. Fourrier
Patricia Harris
Darley Newman
Anne Worsham Richardson
Brigadier General Velma Richardson
The Honorable Inez Moore Tenenbaum

2013
Rebecca Wesson Darwin
Muriel O’Tuel, Ph.D.
The Honorable Elizabeth Johnston Patterson
Sarah Reese
The Honorable Jean Hoefer Toal

2014
Paula Harper Bethea
Mary Ann Bishop
Nathalie Dupree
Mamie “Peanut” Johnson
Wendi Nix

2015
Gloria Gaynor
Leeza Gibbons
Mary A. Jackson
Barbara F. Livingston
Anne L. Matthews, Ed.D.

2016
Jennifer Ainsworth
Delores Porcher Dacosta
Minor Mickel Shaw
Barbara Hickman Whye

2017
Kristin Bohan, Ph.D.
Lou Kennedy
Vanessa E. Wyche

2018
Amber Campbell
Marilyn Fore, Ed.D.
Renee Hembree
Terri Springs Rhodes
Joan Robinson-Berry

2019
Carrie Brown, D.M.D.
Suncera Johnson
Britnie Turner
2019 Celebration of Inspiring Women (from left): Britnie Turner, Carrie Brown D.M.D., Terri DeCenzo, and Suncera Johnson
Be an archaeologist for a day. Join Coastal Carolina University faculty and students at the Brookgreen Gardens Historical Archaeology Field School. Help excavate the homes of former enslaved Africans and African-Americans who worked at Brookgreen Plantation at Brookgreen Gardens to better understand their day-to-day lives.

You will work directly with David Palmer, Ph.D., CCU’s Michie Professor of Historical Archaeology. The excavation occurs during Coastal’s Maymester as part of an archaeological field school for CCU students, who will gain professional hands-on experience in anticipation of a career in archaeology.

The following dates are available: May 19, 20, 21, 26, 27, or 28. The one-day experience is offered for a maximum of four people. All participants must be 12 or older, and children must be accompanied by an adult. Participants will be introduced to historical plantation archaeology and will cover field and laboratory methods including excavation, mapping, survey, and consultation of historical sources in the interpretative process. CCU will provide a list of things to bring and expect prior to the excavation day.

Note: Because this is an active research project, participants will be asked to sign a form agreeing to respect the site and data, to sign a liability release for Brookgreen and the University, and submit to the Society of American Archaeology code of ethics.
Take a hike at nearby Lewis Ocean Bay Heritage Preserve with James Luken, Ph.D., a professor of biology and associate dean of the Coastal Carolina University Gupta College of Science. You will learn about the unique ecological features found in this preserve, and your guide will reveal the wonders of the elusive Venus flytrap.

Nature lovers will appreciate the plant and animal diversity of Lewis Ocean Bay Heritage Preserve. At least 20 Carolina bays are found on this 9,393-acre preserve, which provides habitat for the Venus flytrap, yellow pitcher plants, native orchids, black bears, bald eagles, and red-cockaded woodpeckers. You will find the most plant diversity along the ecotones at the edge of the bays. In this nutrient-poor environment, some plant species survive by eating insects.

A walk through the savannahs, Carolina bays, and wildflower meadows of the site will allow you to feel far-removed from the hustle and bustle found along the Grand Strand. There are no trails in this preserve, so come prepared for hiking on wet soils and through low vegetation. The hike will take about two hours and can accommodate up to 10 individuals. Children are welcome. Tentative date: Saturday, May 9 at 10 a.m.
Join Dan Abel, Ph.D., Coastal Carolina University’s shark expert and the Honors Distinguished Faculty Fellow in the HTC Honors College, for a shark research cruise on Winyah Bay.

Every fall, Abel schedules 20-30 shark cruises on Winyah Bay down in Georgetown. He and his shark research team, which consists of his graduate and undergraduate students, set longlines in the bay and then tag and take samples from any sharks they catch. On recent shark cruises, Abel and his students have caught 10-foot nursery sharks. It is very exciting to work closely with these incredible animals and watch CCU students learn what it means to be a research scientist as they work with live animals on board the boat.

You will have the opportunity to participate in all aspects of this research experience, from baiting the hooks to working hands-on with the sharks and releasing them back into the bay.

Abel is a marine science professor at CCU, where he has been teaching since 1994. He is an environmental scientist, a shark specialist, the former founding director of the University’s Sustainability Initiative, and the author of numerous books.

He earned his bachelor’s and master’s degrees from the College of Charleston, and a Ph.D. in oceanography from the University of California San Diego’s Scripps Institute of Oceanography.
Tired of hearing your neighbor or coworker brag about his/her latest round of golf? Are you looking to improve your game? If so, here’s the perfect opportunity. This package, offered through the PGA of America/PGA Golf Management (PGM) program at Coastal Carolina University, will help you take your game to the next level.

You’ll receive a three-lesson clinic that features a full-swing video analysis as well as evaluation and tips on how to enhance your short-game and putting skills. The clinics will be led by certified PGA professionals. The package also includes regripping of your golf clubs; several PGA items including one dozen Titleist RPO V1 golf balls, PGA tees from the Ryder Cup and PGA Championship, hat, and ball makers; and a tee time for four at the General James Hackler Course, the Grand Strand’s only university-affiliated course. This 18-hole, par-72 course is home to CCU’s PGA Golf Management program, one of only 20 university programs accredited by the PGA of America. The program prepares students for a successful career in the golf industry by combining academic studies and professional golf-training experiences.
Want to help Coastal Carolina University students succeed? Scholarships are becoming increasingly more important to retain the best and brightest students. Each year, Women in Philanthropy and Leadership (WIPL) for Coastal Carolina University provides annual $1,000 scholarships to deserving students. The number of scholarships awarded is based on the amount of money received each year from donors and WIPL members. Establishing a WIPL scholarship is one of the best ways to support our students. The scholarships can be named in honor or memory of someone and are a perfect way to recognize a loved one.

The $1,000 Women in Philanthropy and Leadership Annual Scholarship is divided equally between the fall and spring semesters. To be eligible for the WIPL Annual Scholarship, students must meet the following criteria: be an undergraduate student at CCU; have completed 24 credit hours at the time of the award; have a minimum 2.75 cumulative CCU GPA; demonstrate financial need as defined by the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships; and submit a typed essay that answers specific questions.
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