Holidays are always a special time, especially when your student may be returning home from far away or maybe just winding down after a stressful semester. However, the holidays also remind us of how fortunate we are, and Coastal Carolina University is no exception. There has been a lot of growth around campus recently, and this year has seen a lot of construction. For instance, the Lib Jackson Student Union, which opened in January, has been a beautiful addition to the campus. This addition wouldn’t have been possible without a local education tax through the Horry County Council for Higher Education. With this tax, members of the Grand Strand area contribute to the University in ways that many of us here in the Coastal family haven’t even thought about.

The special relationship that we share with our community brings with it additional responsibility. In 2013, a senior communications major decided that she wanted to provide Thanksgiving meals for as many people in the area as she could. As a result, CCU Adopts-a-Family was born. The spirit of the program continued into the spring of 2014 with Baskets & Bunnies. Since then, the program name has been changed to be more inclusive and empowering. This year, CCU participated in Setting the Table for Fall and Spring, providing meals to over 100 families in our community. In the future, the program will continue as Setting the Table for Fall around the Thanksgiving holiday, and another Setting the Table for Spring, approximately one-third of the way into the spring season.

Various departments, groups, offices and individuals collected items—both essentials and non-essentials—for families to celebrate the coming of spring. Everything from basketballs to bath gel, canned goods to clothes detergent, and floor cleaner to Frisbees could be found in the reusable plastic laundry baskets that were filled to the brim and dropped off with Civic Engagement for distribution. Easy work when shared by many, and the results greatly outweighed the effort! Spring was made a little bit nicer for many families in our area, and they appreciated the thoughtfulness and generosity demonstrated by CCU.

For more information about the program, contact Civic Engagement at 843-349-4003.
Coastal Carolina is now offering the Degree in Three Program, an undergraduate program through which students can receive their bachelor’s degree in three years by completing an accelerated program that includes summer classes.

The Spadoni College of Education offers the Degree In Three for all five undergraduate programs. At present, we have established plans for Early Childhood Education, Elementary Education and Special Education. If your student wants to pursue the Degree In Three for Middle Level or Physical Education, please contact the program coordinator to explore these options.

The application can be found at http://ed.coastalapps.org/education-degree-in-three/

It must be completed and emailed to Amanda Darden at adarden1@coastal.edu by the established deadline noted on the application.

There are several positive aspects of this program that make it beneficial to those who wish to enroll. Students in the Degree In Three Program will receive:

- Access to early (priority) registration
- Access to applicable learning-living communities
- Opportunity to join a cohort of high performing student leaders
- Smaller class sizes
- One-on-one advising and career services
- Opportunity to participate in unique internships and hands-on learning experiences
- Finish your college early, and maximize your earning potential
- In-state tuition rates for summer session online courses for out-of-state students
- The potential to receive a $5,000 Trustee Award if certain criteria are met

Academic Spotlight: William L. Spadoni College of Education

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In the Spotlight!

Each issue, we highlight a different academic college and give families a closer look at what’s happening across the University.

This issue, the spotlight is on the College of Education.

Our Teachers in Action: Student Expressions Through Music

Conway Elementary School was named a finalist in the first annual Compass Learning® Classroom Refresh Contest™. The Compass Learning contest challenges students and teachers to make music videos demonstrating how technology benefits classroom instruction. Jennifer Dragotta, a fourth grade teacher at Conway Elementary School and a former student in the Spadoni College of Education, entered her students in the contest, and they were selected as finalists. “My principal encouraged my students and me to enter because we both love how technology can truly change the way students learn in the classroom.”

To see the video and more, visit http://ed.coastalapps.org/our-teachers-in-action-student-expressions-through-music/.

For SC Residents:

The South Carolina Teaching Fellows Program is a scholarship program for qualified South Carolina high school students who wish to pursue a degree in education and a career in South Carolina’s public schools following graduation. Administered by the Center for Educator Recruitment, Retention and Advancement, the program provides a $24,000 scholarship/loan over four years for up to 200 outstanding high school seniors. Coastal Carolina University is one of only 13 institutions in the state identified as a Teaching Fellows Institution.

For more information, go to http://www.coastal.edu/education/teaching-fellows-program.html.
2014—15 Athletics Year in Review

Men’s and Women’s Cross Country
- Letitia Saayman and Kyla van Graan both advanced to the NCAA Championship meet, becoming the first Chanticleers to do so since 2007, and the sixth and seventh overall.
- Van Graan placed 10th and Saayman 12th at the Southeast Regional meet to qualify for the national meet and lead Coastal to a 16th-place finish in the 38-team field.
- Both runners then finished in the top half of the field at the NCAA meet, with Saayman placing 110th and van Graan 123rd among 251 runners.
- Saayman and van Graan also earned All-Academic Honors from the USTFCCA (United States Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Association), the second and third in program history to do so.
- Aynslee van Graan joined Saayman and Kyla van Graan in earning All-Big South honors, while Joseph Keitt earned all-conference for the Coastal men’s team.

Women’s Soccer
- Tied for second in the Big South, the program achieved its highest regular-season finish since 2010, advanced to the Big South Tournament semifinals for the first time since 2008, and posted 11 wins, the most since 2008.
- Senior forward Kacey Kelley became the second Chanticleer in program history to be named Big South Player of the Year and the first to earn National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA) All-Region honors, as she was selected to the Southeast Region’s Third Team. Kelley scored 11 goals and 26 points, the fourth-most goals and sixth-most points in program history.
- Paul Hogan was named Big South Coach of the Year, the third Chanticleer coach to earn that honor, after leading the team to its third straight double-digit win season.
- Sophomore Amber Adams joined Kelley on the All-Big South first team, while senior Rylie Johnson and sophomore Sam Patterson were selected to the second team, and Daniella Famili and Brenna Leftwich garnered All-Freshman Team honors.
- For the third straight year, Coastal handed the conference’s eventual regular-season champion its only league loss of the season as it shut out Liberty 1-0.

Men’s Soccer
- The team finished with a 16-6-1 overall record, including a 7-1-1 mark against Big South opponents, en route to a second straight Big South Championship with a 1-0 victory over top-seeded High Point.
- The Chants made their fifth straight NCAA Tournament appearance, the 12th overall, and advanced to the second round of the tournament for the fourth consecutive year with a 1-0 victory over Florida Gulf Coast in the first round.
- Shawn McLaws, Ricky Garbanzo and Uchenna Uzo were named to the National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA) All-South Regional team. McLaws additionally garnered College Soccer News All-American honors and was named the Big South Defensive Player of the Year, while Garbanzo was named the Big South Attacking Player of the Year.
- Shawn McLaws was drafted by the New York Red Bulls with the 17th pick of the 2015 Major League Soccer Supplemental Draft, making him the 11th Chanticleer drafted by an MLS club since 2004.

Volleyball
- Coastal’s 25-7 overall record in 2014 marked the program’s third-highest win total in a season. The Chants finished 11-3 in conference play to earn the second seed in the Big South Tournament, where they knocked off No. 1 Radford in the final to win the league’s championship for the first time since 2009.
- The championship victory earned Coastal the Big South’s automatic bid to the NCCA Volleyball Tournament, where they fell to USC (Southern Cal) in the first round in Chapel Hill, N.C. It was the program’s fourth NCAA Tournament appearance.
- Leah Hardeman became just the second student-athlete in Big South volleyball history to be named the conference’s Player and Freshman of the Year. Hardeman was also a first team All-Big South and All-Freshman selection. Eszter Nagy joined Hardeman as a first team all-conference member.
- On Oct. 21, Coastal won its first-ever volleyball match against South Carolina with a three-game sweep of the Gamecocks at The HTC Center. Coastal was 2-0 against SEC teams on the season, also defeating Tennessee 3-1.

Football
Continued on Page 4
Athletics Continued:

- Advanced to face North Dakota State in the quarterfinals of the NCAA Division I Football Championship for the second straight season.
- Won its third straight, and seventh overall, Big South Championship.
- Finished the season as a consensus No. 5 in the FCS national polls, a program best. Also achieved the program’s first-ever FCS No. 1 national ranking during the season, holding the top spot for the final two weeks of the regular season.
- Tied its own Big South record with 12 wins while ranking fourth in the FCS in winning percentage (.875). Its only two losses came by a combined eight points.
- Became the first Big South program to start the season 11-0, and only one to begin a season at least 9-0 in consecutive seasons.
- Set Big South records for most road wins in a season (7), consecutive road wins (7), consecutive home wins (13 over three seasons) and pass attempts (433), completions (277) and yards (3,470) in a season.
- Coastal produced All-Americans Quinn Backus, Chad Hamilton and Shane Ballard, while Backus finished fourth for the Buck Buchanan Award and Alex Ross was seventh in the Walter Payton Award voting.
- Coach Joe Moglia, a three-time finalist for the national FCS Coach of the Year Award, was runner-up for this year’s Eddie Robinson Award.
- Backus, Ross and Moglia also claimed the Big South’s top honors, as they were named the conference’s Defensive Player of the Year, Offensive Player of the Year and Coach of the Year, respectively.

Women’s Indoor Track & Field
- Captured the Big South Championship for the third straight year to record the second three-peat in program history. The indoor title was program’s eighth overall and seventh in the last 10 years.
- Coastal captured eight event titles, including seven on the final day of the two-day meet, to storm past Liberty for a 56.5-point margin of victory.
- Jessica Gelibert and Amirah Al-Bayyinah each won two individual event titles and were named the meet’s Most Outstanding Track and Most Outstanding Field Athletes, respectively. Gelibert won the 400 meters and 60-meter hurdles, while Al-Bayyinah took the long jump and triple jump crowns.
- Letitia Saayman broke her own meet record and set a new program record while winning the 5,000 meters. Ayslee van Graan (mile run) and Teka Simpson (high jump) also won event titles, along with the 4x400 relay team. Van Graan also set a new school record in the mile earlier in the season.
- A total of 12 student-athletes combined to earn 25 all-conference honors, with Simpson earning four and Gelibert three.

Women’s Basketball
- Finished 12-18 and went 6-14 against Big South opponents and fell to UNC Asheville in the quarterfinals of the Big South tournament.
- AJ Jordan finished the season as the conference’s leading scorer averaging 17.0 points per game, was named a first team All-Big South selection and earned a spot on the conference’s All-Academic Team.
- Jordan also finished her Coastal career ranked in the top ten in program history in points and points per game, field goals made and attempted, free throws made and attempted, free throw percentage, and minutes played. She also holds Coastal’s all-time record for games played in a Chanticleer uniform at 118 and on Nov. 25 versus IPFW, became the 13th player in Coastal history to record 1,000 career points.

Men’s Basketball
- Defeated Winthrop in the Big South Championship for the second straight year to earn the conference’s automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament. The Chants entered the Tournament as the West Region’s 16 seed and fell to No. 1 Wisconsin in the first round in Omaha, Nebraska.
- It was the fourth conference championship and NCAA Tournament appearance for the program.
- Elijah Wilson was named the Big South Championship MVP after averaging 20.3 points per game in Coastal’s three tournament games. Warren Gillis was named to the All-Tournament team.
- Coastal’s win over UNC Asheville at The HTC Center on Feb. 3 made Cliff Ellis the only coach in NCAA Division I history to win 150 or more games at four different universities.
- Warren Gillis finished his career as Coastal’s 10th all-time leading scorer, and ranked in the top-10 in games played, field goals attempted, free throws made, free throw percentage and steals.