Nyoka Hucks was driving to church on a recent Sunday when a shiny, teal-colored, old model pickup truck passed her. She knew she had to have that truck for the upcoming holiday video filming at Coastal Carolina University.

"It was a tough decision," recalls Hucks, who is administrative specialist in the College of Science. "It was, do I make it to church on time, or do I follow that truck?"

She followed the teal truck, pulled it over at a stop sign and asked the driver to bring the truck to campus for the Nov. 12 video. Unfortunately, the man worked out of town and couldn’t make it.

Hucks did, however, make it to church on time despite her detour on CCU’s behalf.

So, Jennifer Sellers, campus sustainability coordinator and self-proclaimed “queen of resource randomness,” found a friend whose dad had a 1952 Chevy 3100 truck he agreed to loan to CCU for the video card. The forest green truck, adorned with festive garlands, was the gathering place for the holiday food drive called Setting the Table for Thanksgiving, sponsored by student activities and civic engagement. By day’s end, the donations were spilling out of the truck’s bed onto Prince Lawn, enough to feed 67 families, providing Thanksgiving dinners to more than 250 individuals in Conway. Jordan Smith, coordinator of the drive, reports that food was delivered to EME Apartments, a subsidized housing complex in Conway, and to families designated by Catholic Charities of the Pee Dee.

It was all part of the daylong filming of Coastal’s third annual holiday video card, shot and filmed by Media Services with lots of help from many people, offices and departments.

Hucks, the lady on a mission for a teal truck, colored 32 pounds of frosting for the cookie-decorating table sponsored by the College of Science.

Kimbel Library encouraged the Coastal community to pen letters to soldiers. There were 99 requests for letters and, by incredible happenstance, exactly 99 cards were penned that day.

The College of Humanities ran a Photo Booth (Elf-a-Gram) with festive props and a pipe-and-drape backdrop, and the Wall College of Business had a craft table where students, faculty and staff could make ornaments and holiday stockings.

But the main attraction was the signing of the card and the filming of faculty, staff and student individuals and groups sharing greetings of the season. Three dogs joined in the fun, along with their people, some of whom were wearing red and green scarves, hats, ears and antlers.

"We have no pens!" came a cry from the card-making table.

"Don’t edit us out," one group pleaded, explaining how difficult it was to gather people together for a brief camera cameo. "We had to miss meetings for this!"

Toward the end of the long, sunny day, professor Ben Sota’s physical theatre class arrived as a group of clowns wearing red noses. The assignment seemed to be that they had to be touching each other and could only move as a group, so they seamlessly moved from table to table, decorating cookies and adding a “cool element” as the day wended down, according to videographer David Russell.

Hours and hours of footage on six different cameras makes for some editing challenges, Russell admits, but the card is bound to be something memorable for all.

Go to coastal.edu/about/holiday.html to view the CCU Holiday Card and a get behind-the-scenes look at the filming.

This story was written by Mona Prufer and used with permission from The Atheneum: The Faculty & Staff Newsletter of Coastal Carolina University.
The mission of the Edgar Dyer Institute for Leadership and Public Policy is to create public value by connecting a variety of stakeholders through the production and dissemination of quality, non-partisan survey and policy research and leadership studies and training. We aim to equip students with research and analysis skills, provide scholars with an outlet for investigating important questions about governance and policy, and communicate with both public servants and citizens about policy issues, alternatives and preferences.

These goals reflect our belief that individuals across our community, state and nation can improve governance and solve big problems by working together on a basis of mutual knowledge and understanding.

The focus of the Dyer Institute is to engage students in active learning opportunities where they can gain knowledge in various areas of policy research. Our goal is to provide students with experience that will connect academic theory to practice as well as to foster the importance of civic-minded citizens.

The Institute is named in honor of Eddie Dyer, a renowned proponent of both education and civic engagement.
Parents and families have a powerful influence on their students’ successful transition to college life. Even if they feel that students do not listen to their advice, research shows that parents are still an important source of health information. In fact, a study conducted by a researcher at the University of North Texas on college students across the country found that the four most believable sources of health information were health center medical staff, health educators, faculty/coursework and parents. However, three of the sources — health center medical staff, health educators and faculty/coursework — were used at low levels. Students indicated that these sources were reliable, but that they were less likely to get their health information from them. Other sources such as friends and the Internet, although widely accessed, were seen as relatively unreliable. Parents were the information source that students both used and believed at high levels.

You as family members have already done a great job helping your student make good choices. However, your responsibility doesn’t stop just because they’re in college — your input matters. When young adults begin their college career, they’ll be facing a number of life changes and new experiences from managing finances, attending class, balancing academics with social activities, and deciding whether or not to drink alcohol. Colleges and Universities around the country see health, safety and academic issues related to high risk alcohol use. The figure at the bottom illustrates the relationship between drinks per week and grade point average.

CCU provides resources and education to students and their families regarding substance abuse. Please visit coastal.edu/theothertalk to watch a video about one CCU parent’s personal story and advice surrounding talking to your student about alcohol. Talk to your students about alcohol. It can do more than help shape lives; it can save lives.

Campus Resources:
Counseling Services: 843-349-2305
Dean of Students Office: 843-349-4161
Health Services: 843-349-6543
Public Safety: 843-349-2177

The Chant Family Forum is a great place for you to find information about what is happening on campus, as well as to ask any questions that may be on your mind. Staff, faculty and/or students respond to questions within 24 business hours or on the next business day. Staff also create posts about programs and events on campus that you can encourage your student to attend in order to get engaged on campus. Create an account online today at coastal.edu/connect/family to get and stay connected!
### Office Decorating Competition:
- **3rd Place:** Kimbel Library & Student Accounts (tied)
- **2nd Place:** LIFE Program
- **1st Place:** Financial Aid

### Banner Competition:
- **3rd Place:** Phi Sigma Sigma
- **2nd Place:** Sigma Sigma Sigma
- **1st Place:** STAR & Colleges Against Cancer

### Paint the Town Teal:
- **3rd Place:** Gamma Phi Beta & Club Rugby
- **2nd Place:** Sigma Phi Epsilon & Alpha Xi Delta
- **1st Place:** Phi Sigma Sigma

### Talent Show 1st Place:
- **Greek:** Gamma Phi Beta with Club Rugby
- **Organization:** Teal Temptations
- **Individual:** Taylor O’Hara

### Most Spirited Tailgate Competition:
- **3rd Place:** Residence Hall Association
- **2nd Place:** Phi Sigma Sigma
- **1st Place:** Sigma Sigma Sigma

### Golf Cart Parade:
- **3rd Place:** Student Government Association
- **2nd Place:** Phi Sigma Sigma
- **1st Place:** Sigma Sigma Sigma

### Coastal Can-Struct:
- **3rd Place:** Star & Colleges Against Cancer with Grand Strand Community Council
- **2nd Place:** Gamma Phi Beta & Club Rugby
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**Homecoming Queen – Hannah Eades**

**Homecoming King – O'Shay Scott**