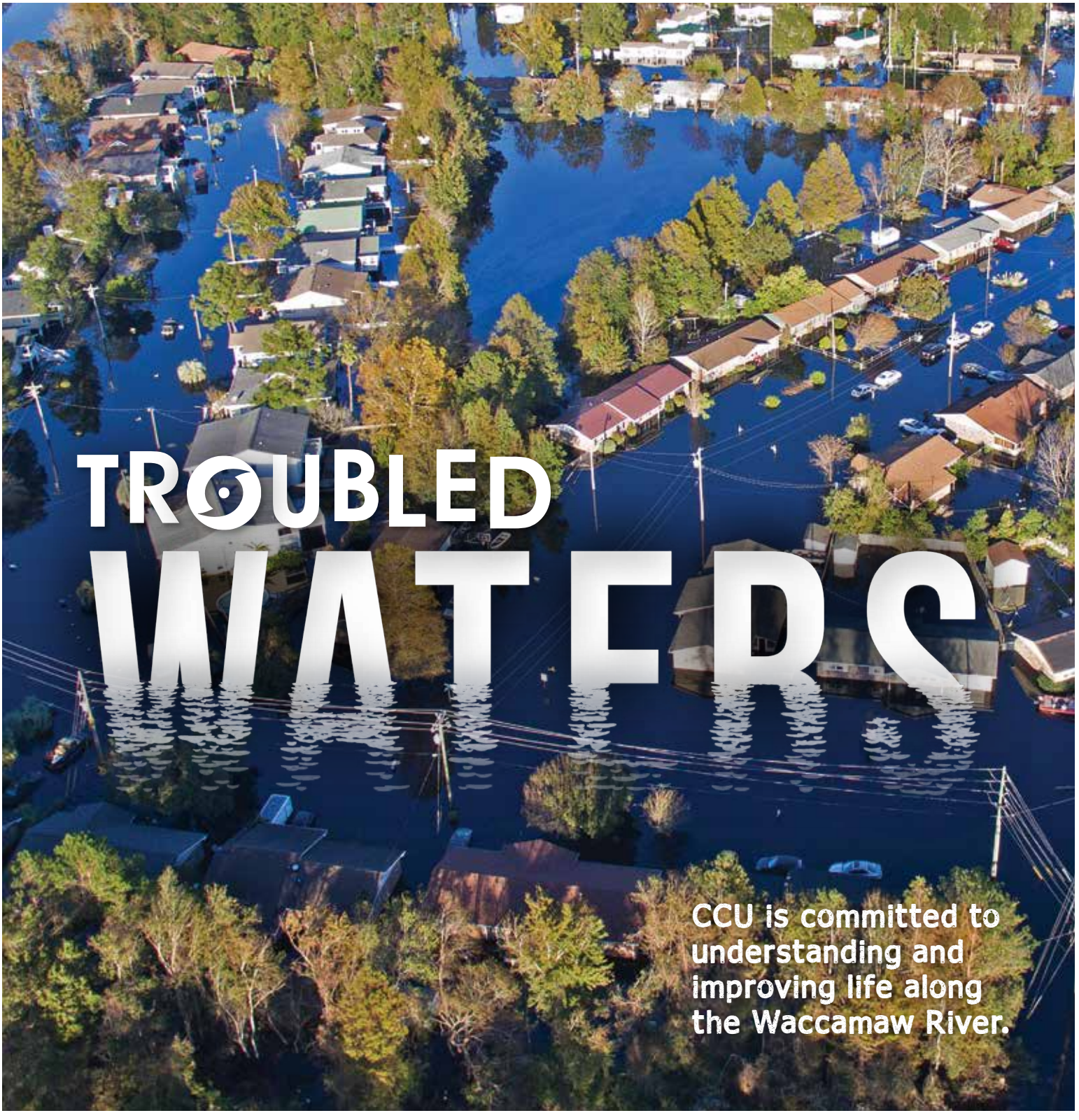
COASTAL

COASTAL CAROLINA UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE



TROUBLED WATERS

CCU is committed to understanding and improving life along the Waccamaw River.

Spring / Summer 2019

From the PRESIDENT

A Shared Journey

In Fall 1996, CCU alumni and friends opened their mailboxes to find the first edition of Coastal Carolina University Magazine. As they turned the pages, readers learned how CCU, then in its third year as an independent state university, was projecting the addition of a grand new humanities and fine arts building, an expansion of the science building, new athletic practice fields and a University welcome center, all planned to be completed before the year 2000.

They were able to catch a glimpse of how students experienced marine science at CCU under the tutelage of professors Richard Dame and Eric Koepfler, whose research on oyster reefs in tidal creeks near Georgetown would help explain the consequences of overharvesting. They learned about a major literary conference organized by Charles Joyner that brought 23 acclaimed Southern novelists and poets to Wall Auditorium, and were introduced to conductor Charles Evans, who had just begun his association with CCU and the Long Bay Symphony.

The cover of this first edition displayed a magnificent aerial image of Coastal's campus—a proverbial snapshot in time. Only nine buildings appear in the photo.

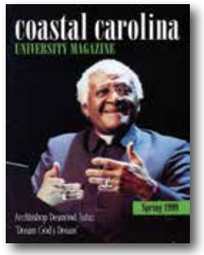
Other early magazine covers captured milestone moments in the University's rich history, from the 1999 visit of Archbishop Desmond Tutu, to the launch of Chanticleer football in 2003, the celebration of CCU's 50th anniversary in Fall 2004, and the introduction of our Top Tier Chanticleers in 2016 featuring three-time Olympian Amber Campbell '04, who has appeared on the cover more times than any other individual.

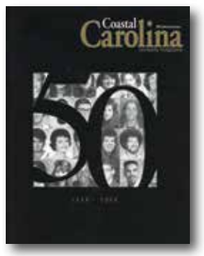
While so much has changed over the years, both with the magazine and at CCU, there has been one constant—the editor of Coastal Carolina University Magazine. Doug Bell was behind the scenes from the very beginning, gathering ideas, writing the stories and guiding the editorial content of the publication. Over the years, this magazine has received awards and national recognition for its high-quality graphic design and storytelling. It serves as an outstanding communication channel for telling the Coastal Carolina University story.

Doug recently announced his retirement from CCU, and this is his final magazine as editor. Doug found great pleasure in writing about the meaningful work and accomplishments of the faculty, staff, students, alumni and friends of the University. He has shared that some of the most memorable facets of the job involved interviewing several of our founders, including J.K. East, Dick Singleton and Dr. Cathcart Smith, as well as other Coastal Carolina pioneers such as Cal Maddox, the early faculty member responsible for choosing the Chanticleer as our mascot.

Doug, in collaboration with the talented staff of University Communication, has served us well as a chronicler of our times, capturing some of the most important moments of nearly a quarter-century of CCU history. Looking back now over some 40 issues of the magazine from 1996 to 2018, it is possible to review the march of Coastal's progress through stories about people—the people of the CCU family whose dreams and deeds have brought us this far on our shared journey.

David A. DeCenzo, *President*





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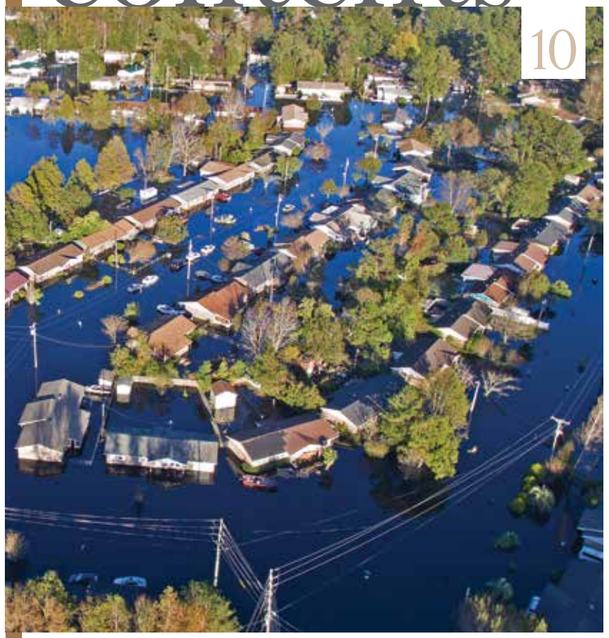

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On the cover: Aerial image of Socastee's Rosewood community after Hurricane Matthew by Robbie Bishoff *(see Page 10)*

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Of NOTE

CCU's status as a Military Friendly School rises

For the first time, Coastal Carolina University has earned a Bronze distinction rating as a Military Friendly School from Victory Media, a veteran-owned communication and marketing firm that ranks schools and businesses according to their commitment to veteran and military personnel.

The Bronze distinction is given to institutions that have exceptional military/veteran programs, and the award is designed to showcase their dedication, according to the criteria outlined by Victory Media. Only three other four-year higher education institutions in the state have a Bronze distinction.

CCU has received a Military Friendly School designation every year since 2011. Organizations named to this list have met a standard that measures commitment, effort and success in creating sustainable and meaningful opportunity for the military community, which includes active duty, reserve and guard service members, veterans and military spouses.

Last year, CCU was named to the 2018 list of Most Affordable Military-Friendly Online Colleges, one of only 60 institutions nationally and the only one in South Carolina to be included.

In 2017, CCU was designated a Purple Heart University by the Military Order of the Purple Heart, and in 2016, CCU became the only university in the state to install a permanent Missing Man Chair of Honor at one of its facilities.

CCU offers many programs and services that assist military personnel and veterans, including the Office of Veterans Services, which assists veterans in transitioning to college; a U.S. Army ROTC program with 51 cadets; and the CresCom Bank Center for Military and Veteran Studies, which collects and preserves oral histories of veterans.

Visit coastal.edu/magazine for additional video content.

CCU ROTC Color Guard

Grant Center for Real Estate

(Left to right) *Ralph Byington, Beth Stedman, Robert Salvino, Barbara Ritter, Ed Horton, Lee Jones, Anthony P. Grant, David DeCenzo and Karen Riordan at the ribbon cutting ceremony for the Grant Center for Real Estate and Economics.*

The Grant Center for Real Estate and Economics now has a permanent headquarters on the first floor of the Wall Building. The ribbon for the new facility was cut by Anthony P. Grant, the founding benefactor of the center, at a ceremony this past fall semester.

During his comments, Grant said the goal of the center is to be recognized worldwide as a leading hub of learning for the real estate profession.

"In three short years, the University has become an academic member of the International Real Estate Federation and a recognized supporter of the International Ethics Standard Coalition," he said. "CCU students have already visited real estate projects and professional organizations in Rome, Milan, Barcelona, London and Paris."

Since its inception, the center has also launched the annual Real Estate Awards and created a real estate club open to students and members of the business public.

The center offers a working space and project lab for students in economics, finance, and commercial and investment real estate, as well as students in associated fields, including the GIS certificate program in the anthropology and geography department.

"None of this would have been possible without the Grants, whose donation in 2016 launched the center and has led to the establishment of a physical, permanent location that we are opening today," said Rob Salvino, CCU business professor and director of the Grant Center.

The center is directly associated with the commercial and investment real estate minor in the Wall College of Business and offers multiple opportunities for both students and professionals in the community, such as technical tours and training workshops.

An eye-catching mural that spans the length of the hallway leading to the entrance of the center appropriately captures the focus of the center in commercial real estate. Inside the center, a prominent photo of the Canary Wharf hangs as a symbolic link to Grant's real estate career in London, England.

Visit coastal.edu/magazine for additional video content.

CCU becomes lead S.C. institution for biomedical hub

Coastal Carolina University has been tapped as the lead institution in South Carolina for a regional biomedical technology accelerator hub funded by the National Institute of General Medical Sciences, a division of the National Institutes of Health.

The initiative is a collaboration with more than 20 universities in the Southeast region and XLerateHealth LLC, a health care technology accelerator based in Louisville, Ky. The primary purpose of the hub is to help the universities in the Southeast Institution Development Award (IDeA) region (Kentucky, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, West Virginia) to accelerate early stage biomedical technology from the laboratory to the market.

"We are excited about what this means for the potential growth for health-related businesses in the area," said Michael Roberts, dean of CCU's College of Science and vice president for research and emerging initiatives. "This brings together institutions across the state, and with the growth of major health care providers moving to the Grand Strand, we are positioned to play a significant role in their growth and development."

Other participating South Carolina institutions are Clemson University, the Medical University of South Carolina, Benedict College and Winthrop University. The University of Kentucky is the overall lead institution, and all the partnering universities will develop and share educational curriculum, expertise and research through an online virtual hub.

The funding from NIGMS is for a three-year period and will provide resources for research, for travel and for the initial set up of the Southeast region's virtual hub.

"This gives the opportunity for a faculty member in a research lab who has an idea for a product but perhaps doesn't have the time or the wherewithal to develop it," said Roberts. "That faculty member will now be able to utilize the resources of the network and the virtual hub to bring the idea out of the lab and into the market."

Roberts said there is also potential for members of the growing health care industry in the Grand Strand area to have some of their ideas incubated by the accelerator hub and its partners. The hub will also be a resource for mentorship and business development training, and will connect researchers with like-minded business people.

New degree in women's and gender studies approved

Coastal Carolina University's board of trustees recently approved a new degree program, the Bachelor of Arts/Science in Women's and Gender Studies.

The new program is designed to provide students with critical skills and abilities to understand and evaluate the dynamics of identity categories (such as gender, race, class, sexual orientation, ability, age, and citizenship status). The addition of the degree reflects a fast-growing movement in higher education that addresses limitations in the current workforce that, if remedied, will foster innovation, develop stronger corporate operating practices, and promote a just world in which all individuals can develop to their highest potential.

CCU's program is unique in offering a Bachelor of Science degree that focuses on women in STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) in direct response to a recognized need for gender and racial diversity within the STEM fields. University officials anticipate that this focus will serve as a recruitment and retention tool for women who choose to major in STEM fields.

Graduates of the program will be well suited for leadership careers in management, communications and administration within the STEM industry.

CCU student recognized for MS awareness efforts in Puerto Rico

Thanks to the work of Coastal Carolina University sophomore Vilmarie Ocasio, many Puerto Ricans are better able to understand, get treatment for and survive multiple sclerosis (MS) and cancer.

After years of false diagnoses and deteriorating health, Ocasio's mother, Vilma Espada, was finally diagnosed with MS in 2014. The family was living then in their hometown of Manati, Puerto Rico, where information about the disease was difficult to access.

Frustrated by the inadequacy of medical care and its effect on her mother's condition, Ocasio was determined to do something about it. In 2015, she began researching the disease herself and decided to develop an awareness campaign as a Girl Scout project.

"My mission was to orient doctors in Puerto Rico about MS and how to assist patients and the general public," she said. "I started doing more research about what else I could do to help people in Puerto Rico with MS. I saw that there was a bill [pending] in the Senate in Puerto Rico."

Senate Bill 1180 proposed to create a required registry of people diagnosed with MS in Puerto Rico, and she immediately became an advocate for it. At just 16 years old, she caught the attention of legislators by emailing, calling, personally lobbying at the Senate office in San Juan, and meeting with former Gov. Alejandro Garcia Padilla. The bill passed unanimously and became Law 85 on July 22, 2016, creating the first required registry for MS in the world and making it easier for scientists and doctors to receive federal funding for research and treatment.

In 2017, Ocasio created a nonprofit called Community Organization of Multiple Sclerosis and Cancer (COMSC), which distributes information and coordinates lectures for students, hospital administrators, doctors, MS patients and the general public in Puerto Rico.

Ocasio moved to the United States with her mother and brother after Hurricane Maria left 80 percent of the island with no power or running water in Fall 2017. She transferred to CCU for the spring semester in 2018 and is now a communication major with a minor in public health.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Maria's devastation of Puerto Rico, Ocasio sent portable air conditioners to 30 MS patients suffering from the high heat—purchased with donations to COMSC's Facebook page. And after Hurricane Florence hit the Myrtle Beach area, she donated water, towels, diapers, soap and other hygiene items to CCU during its donations drive.

Ocasio won the 2018 Rising Young Latina Award from the Association of Latino Professionals for America, spoke at its annual conference at Columbia University, and was awarded a scholarship. Other awards she has received in recognition of her efforts include the Girl Scouts National Young Women of Distinction Award, the Daily Point of Light Award and the Diana Award from a Scottish nonprofit that recognizes young people who have made a significant impact in their local community.

"It started off small and it became huge," said Ocasio. "It takes time and effort, but it's not impossible [to make a difference]."

(Far left) *Vilmarie Ocasio* (second from right) *with her mother, Vilma Espada* (right), *in San Juan as Senate Bill 1180 is signed into law.*

Vilmarie Ocasio (center) *was presented the Rising Young Latina Award from the Association of Latino Professionals for America.*

One Man's Trash

Faculty and students in the E. Craig Wall Sr. College of Business Administration frequently conduct economic impact studies at the request of area businesses and organizations. This consulting service provides valuable data for community enterprises and invaluable experience for CCU students.

One of the more interesting projects of this kind resulted from a request last year from the City of Myrtle Beach for an analysis comparing the cost and time effectiveness of two different methods of trash collection.

The study was conducted by longtime CCU economics professor Yoav Wachsman with the assistance of students Brian Nicosia and Christopher Panciocco, who are both Community and Business Engagement (CoBE) associates at CCU.

Completed in December 2018, the report compares the traditional method of city trash collection with a suggested alternative method. The established method involves four different types of trucks (rear-load, front-load, knuckle boom and roll-off) that collect trash by zone for delivery to transfer stations, where the garbage is compacted, loaded on transfer trucks and delivered to the county landfill on S.C. 90. The alternative method proposed sending collection trucks directly to the landfill, bypassing the transfer station compaction process.

Wachsman, Nocosia and Panciocco examined both methods to determine which is most feasible and efficient for the major types of solid waste material (solid waste, yard and bulk waste), factoring in such considerations as traffic, environmental impact, landfill impacts, satisfaction of residents and anticipated future growth in solid waste volume. (The study didn't include recyclables, which are handled at a different facility.)

The researchers used data from Myrtle Beach Public Works and Google Maps to measure the times required for each type of vehicle to complete given routes on particular days of the week. They measured time variables for each method and discussed other determinants such as seasonal tourism volume, road congestion and projected growth in areas such as The Market Common.

In the final analysis, the study found that the city would have to expand its garbage collection fleet by 125 percent (to the tune of approximately $3.3 million) in order to deliver trash directly to the landfill with the same efficiency as the old method of using transfer stations.

As CoBE associates, Nocosia and Panciocco are part of a program designed to bridge the gap between the classroom and the workplace by pairing high-achieving undergraduate business students with real-life business consulting projects. Students selected as CoBE associates gain real-world practical experience that will help them to develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills while providing high-quality solutions for business clients.

Abel named inaugural Distinguished Honors Faculty Fellow

Dan Abel, marine science professor and founding director of the Campus and Community Sustainability Initiative at Coastal Carolina University, has been named the first Distinguished Honors Faculty Fellow of the HTC Honors College and Center for Interdisciplinary Studies at CCU.

In his new role, Abel will develop innovative new courses, create honors initiatives and offer students unique honors experiences.

"I have become re-energized and reinvigorated about teaching," said Abel. "This is exciting because it's an effort to unite segments of institutions that are often separate and don't overlap, and to integrate faculty members from those specialties into a broader approach in the Honors College."

In Fall 2019, Abel plans to offer a biology of sharks class and lab course as well as one honors seminar. In Spring 2020, he will teach an honors seminar and a marine science introductory course for marine science honors students.

"It is his commitment to interdisciplinary and experiential teaching and the profound impact that he has had on his students that inspired us to select Dr. Abel as the Distinguished Honors Fellow," said Sara Hottinger, dean of the HTC Honors College and Center for Interdisciplinary Studies and professor of women's and gender studies.

CCU Professor Dan Abel

Abel joined the CCU faculty in 1994. He earned bachelor's and master's degrees from the College of Charleston in 1978 and 1981, respectively, and a Ph.D. in marine biology from the University of California San Diego's Scripps Institute of Oceanography in 1986. He was a postdoctoral fellow in marine bio-medicine at the Medical University of South Carolina. His areas of scholarly interest include sharks, environmental issues, sustainability, land use, pollution, overpopulation, energy consumption, green building, and sting rays.

Abel's two-year appointment begins on Aug. 16, 2019.

U.S Strategic Command officer visits CCU, advises students

Students in CCU's intelligence and national security program and its politics program had a rare opportunity to interact with a high-ranking officer in the United States Strategic Command (STRATCOM) this semester when Rear Admiral Ryan Scholl visited campus.

Scholl, STRATCOM's deputy director of plans and policy, spoke to the students in Professor Chris Ferrero's class on weapons of mass destruction during the afternoon of Feb. 19. Later that evening, he addressed CCU's National Security Club.

Beginning on an autobiographical note, Scholl told how, after earning a degree in electrical engineering and computer science from Princeton in 1987, he took a date to see the movie *Top Gun*. His companion was so taken with Tom Cruise's exploits as an F-14 fighter pilot that Scholl determined then and there that he would be one, too, visiting a Navy recruiting station two days later. He was commissioned in 1988 and designated a naval aviator in 1990.

In his 31-year career so far, Scholl has logged more than 4,000 hours in the air, including multiple combat missions and operational tours supporting U.S. missions in Iraq, Afghanistan and Bosnia-Herzegovina. He has also served as demonstration pilot for the Blue Angels and commanded the aircraft carrier USS Harry S. Truman, which he called "a floating city with 5,000 people and 75 aircraft."

In his talk to the students, Scholl outlined STRATCOM's history and mission, describing its role in commanding the nation's nuclear weapons arsenal and its responsibility for deterrence ("peace through strength") and response. He explained the three elements of its nuclear triad—bombers, submarines and intercontinental ballistic missiles—and the emergence of new strategic developments in the 21st century, including a space command.

Scholl took questions from students in the audience, which also included a group of ROTC cadets. His visit to CCU was in conjunction with STRATCOM's Academic Alliance, which seeks to build bridges between the command and academia. Coastal is one of only four Southeastern universities in the alliance. Three CCU intelligence and national security students presented papers at STRATCOM's Academic Alliance Conference in March.

Scholl's visit to campus came at a moment when nuclear weapons were in the headlines, due to the Trump administration's announced plans to suspend U.S. observance of the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty and the February summit between Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

Rear Admiral Ryan Scholl addresses CCU students.

PUBLISHED

The Smartphone Paradox—Our Ruinous Dependency in the Device Age

By Alan J. Reid

Palgrave Macmillan

Alan Reid, assistant professor of English, explores the pros and cons of that universal accessory, the smartphone. According to the author's introduction, the book "investigates how smartphones can create a dependence that centers on gratification" and presents a comprehensive view encompassing "the research behind the uses and gratifications of smartphones, the obstacles they present, the opportunities they afford, and how everyone can achieve a healthy, technological balance."

Threats to Homeland Security

Edited by Richard J. Kilroy Jr.

Wiley

This textbook by Richard Kilroy, associate professor of politics at CCU and a former Army intelligence officer, "examines the foundations of today's security environment, from broader national security perspectives to specific homeland security interests and concerns. In addition, the book examines threats from both an international perspective and from a national perspective."

Apidae

By Lisa Graves

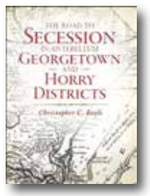
Evernight Teen

This debut novel by Lisa Graves of CCU's English faculty depicts a time in the near future when bees are extinct. Her main characters, the scientifically modified Emlyn and Ace, "find themselves thrown into the role of saviors on a perilous mission where their tenuous relationship could save or destroy mankind."

The Road to Secession in Antebellum Georgetown and Horry Districts

By Christopher Boyle

The History Press



Christopher Boyle, CCU alumnus and part-time teaching associate in Department of History, wrote this history of the development of the local secession movement leading up to the Civil War. The book describes how, "through the use of newspapers and public lectures, local leaders unified their communities against the Second Great Awakening reforms, industrialization, corporate model banks and abolition," according to the publisher's note.

Short Stories and Political Philosophy

By Erin Dolgoy, Kimberly Hurd Hale and Bruce Peabody

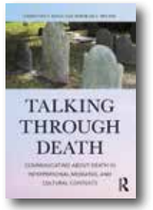
Lexington Books

This collection of essays coedited by Kimberly Hurd Hale of CCU's politics faculty "explores the relationship between fictional short stories and the classic works of political philosophy," according to the introduction. "Each chapter analyzes a single story through the lens of thinkers ranging from Plato and Aristotle to Max Weber and Hannah Arendt." Hale contributes a chapter that examines the short story "Pop Squad" by America science fiction author Paolo Bacigalupi.

Talking Through Death

By Catherine S. Davis and Deborah C. Breede

Routledge



Subtitled "Communicating about Death in Interpersonal, Mediated, and Cultural Contexts," this study cowritten by CCU communication professor Deborah Breede explores various aspects of end-of-life communication. According to the publisher's blurb, "By studying interpersonal and family communication, cultural media, funeral related rituals, religious and cultural practices, medical settings, and legal issues surrounding advance directives, readers gain insight into the ways symbolic communication constructs the experience of death and dying."

Gyonen's Transmission of the Buddha Dharma in Three Countries

By Ronald S. Green and Chanju Mun

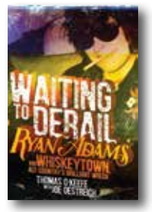
Brill Academic Publishing

CCU Buddhism specialist Ronald Green has co-written this translation and study of a seminal work by one of Japan's greatest Buddhist scholars, Gyonen (1240-1321). According to the publisher's introduction, "Gyonen has been recognized for establishing a methodology for the study of Buddhism that would come to dominate Japan. The three countries Gyonen considers are India, China and Japan."

Waiting to Derail

By Thomas O'Keefe with Joe Oestreich

Skyhorse Publishing

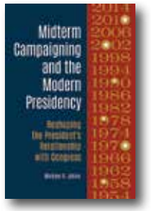


As its subtitle ("Ryan Adams and Whiskeytown, Alt-Country's Brilliant Wreck") suggests, this book is a road story about the early, earthy, pre-stardom days of critically acclaimed singer/songwriter Ryan Adams and his short-lived (1994-2000) band Whiskeytown. It's told in first person by the band's manager, Thomas O'Keefe, who collaborated on the book with CCU English professor Joe Oestreich. Oestreich is a master of this milieu, having chronicled his own rockin' past in the highly regarded memoir *Hitless Wonder* (2012).

Midterm Campaigning and the Modern Presidency

By Michael A. Julius

Praeger



"Congress has been shaped by an unlikely force—presidential involvement in midterm campaigning," according to Michael Julius of CCU's politics faculty. This book looks at midterm politics from 1954 to 2014. Julius argues "that midterm campaigning is a presidential Trojan horse and that in undertaking it, presidents have brought their parties to heel; indebted individual representatives and senators to them; and broken the ability of Congress to effectively check the executive office."

The Student-Run Agency: Transitioning from Student to Professional

By Lee Bush, Jeff Ranta and Hal Vincent

Kendall Hunt Publishing

Co-written by Jeff Ranta of CCU's communication, media and culture faculty, this is the first textbook designed specifically for students involved in school-level advertising, public relations and integrated communications agencies. Student agencies "mimic the structure of professional agencies, and provide students with real-world experience working for real clients." The book is designed to give "students a full understanding of the agency business, how agencies operate, and agency processes and protocols." Ranta developed a successful student-run agency at the University of South Carolina.

Of One Mind and Of One Government

By Kevin Kokomoor

University of Nebraska Press

Kevin Kokomoor of CCU's history faculty describes this, his first book, as "a political history of the Creek people of modern-day Georgia, Alabama and Florida. It first describes the confrontational nature of Creek and Georgia coexistence, which ultimately led to the collapse of Creek political traditions during and after the American Revolution and, consequently, to widespread violence in the region. The book then follows the various attempts Creeks made to rebuild their political traditions around contemporary Euro-American ideas of nation-states."

Transmedia Storytelling

By Jennifer Camden and Kate Oestreich

Cambridge Scholars Publishing

Kate Oestreich, associate professor of literature, writing and new media at CCU, has co-written this study examining the adaptation of classic works by two 19th century women authors, Jane Austen and Mary Shelley, into 21st century multiplatform digital media formats. The book "charts the evolution of Pemberley Digital's transmedia adaptations of 19th century novels in order to interrogate the uneasy relationship between transmedia storytelling and consumer culture."

TROUBLED WATERS

by Doug Bell

Troubled Waters: *The Rosewood community in Socastee after Hurricane Matthew.*

Photo by Robbie Bishoff Photography

FLOODING ON THE WACCAMAW RIVER OVER THE PAST FOUR YEARS HAS IMPACTED MORE LOCAL LIVES THAN ANY OTHER NATURAL EVENT IN RECENT TIMES. THROUGH SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND CIVIC ADVOCACY, COASTAL CAROLINA UNIVERSITY IS COMMITTED TO UNDERSTANDING AND IMPROVING LIFE ALONG THE WACCAMAW.

Every other day for the past 20 years, Susan Libes has taken a water quality test sample of the Waccamaw River from the dock of her home near Conway.

"It's like I'm addicted," said the longtime marine science professor and director of the Environmental Quality Lab (EQL) at Coastal Carolina University, "but I have to know what will happen next. Sometimes I drive my family crazy."

Libes' personal interest, perhaps obsession, with the river that runs by her home stems from her professional career in marine biogeochemistry. In 2004, she was instrumental in starting the Waccamaw Watershed Academy, which runs a volunteer water-monitoring program that involves more than 50 local citizens in regular water testing on the river from North Carolina all the way to Georgetown.

The health and well-being of the Waccamaw River, which touches the lives of everyone in Horry and Georgetown counties in some way, shape or form, is a matter of obvious public concern and a natural subject of research for CCU faculty. The frequent and disastrous flooding of the river since 2015, culminating with the record-shattering deluge following Hurricane Florence last year—which displaced a number of CCU students, faculty, staff and alumni—has magnified the river's presence in our daily lives and elevated the importance of scientific river-related research by our faculty and research students.

Calm Before the Storm: *Hurricane Florence approaching the South Carolina coast in September 2018.*

Hot Water

It's the "wet" storms rather than the windy ones that have troubled our waters most significantly of late.

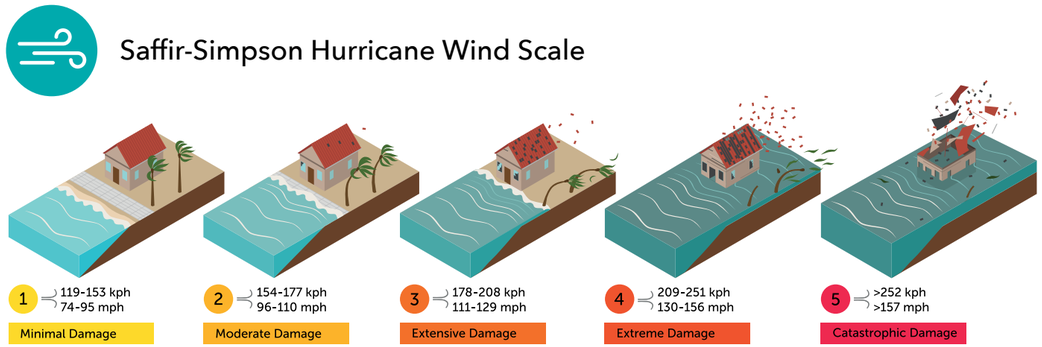
Paul Gayes and Len Pietrafesa know the climate is changing. The two scientists have spent the better part of their highly productive careers studying the complex interface of land, water and air along the Atlantic coast. The flood events of the recent past, along the North and South Carolina watershed that encompasses the Waccamaw, has convinced them of the need for more research, better technology and greater cooperation.

The familiar Saffir-Simpson scale that forecasters rely on to predict the strength of incoming tropical cyclone storms classifies hurricanes according to wind speed. But wind speed and storm surge are not necessarily the most salient features of a storm, as was proven this past fall with Hurricane Florence. It's the "wet" storms rather than the windy ones that have troubled our waters most significantly of late.

Pietrafesa, research professor at CCU and former chair of the National Hurricane Center external advisory panel, first became aware of the wet storm phenomenon 20 years ago with Hurricane Floyd. The 1999 storm, which came ashore along Cape Fear in North Carolina, caused the worst flooding on the Waccamaw River in 70 years, along with significant loss of life and property.

What many people don't remember, and what many of the official reports didn't consider, according to Pietrafesa, is that Floyd was preceded by Hurricane Dennis less than two weeks prior. "Dennis sat off the coast of Cape Hatteras six and a half days whirling like a wheel, dropping copious amounts of rain and driving offshore waters into the coastal estuary, which compounded the problems caused by Floyd," he said.

The more frequent appearances of wet storms are due largely to the rising temperature of ocean water, according to Pietrafesa. "The last four years have been the warmest ever recorded in the North Atlantic," he said. "Water is heavy, it's dense. Once the ocean absorbs all that heat, it retains it down to 2,000 feet. In fact, the ocean contains more heat in the topmost 10 feet of water than is stored in the entire atmosphere globally. When storms encounter

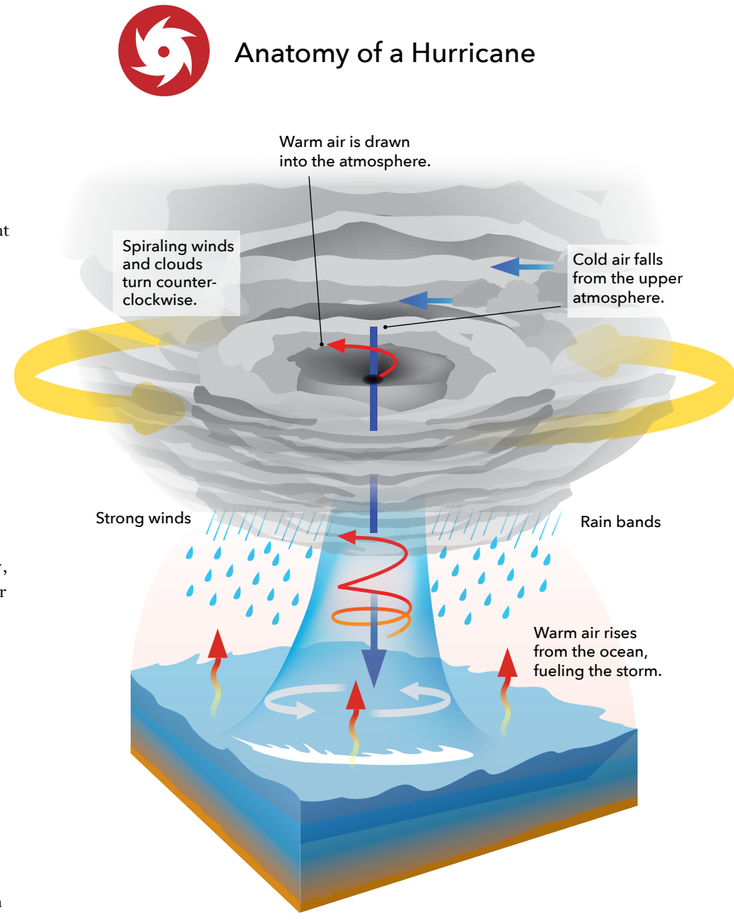


warmer water, they slow down and get bigger. They love the heat. They're being fed from below, and it's like they're at a buffet table and they're feasting, getting fueled up with heat and moisture."

Pietrafesa has observed a significant change in hurricane behavior in the past 20 years. "Typically, when a small storm spends at least six hours over the Gulf Stream, it gets bigger and intensifies, whereas in the past, a big storm tended to bust right across, not paying the Gulf Stream any attention. But now, the bigger storms are also slowing down over warm water, including the Loop Current in the Gulf of Mexico." As a consequence, these storms are becoming monstrously large and wet, like Joaquin (2015), Matthew (2016), Harvey (2017) and Florence (2018).

These slow-moving, rain-deluging events are changing the nature of inland flooding, in Pietrafesa's view. "All this water creeps in, fed by offshore moisture, barely moving and creating a dam of water that corks up the mouths of the rivers. Our coastal plain is as flat as a bowling alley, so with massive lateral flooding there's no place for the water to go."

The combination of water, tides and wind bottling up the outlets prevents the system from purging itself as it would after a moderate local flood, creating a situation known as nonlocal forcing. "Fifty miles upstream, the water is rising but there's no apparent local event causing it because it's being corked at the mouth." Sea level and wind patterns are also a part of the equation. When the water finally recedes, it's at a snail's pace. Pietrafesa says there hasn't been a lot of research about this corking effect and its impact on coastal systems, and he is in the process of getting a grant to study it.



Shaowu Bao (standing), *Len Pietrafesa and Paul Gayes operate the Hurricane Genesis & Outlook project, or HUGO, at CCU. After recent major floods caused by hurricanes, they are adjusting the prediction model to account for flooding in addition to wind and storm surge.*

What's at Stake

Over the past 30 years, 210 of the nation's weather events each caused more than $1 billion in damages.

Gayes believes the right way to study, understand and manage these climatological developments is a systems approach, collaborating across disciplines and with other universities to upgrade and refine the science, models, instrumentation and applications.

"That's our culture in this department, and we've been at it a long time," said Gayes, director of the Burroughs & Chapin Center for Marine and Wetland Studies since 1989. "Working in silos to address environmental concerns—it has to die."

These serious weather events are going to be more prevalent in the future, Gayes believes, and there is too much at stake not to take a broad-based approach. "In 2017, $316 billion was the cost of weather-related damages in this country, including floods and fires. That's equivalent to 25 percent of the discretionary budget for the entire country, 10 percent of all federal expenditures. For example, over the past 30 years, 210 of the nation's weather events each caused more than $1 billion in damages. Questions about the societal acceptance of global warming aside, whether it's 100 percent human-driven or 5 percent, that's a huge economic load."

The impacts from these storms are far-reaching and complex. "There's a lot of discussion about dredging, but unless we start to think about this as an integrated system, we're just moving the problem around the box," said Gayes. "If you dredge in one place, you may cause impacts in another community on the other side of the watershed. So it's in everyone's best interest to bring in a broader perspective and think about impacts 10 or 20 years down the road."

Satellite image of Hurricane Florence.

Gayes foresees a day in the future when scientific observation capabilities have improved to the degree that it will be possible to predict the level and location of incoming floods with pin-point accuracy.

"Right now, the ability to forecast how a particular piece of property will be affected by an approaching flood is not very good," said Gayes. "But with more and better and faster sensing equipment, we will be able to get observations that drive a better representation of the actual physics of how the water will behave. Remember that the flooding from Hurricane Florence was originally predicted to be worse in Georgetown than it actually turned out. The goal is to have the capacity of getting an accurate block-by-block model that will narrow our predictive capability to the size of a parking lot. Then when you merge all this data with the input of public health people and environmental quality people and energy policy people, you will be in a position to provide the information that a society needs to make wise decisions for the long term."

Water surge from Hurricane Florence on Market Street in Wilmington, N.C.

CCU professor Susan Libes takes water samples at least every other day from the Waccamaw River, a black water river. After Hurricane Florence, she said, the oxygen levels in the river were nearly depleted.

Restoration Drama

> The water rose into areas where it had never been before. Animals and organisms have to have oxygen to live, and the oxygen level went down to zero.

Crabtree Swamp is a long tributary branch of the Waccamaw's Kingston Lake. It meanders around Conway's eastern and northern boundaries, crossing heavily populated residential and/or business districts at Long Avenue, U.S. 701 North, U.S. 501 and El Bethel Road. This swamp drains 60 percent of the city. It's been the site of some of the most damaging floods and the most frequent occurrences of *E. coli* and other chemical indicators of poor water quality.

Part of the problem dates back to the early 1960s, when an 8-mile stretch of the swamp was dredged to drain what was then a primarily agricultural landscape. The dredged canal changed the original course of the stream and disconnected it from the natural floodplain, eventually resulting in erosion, increased flooding, declining water quality and reduced wildlife habitat. The canal was poorly adapted to withstand climate change and related variations in local hydrology.

Back in the late 2000s, Susan Libes and a team of partners from the Horry County and Conway stormwater agencies led the first of a series of restoration projects designed to mitigate some of these problems. In 2009, this team, supported by CCU student researchers and volunteers, constructed a sloping "bench" of graded earth along a half-mile stretch of the stream to the east of U.S. 501, filling in part of the eroded channel and planting it over with more than 500 species of native trees and shrubs. The results of this effort were deemed successful, so the project was duplicated at other locations along the Crabtree Canal, and more are being planned for the future. In 2014, Horry County received the first Rain Catcher Award from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for the Crabtree project.

Wildlife is washed ashore as oxygen levels plummeted in the Waccamaw River after Hurricane Florence.

According to Libes, the major biogeochemical impacts of flooding were: very low and absent oxygen for several weeks; very high acidity (low pH); high total dissolved solids; high nutrients levels; and an algal bloom. "The low oxygen and pH led to fish kills and plant die off," she said.

The persistence of elevated *E. coli* levels in Crabtree Canal prompted the City of Conway and Horry County to commission CCU's Environmental Quality Lab to do a sophisticated microbial source tracking study. Samples are being collected along the canal from Oak Street to Long Avenue to capture run-off after rain events. "We are trying to pin down the host source to determine whether the bacteria is human or animal-sourced," said Libes. The presence of human-sourced fecal bacteria would indicate a problem with sewage systems and/or septic tanks, she said.

"The reason we can identify the biogeochemical impacts of the flood is from comparison to long-term monitoring data that has been collected since 2006 by the 50 participants in the Waccamaw River volunteer water quality monitoring program and by the EQL's staff since 2008," said Libes. "We are collectively pooling all our different data types to get a big picture view over decadal time scales. One of the results of this monitoring was the development and implementation of the first watershed management plan in the state, which identifies research needs such as the microbial source tracking project in Crabtree Canal."

Clare Nolan, who earned a master's degree in CCU's coastal and marine systems science program in December 2018, worked on the Crabtree source tracking project as a grad student, and she now works full time in the EQL. The Watershed Academy and the EQL engage a large number of undergraduate and graduate students in research on the Waccamaw through internships, independent studies, honors theses and paid student worker positions.

The most unique environmental consequence of the Florence flood, in Libes' view, was the unprecedented extent of vegetation decay caused by the height of the water (nearly 3 feet higher than the previous record set by Hurricane Matthew in 2016) and the slow rate of recession.

"The stench was nearly unbearable for a long period of time," said Libes, who lives on the river. "The water rose into areas where it had never been before. Animals and organisms have to have oxygen to live, and the oxygen level went down to zero. Some animals can swim away and some can't. If this were to happen once a week every year, even one week out of 52, it would take a considerable toll."

Alumna Caroline Morton '15, a lab technician with CCU's Environmental Quality Lab, and graduate student Andrew Crance with the coastal marine and wetlands studies program take water samples from Reaves Ferry on the Waccamaw River.

Professor Zhixiong Shen (right) *with students Kaylea Cater and Morgan Sopov. Shen is studying sediment cores to better understand how flooding in the past may have been related to climate.*

Oxbow Incidents

Reconstructing a history of floods on the Waccamaw River, especially those caused by hurricanes, going back hundreds and perhaps thousands of years.

Zhixiong Shen, assistant professor of marine science, is a specialist in the study of river sediments. Last year, his research on the Mississippi River and the Mississippi River delta (the latter conducted while he was on the faculty at Tulane University) was featured in articles in Nature and Science Advances magazines. This coming year, he and his research associates and students will be spending a lot of time examining the river sediments of this region as part of two studies directly related to local flood events, past and present.

The first study, already underway, is investigating sedimentary traces of extreme floods that are preserved in the lakes in the floodplain of the Waccamaw River to determine their relationship to landfalling hurricanes of the past.

"The documented record of floods in this region only goes back about 70 years," said Shen, "which is too short to understand whether or not these increasingly intense riverine floods are related to natural variability of the climate system or to anthropogenic [human-influenced] forces."

Shen and his students are studying sediment core samples from oxbow lakes, U-shaped lakes that form when a highly bended portion of a river is cut off. Many of these formations occur along the Waccamaw in Horry County.

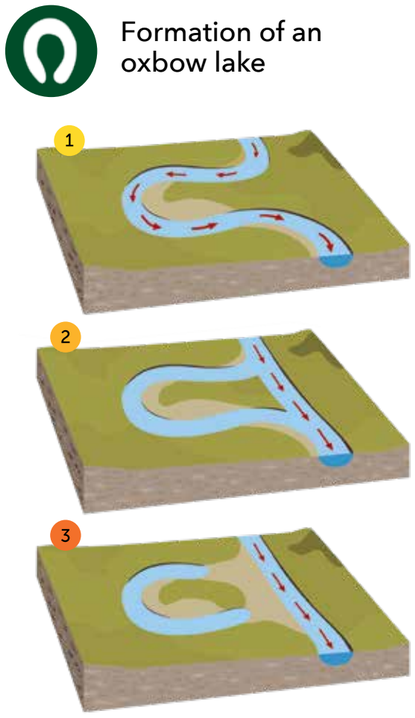
"We can determine from the size and composition of sediment if it was deposited by a flood event," said Shen, who uses a laser particle size analyzer at CCU and a CT scanner provided through Conway Medical Center to analyze the sediments.

Shen hopes to reconstruct a history of extreme floods on the Waccamaw River, especially those caused by hurricanes, going back hundreds and perhaps thousands of years. The project, providing many research opportunities for CCU undergraduate and graduate students, will assist scientists not only in understanding the past but also what is likely to happen in the future.

In a related study that is funded by the National Science Foundation, Shen and Till Hanebuth, associate professor in the coastal and marine systems science department, together with scientists from Northeastern University, will collect and analyze floodwater sediment deposited directly by Hurricane Florence in the lower part of the Pee Dee River system. The purpose of the project is to "investigate the lateral and longitudinal patterns of sediment and associated contaminant deposition immediately following flooding caused by a landfalling hurricane. This research will clarify how extreme flood events carry sediments and contaminants from land to sea, a process affecting the health of people and ecosystems along the way."

This aerial photograph of South Carolina coastal marshland shows the beginning of the formation of an oxbow lake, a U-shaped lake that forms when a highly bended portion of a river is cut off. (See graphic below.)

Professor Till Hanebuth (center) *and students Mimi Oliver and Madison Fink collect floodwater sediment in Georgetown, S.C.*



Associate professor Till Hanebuth and students Madison Fink and Mimi Oliver collect sediment in Georgetown, S.C., for analysis to better clarify how extreme floods carry sediments from land to sea.

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Personal Motivation

Photo by Robbie Bishoff Photography

The Intracoastal Waterway bridge in Socastee after Hurricane Florence in September 2018. (right) *Professor Jennifer Mokos, new to CCU, is already performing a research project that involves students interviewing residents about their decision-making process regarding evacuation when it comes to severe storms.*

When Jennifer Mokos was in the second grade, her home in Lincoln Park, N.Y., near the Hudson River, flooded up to the kitchen countertops. The awesome power of the river was something she never forgot, and she developed an instinct for the prospect of rising water. Soon after she moved here to join CCU's honors college faculty in August 2018, she explored her neighborhood for river tributaries. When Florence arrived a month later, her home was spared from flooding, but she started thinking about research projects.

Nearly everything Mokos has undertaken in her career has had an aquatic component. In her studies at Rutgers, SUNY and Vanderbilt universities, she carved an interdisciplinary niche combining geography, ecology, social health, art and community action. One of her recent studies focuses on the ecological restoration of rivers in southern California and its effect on homeless encampments there. She once worked for a New York City community nonprofit organization, involving children from low-income schools in a salamander monitoring project.

"My first research project at CCU, now in the planning stages, is a cultural study of the social and political aspects of large storm events and associated flooding," she said. "The first stage will involve students interviewing local residents about their decision-making process as to whether to stay put or evacuate when a storm is coming. The purpose is to gain a better understanding of the diverse social and economic conditions that influence that decision. The results of the study could help inform emergency management practices while also hopefully dispelling stereotypes about why people do or don't evacuate." She expects to get the project underway in the fall of 2019.

Mokos is also involved in a civic engagement project spearheaded by Jaime McCauley of CCU's sociology faculty, a Facebook initiative called Horry County Rising. The local civic advocacy forum invites nonpartisan community input on topics relating to flooding, growth, zoning, development and quality of life in an effort to help elected officials to make wise decisions for the long term about a range of issues relating to the social and environmental well-being of the county.

(Above) *The National Guard was deployed in downtown Conway after Hurricane Florence in September 2018.*
(bottom) *Front Street in Georgetown in the aftermath of Hurricane Florence.*

Duane Parrish, director of the South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism; Tom Mullikin; chair, South Carolina Floodwater Commission and CCU professor; Henry McMaster, governor of South Carolina; Pamela Evette, lieutenant governor; and Joe Riley, former mayor of Charleston, plant marsh grass at a floodwater commission meeting in Fall 2018.

Higher Ground

In South Carolina, more than 1.5 million people live within 60 miles of the ocean.

Making wise decisions for the long term through broad stakeholder input is a perfect description of Tom Mullikin's overall goal as chairman of the South Carolina Floodwater Commission. Mullikin, a CCU research professor since 2011, is no stranger to setting high goals—and reaching them. In fact, he has built into his life plan a set of goals that are the stuff of swashbuckling adventure movies. When he meets them, he will be the first person to dive all the world's oceans and climb the highest mountains on all seven continents.

He is well on his way, but right now he's focused on the work of the commission, which Gov. Henry McMaster created and chose Mullikin to chair this past October, while the floodwaters were still receding along the Waccamaw.

Sitting in his office in the Coastal Science Center, just down the hall from Gayes, Pietrafesa and Libes, Mullikin says he sees tremendous opportunities as well as challenges in the work ahead.

"There are three main issues that make us different in South Carolina," said Mullikin, an internationally respected environmental lawyer. "One is extreme flash flooding during local rain events, such as we see frequently in Charleston. Two is coastal storm surge off the ocean. Three is transboundary flooding, which we see when the rivers of South Carolina flood their banks because of watershed saturation in North Carolina due to extreme weather from the Gulf. Each one requires a different strategy."

Mullikin and McMaster are proponents of a "big tent" approach when it comes to the composition and functions of the commission. "South Carolina has the best resources in the world," said Mullikin. "We're harnessing the experience, ingenuity and the intellectual capital of our research institutions, technical colleges, military personnel and civil expertise, touching every agency in the state."

Members include more than 50 business, governmental, political and academic leaders from across the state, including several of Mullikin's faculty colleagues in CCU's College of Science. "My graduate students here in coastal and marine studies are also involved. They're brilliant—and eager to apply what they're learning."

Gov. Henry McMaster (right) *appointed Tom Mullikin* (left) *to chair the South Carolina Floodwater Commission.* (middle image) *Paul Gayes, director of the Burroughs & Chapin Center for Marine and Wetlands Studies at CCU, is also a member of the S.C. Floodwater Commission.* (below) *Tom Mullikin.*

On the wall of Mullikin's office is a chart outlining the 10 volunteer task forces he has created that will focus on specific projects: artificial reef, living shoreline, infrastructure and shoreline armoring, smart river and dam security, grid security, landscape and beautification protection, national security, stakeholder engagement, federal funding, and economic development.

Mullikin says the commission will explore and study best practice solutions to flooding problems in other parts of the country and world, from Sacramento, Calif., to the Netherlands to the Fiji islands. The task forces will concentrate on solving problems. "We're not going to debate the why and where of climate change. It's not a hypothetical. In South Carolina, more than 1.5 million people live within 60 miles of the ocean. We're going to focus on taking care of our state, taking no notice of special interests."

In addition to projects designed to mitigate the environmental damage caused by storms, such as an artificial reef system, drainage and dams, and vegetation restoration, Mullikin believes that one of the outcomes of the commission's work will be more extensive opportunities to use the state's waterways for leisure and recreation. "We live in one of the most beautiful places on earth right here," he said.

At the commission's highly publicized first full meeting in Columbia on Dec. 20, Mullikin told the group, "We intend to make water our friend. We will lead everyone to higher ground." ■

Reclaiming a Culture

By Sara Sobota

CCU's First Gullah Geechee Conference:

BRINGING COMMUNITY AND SCHOLAR TOGETHER

Anita Singleton-Prather brings her character Aunt Pearlie Sue to life in a Musical Salute to Gullah.

Academic and community forces united on the Coastal Carolina University campus this spring to explore and celebrate the ways African culture permeates global civilization, with an emphasis on connection, documentation and discovery.

In a foundational, interdisciplinary move, CCU held the region's inaugural Gullah Geechee and African Diaspora Conference in March 2019, bringing 95 international scholars from Ghana, Senegal, Barbados, Sierra Leone and around the United States to present, perform and interact with practitioners and local keepers of the Gullah Geechee culture.

Themed "Tracing the African Diaspora: Places of Suffering, Resilience and Reinvention," the conference was presented by CCU's Charles Joyner Institute for Gullah and African Diaspora Studies and organized by musicologist Eric Crawford, director of the Joyner Institute and associate professor in the Department of Music.

"It's a dream come true to have you all here with us," said Crawford as he addressed a crowd of African diaspora scholars and community members at the conference keynote event.

BREAKING TRADITION

The African diaspora is the mass dispersion of people that occurred during the transatlantic slave trades from the 1500s to the 1800s, which scattered people of African descent to areas throughout the Americas and the Caribbean. African diaspora studies is concerned with how African culture moved, endured and evolved over the centuries in numerous disparate and far-flung areas. Gullah Geechee is one subset of the African diaspora that culturally connects people living in the Atlantic Sea Islands and coastal areas from northern Florida to North Carolina to their ancestors and relations in Sierra Leone. The late Charles Joyner, Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Southern History and Culture at CCU, wrote the pioneering work *Down by the River: A South Carolina Slave Community* (1984), one of the first academic texts to document Gullah Geechee culture. Fittingly, the Joyner Institute was established in 2016 to honor his work and to continue his legacy. The conference was a milestone in CCU's mission to achieve that goal.

The Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor Commission (GGCHCC), a federal National Heritage area established by the U.S. Congress in 2006 to recognize the unique culture of Gullah Geechee people, partnered with CCU and the Joyner Institute to present the conference.

Energy, inspiration and revelation were part and parcel of the three-day experience that included detailed focus on language, history, cultural heritage, food, education, music and artistic forms.

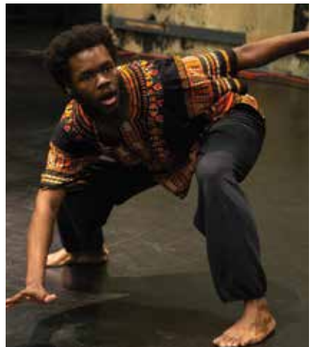
(top image) *Visitors experience a tour of the Gullah Geechee Gaardin (Garden) and exhibit at Brookgreen Gardens in Murrells Inlet, S.C., on the opening night of the conference.*

(above left) *Ron Daise, vice president for creative education at Brookgreen Gardens, presents a lecture.*

(above right) *Marlena Smalls performs with the Hallelujah Singers.*

(above) *Guests including Robert Stephens* (center) *enjoy a Taste of Gullah in Conway at the Horry County Museum.*

(right) *Devante Owens, CCU senior BFA acting major, performs in "A Collection of Short Performances."*



The event broke tradition with the typical academic conference, in which scholarly experts present their research and findings to a group of highly specialized peers. A key goal of this gathering was to make materials and information accessible to the general public and the communities from which the culture emerged. In addition, many events were free and open to the public.

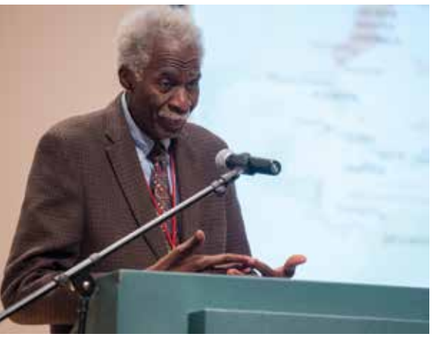
"Too often," said Crawford, "scholars focus either entirely on archives and never go down and apply it to the actual people, or, they'll study people and write a book, and the group to whom it applies never sees it. Here's where we connect the scholarship to the actual people. If we're going to discuss the Gullah Geechee people, they should be here, and they should understand what we're saying and the research we've conducted. The goal is to join together. That partnership is very important."

The event kicked off at Brookgreen Gardens with an opening presentation by Ron Daise, Brookgreen's vice president for creative education, and a performance by Marlena Smalls and the Hallelujah Singers. Conference highlights included a spoken-word poetry reading by Marcus Amaker, Charleston's first poet laureate and award-winning graphic designer; a Salute to Gullah, featuring the Gullah Geechee Ring Shouters, all descendants of African slaves who perform one of the oldest surviving African artistic traditions; and Aunt Pearlie Sue, a creation of Anita Singleton-Prather, a native of the Sea Islands in Beaufort County, S.C., who based the character on her grandmother and entertains audiences with Gullah-inspired folktales.

VOICES FROM THE PAST

A repatriation program, an element of the conference that underwent a last-minute change in venue due to anticipated audience interest, embodied the goal to bring groups together. The event involved the recordings of John Lomax, who traveled to Murrells Inlet in the 1930s on a Works Progress Administration (WPA) project to gather narratives and recordings of former slaves. He recorded, among other things, the singing of Lillie Knox, who was the housekeeper of Genevieve Chandler, and of her cousin Zackie Knox. Lillie sang a piece titled "I'm Troubled All about My Soul," which was later released, widely distributed, commonly re-recorded, and became the inspiration for James Baldwin's work *If Beale Street Could Talk*. The recordings are housed in the American Folklife Center in the Library of Congress, and Lomax became renowned for his recordings.

However, descendants of the Knox family were never made aware of the recordings; they had no idea their grandmother's voice was a familiar sound to millions of listeners. At the CCU



(top) *Sheila S. Walker, cultural anthropologist, filmmaker and executive director of Afrodiaspora, Inc., delivers the keynote address.* (center) *Ron and Natalie Daise perform in a "Musical Salute to Gullah."* (bottom) *Emory Shaw Campbell, executive director emeritus of Penn Center on St. Helena Island, S.C., speaks on the essence of Gullah Geechee cultural heritage.* (above right) *DeWayne Beaty of CHOPS Produce Community Cannery serves his dishes at the CCU Courtyard Market.*

conference, representatives from the Library of Congress joined Anna Lomax Wood, president of the Association for Cultural Equity and granddaughter of John Lomax, in presenting the recordings to Lillie Knox, granddaughter of the original artist.

"The people who created the culture need to have the material in their hands and be able to access it without any problems," said Wood, "and to be aware of the possibilities of what can be done with it."

Knox, who had cried the first time she heard her grandmother's voice in the recording, accepted the gift on her family's behalf.

"It's an honor to have representatives from the federal government here to celebrate, to share knowledge and to listen to the work of our ancestors," Knox said.

GLOBAL TO LOCAL

Other conference sessions involved sharing research in various diaspora-related fields throughout the globe. They included a Gullah Geechee film festival; a presentation about emerging educational programming; papers on iconic cultural elements such as praise houses; arts such as cloth and textiles; and studies of African diasporan culture throughout Brazil, Puerto Rico and Bolivia. Dramatic and musical performances and visual arts presentations, as well as a Taste of Gullah dining event at the Horry County Museum in Conway, rounded out the offerings.

After a trio of presentations by Layla Brown-Vincent of the University of Massachusetts Boston; D.J. Polite of the University of South Carolina; and Precious D. Lovell of North Carolina State University in a session titled "Latin American Expressions of Blackness," art historian Anne Bouie commented on how the session reflected the goals of the conference as a whole.

"The content I've seen is representative of the conference effort to do a synthesis of academic work and application of academic work," Bouie said. "Polite's presentation was indicative of placing a political act in an academic and social context, which makes academia come out of the silos a little bit and into the real world, and it makes the real world legitimately accepted in an academic context. These papers hit all of my buttons: the academic button, the research button, the cultural relevancy, revisionist and alternative use of academic research and the cultural context."

In her keynote address, Sheila Walker, cultural anthropologist, filmmaker and executive director of the nonprofit organization Afrodiaspora Inc., offered a sense of global scope of the diaspora, pointing out that between the years 1500 to 1800, 6.5 million people settled in the modern Americas. Of that number, 5.5 million were African and 1 million were European.

"You can't tell the story of the Americas without telling the story of Africa in the Americas," Walker said. She likened the effect of Gullah Geechee culture to the figure of a spider.

"The body of Gullah Geechee culture began here, but explore the legs, and we see echoes of the same kind of cultural phenomenon elsewhere in the African diaspora."

Author, journalist and GGCHCC member Herbert Frazier has facilitated a wide array of connections between Gullah and African people spanning time and geography using cultural connectors. His forthcoming book, *Crossing the Sea on a Sacred Song*, tells the story of a Mende funeral song that connects Mary Moran in Georgia with Baindu Jabati in Sierra Leone.

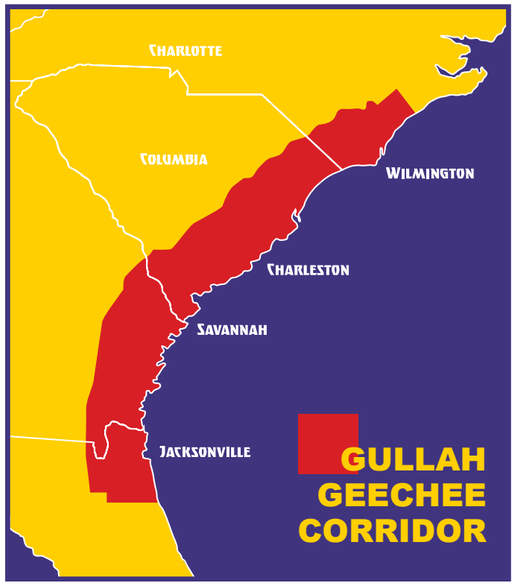
"Up and down the corridor, from Waccamaw, Johns Island, James Island, Sapelo, Darien, all of these communities, they don't know what we have learned about their own culture and their ancestors," said Frazier. "So I think it's important that academicians take their research and go back to the community to inform the community what they found. People are coming to celebrate the culture more than they did generations ago, but there are still pockets in rural areas where people don't understand, and if they do, they don't appreciate it. I think it's important to inform the community, which is part of what we're doing here, so they can build not only an appreciation but also a respect, and in turn, hopefully they'll tell their kids about the culture, and that will help in the preservation of the culture."

Crawford said CCU and GGCHCC plan to hold biennial conferences in the future at various locations throughout the Gullah Geechee corridor.

Heather Hodges, executive director of the GGCHCC, said she hopes the conference is a model for more collaboration and additional programming in educational and governmental institutions throughout the region.

"One of the benefits of having this conference is that it brings to the surface all of the researchers and all the community members who are part of this project and results in a better understanding and documenting of Gullah Geechee cultural history," said Hodges. "And we will use that program to make the case to other conferences and other universities why they should be doing similar things." ■

The Geechee Gullah Ring Shouters perform a "Musical Salute to Gullah."



(above) *The Gullah Geechee Corridor is a federal National Heritage Area extending from Pender County, N.C., to St. Johns County, Fla.* (above right) *Alli Crandell, director of CCU's Athenaeum Press and digital initiatives for the Edwards College, displays and sells press projects at the Courtyard Market.*

CHECK OUT ADDITIONAL CONTENT:
COASTAL.EDU/MAGAZINE

CCU receives major grant to digitize Gullah history

A $270,327 grant from the National Archives and Records Administration will fund a unique project making Gullah historical records available to the public.

The recipients of the grant—Eric Crawford, director of CCU's Charles Joyner Institute for Gullah and African Diaspora Studies, and Alli Crandell, director of the Athenaeum Press and digital initiatives for the Edwards College—say that the Gullah Geechee Digital Project (GDDP) will create the first finding guide for a broad range of historical material related to Gullah Geechee culture.

The GDDP will provide digital access to archival collections including Negro spirituals, film, oral histories, and historic documents from three prominent Gullah Geechee areas in South Carolina, each of which made remarkable achievements during the Jim Crow era in civil rights, education and voting representation: Sandy Island, Johns Island and St. Helena Island.

"Currently there is not a singular resource for these materials across institutions," said Crandell.

CCU will partner with the Library of Congress, the South Carolina Historical Society and the Association for Cultural Equity in the project, serving as the hub in facilitating digitalization.

Goals for the digitized materials include engagement with university students and cultural experts; introduction to the public and K-12 school curriculum; and repatriation to their Gullah Geechee communities of origin. Ultimately, the project is designed to advance current efforts to preserve a way of life that is quickly disappearing.

BEYOND BASEBALL

by Caroline P. Rohr '08

SELFLESS. RELENTLESS.

Those two words have become the essence of the Coastal Carolina University baseball team, embraced by players, coaches and staff alike. But perhaps nobody embodies those two words more than No. 31, Bobby Holmes. All agree that Bobby is the epitome of Coastal Baseball. He built his legacy at Coastal over a span of five years that included major highs–winning the University's first national championship in 2016–and major lows–Tommy John surgery and sitting out the entire 2018 season. It was a legacy sealed even before he walked on to the pitcher's mound to begin his final season.

THE BEGINNING

Something about the way Bobby Holmes walked off the pitcher's mound during a high school tournament caught pitching coach Drew Thomas' attention. Holmes wasn't pitching well at first, giving up nine or 10 hits through the first three innings. All the other recruiters left.

Thomas didn't.

"That focus, that determination that he had…It got me," Thomas remembered. "His will, you could see it when he walked off the mound. He wasn't happy about his performance, but he didn't lose control. The breaking ball got better as he went, and he just got better and better. He is the first player I've ever recruited who gave up nine to 10 hits in three innings."

After that performance, Thomas sent head coach Gary Gilmore down to Atlanta to take a look at Holmes. Gilmore said it was an easy decision to offer him a spot on the roster.

"His ability was outstanding," Gilmore said. "But what some people don't realize is that here at Coastal you have to be a little different. You can't just be talented, you have to play with a chip on your shoulder. His natural abilities showed, but the way he walked out to the mound, you could tell he was a competitor, that he was going to find a way to be successful."

People sitting around Gilmore in the stands that summer day sealed the deal, telling him that Holmes was one of the best-liked players on the team and that he was a good kid who earned good grades. Gilmore did have one reservation about his new recruit.

"I told him he needed to get his hair cut!" Gilmore laughed. "He was this long, wiry guy with hair halfway down his back."

Holmes came to Coastal on scholarship the following year, 2014, but it would be a few more years before he'd cut his hair.

When Holmes signed with Coastal Carolina as a senior at Oconee County High School, he knew he was coming to a university where baseball was a big deal, and one that would be a home away from home for him.

"I didn't want to go to a big school," he said. "I like the smaller classrooms here and how the professors knew my name. I felt like family here right away."

Family is just as important to Holmes as baseball. His mother is his best friend and biggest supporter, and he'd be the first to tell you that he wouldn't be where he is today if it wasn't for Katie Towns.

"She's been my best friend relationship for so long," he said. "She'd give up the whole world for me to make sure I could keep chasing this dream and to keep playing as long as I can."

Towns is a schoolteacher in Watkinsville, Ga., where Holmes grew up, and several other relatives are teachers, too. Holmes originally thought he'd go into teaching, even starting his career at CCU as a special education major.

> **THAT FOCUS, THAT DETERMINATION THAT HE HAD… IT GOT ME.**
>
> -Drew Thomas,
> *Pitching Coach*

Children flock to him as if he is a magnet, but he says it's only because he is a big kid himself. Towns said it's always been like that, recalling an experience Holmes had in high school with an adaptive physical education program for disabled children that he volunteered with for several semesters.

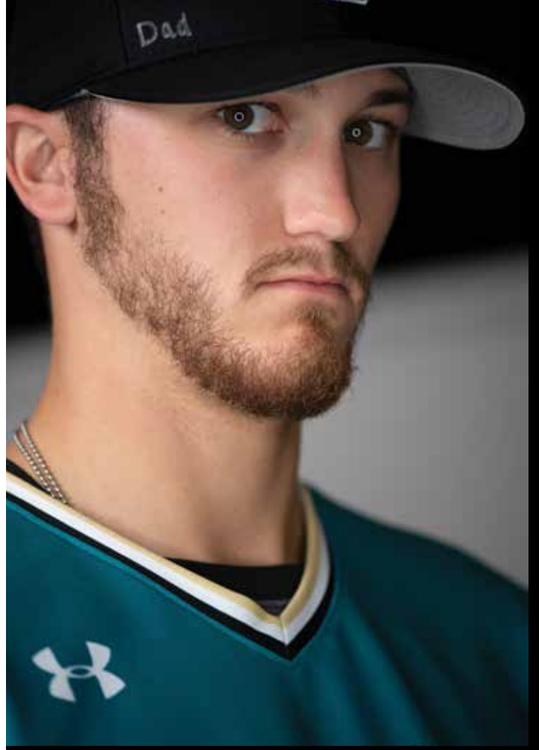
"The students, teachers and coaches adored him," she said. "His senior year of high school, the teachers arranged a pep rally for the entire student body to honor Bobby as their 'hero.'"

That's why when the CCU team is asked to volunteer for Miracle League—a baseball program for children with disabilities—or to read to local kindergartners, Holmes is always there. He even babysits for his coaches.

"It's just a switch I can flip around kids," he said. "I just turn into a big, goofy kid who likes to have as much fun as they have. I know what they're going through, and I want them to have the best experience they can have."

When it came time to officially enter the education program, his baseball schedule made it difficult to fulfill the requirements of the major.

Working with Agatha O'Brien Gayes, his academic adviser, Holmes changed his major to interdisciplinary studies and built a degree around environmental management in what is now the HTC Honors College and Center for Interdisciplinary Studies.



Meanwhile, his freshman year on the team laid the foundation for what was to come. He posted a 4-1 record in 27 appearances with four saves and a 2.9 ERA, solidifying his position as the team's top relief pitcher. He was named the 2015 Big South Freshman of the Year and was second team All-Big South.

The turning point for him that year was what fellow closer Mike Morrison called "a cold night against Clemson in front of one of the biggest crowds we'd ever seen at a Coastal game," during which Holmes pitched 4.1 innings for the save, only allowing two hits and one run, walking zero and throwing six strikeouts.

"He went out there and was lights out," Morrison said. "That game was a huge turning point and a night where a star was born."

Thomas agrees. "He was pretty much locked in as the closer from that point," he said. "He struggled some that first year, but he never quit. What makes him stand out is his maturity and his competitiveness. He holds himself accountable, and that shows up when he's on the mound."

While much of that comes from his upbringing and background, Holmes gives Morrison much of the credit.

"When I got here, I realized how much I didn't know about baseball and about how to compete," Holmes admits. "Mike changed that really quick for me. He taught me all the things I needed to know, not just about baseball, but about being a good person."

The two bonded quickly over their similar backgrounds and competitive natures, though Morrison said there was never a conflict between the two of them as closing pitchers.

"Bobby and I played catch a few times when he first got to CCU, and I reported back to the coaches that he was going to be something special," Morrison said. "We both wanted to pitch at the end of the game, but the love and want for each other to be successful helped us become one of the most dynamic duos out of the Coastal bullpen."

Morrison encouraged Holmes to go above and beyond, to do certain things not because they had to, but because they were the right things to do. They would pick up trash on the way to class, and one day they saw the tennis courts by the baseball stadium littered with tennis balls. They went in and picked up every single one.

Gilmore also noticed his propensity to go the extra mile. The baseball team buys gifts every holiday season for local children in need, and every year, he said, Bobby Holmes leads that initiative. He takes the players to Walmart and gets all the gifts on the lists, and one year he wrapped all the gifts himself.

"Every single present," Gilmore said. "Took him two days. But that's just who he is."

THE BASEBALL

It's always been about sports and competition for Holmes, which he comes by honestly. His father was "all baseball all the time," and his brothers played baseball, too. Towns describes herself and her son both as fierce competitors and perfectionists, traits they inherited from her grandfather, a gold medalist in the 110-meter high hurdles at the 1936 Berlin Olympics. Whenever Holmes spent time at his dad's house, they were always doing something with a ball that involved a competition of some sort.

"We'd play this game called 'bullet,' where dad would put me in front of the bushes and throw a football at me as hard as he could, and I'd have to catch it," Holmes said. "When we'd play basketball when I was 7, 8, 9 years old, he's really trying to beat me, not taking it easy on me. Everything was always a competition."

Holmes played basketball and golf until he was 14, when he had to make a choice about which sport he was going to focus on. It was an easy choice, and he hasn't looked back. Plain and simple: He loves baseball, and it's his dream to play it as long as he can.

He doesn't take it for granted, though. He knows even if baseball turns into a career, eventually it will end. His approach to the game is one day at a time, don't stop competing, and have fun and be happy no matter what.

"I just like having a good time," he said simply. "I want to make the most of my time. You only get so much time in the day, so you might as well be happy."

It's that perspective and *joie de vivre*—evident from the wide, toothy smile—that drew fans to him during the team's 2016 National Championship run. He became an instant sensation in Omaha and throughout Teal Nation, due equally to his personality, his talent and a stuffed monkey named Rafiki.

Having established himself as a reliable closer his freshman year, Holmes played an important role during the championship season. After the team got swept by Georgia Tech midway through the season, Holmes bought an oversized stuffed monkey at a gas station and walked around with it on his back in an attempt to cheer everyone up. The next weekend when the team played Liberty, the monkey went with them.

"We beat Liberty that weekend and had an amazing weekend," Holmes recalled. "After that, the monkey was in the dugout with us every game. Eventually, he had a name, clothes, a media pass, a locker. It was a turnaround for us, and Rafiki was in the middle of all that."

The team went on to beat N.C. State in the regionals, then faced their toughest opponent yet in LSU at Alex Box Stadium for the super regionals. If they won, they'd go to Omaha for the first time in program history.

Lucky Monkey: *Bobby Holmes and Rafiki were inseparable during the College World Series.*

They won the first game, 11-8, but the second game, Holmes remembers, "got a little hairy."

The game was tied up at the top of the ninth, 3-3, with the bases loaded and one out. Coach Gilmore called in his closer, Bobby Holmes.

Whenever the opposing team calls the bullpen, LSU's tradition is to play Garth Brooks' "Callin' Baton Rouge" as a way to intimidate the incoming pitcher and get the crowd riled up. It may have worked for the crowd, but it didn't rattle Holmes.

"That was my song in high school because it was my dad's walk-up song," Holmes recalled, smiling but with tears in his eyes. "It's supposed to be this big intimidating thing for LSU, but I ran out there just thinking about how happy my dad would be to see me there, and how my whole family was there watching."

Holmes struck out one batter and got the last one to fly out. The offense took over from there, scoring one run in the bottom of the ninth to win it, 4-3. The rest is history: The team went on to beat Florida, Texas Tech, TCU and ultimately Arizona to win it all.

The LSU game is sophomore right-handed pitcher Zach McCambley's first memory of Holmes. McCambley was a rising senior in high school at the time.

"LSU was one of the biggest games during that whole run, and I just remember the poise he had on the mound," McCambley shared. "I remember the confidence in his eyes. There were

Q: If you could summarize Bobby Holmes in a word or phrase, what would it be?

KATIE TOWNS
"Driven."

DREW THOMAS
"He's someone I would let marry my daughter."

GARY GILMORE
"Totally selfless."

ZACH McCAMBLEY
"Leader."

KIETON RIVERS
"Tough."

MIKE MORRISON
"Heart."

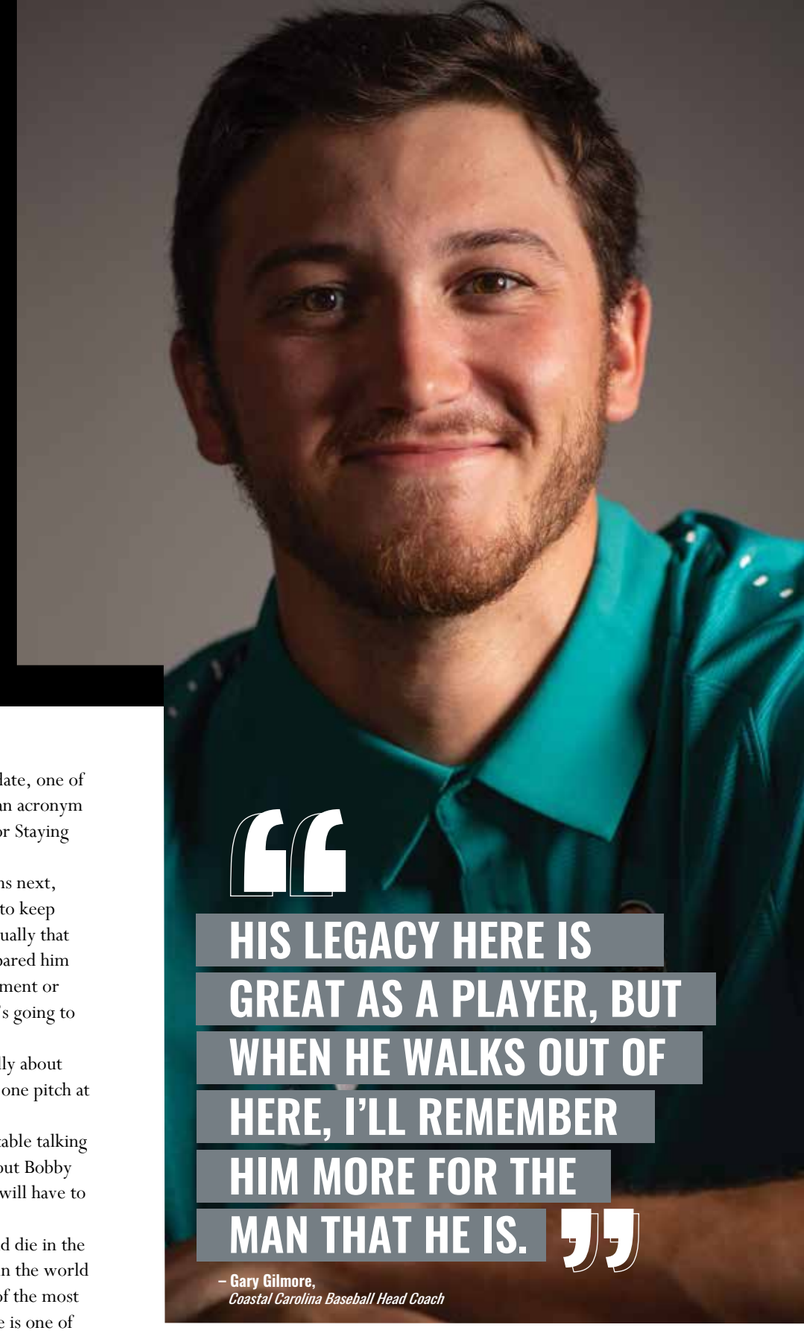
AUSTIN KITCHEN
"Dedicated."

20,000 people screaming at him, but nothing phased him."

Holmes says he doesn't know if he will ever get to do something like that again, but what impacted him the most during that championship run wasn't baseball. It was his mom.

"My mom was there for every game, even though she couldn't afford it," he said. "She didn't go home for a month and a half, and my whole family came out [to Omaha] in rotations to be there. After every game, my mom is the first person I wanted to see."

"She has worked very hard to do things for Bobby, to allow him to have a great experience in life," Gilmore said. "His morals and the things he believes in, his drive to do well both on the field and in the classroom, that's a testament to her."



Mentor-athlete: *Bobby Holmes reads to elementary school students* (left). *Holmes* (center) *shares the glory with his teammates after winning the 2016 College World Series.*

THE BARRIER

Expectations were high for the team following the championship year, but Holmes still took things one day at a time, on and off the field. He continued to excel in the classroom, having had the highest GPA on the team the previous year and continually earning recognition on the dean's list or president's list. On the mound, he was 5-3 with three saves and a 2.51 ERA until adversity struck in the middle of the season.

Holmes injured his throwing arm and elected to have Tommy John surgery in May 2017. He missed the entire 2018 season so he could rehabilitate and make a full recovery.

It's a long road back to restore the elbow's full range of motion, strength and power, even if rehab goes according to plan.

"To start a season as a top prospect and then have a significant injury…most guys, it devastates them," Gilmore said. "For him, yes, it was a setback, but he's been positive throughout. He put everything aside for the team, and he really was like having another full-time coach."

Not only did he dedicate himself to his own recovery, he was a relentless team leader. Holmes was in the dugout for every home game, keeping pitching charts, cheering on the team, leading warmups, and encouraging players.

"Him being on the road with us really helped us grow as pitchers," said McCambley. "He put everyone before himself. He showed us that if you just keep going and don't stop, your time comes back around."

Thomas said what helps Holmes stay positive is how comfortable he is with himself. He is able to be the same person every day because he knows who he is, and he is aware of the presence he has, but he doesn't abuse it.

"People look up to him," senior outfielder Kieton Rivers said. "He's one of the tougher people I know, and he became a mentor and role model for all of us. He makes me want to be like the kind of person he is."

Holmes admits the injury did take a toll on him, in the same breath saying it's the best thing that could have happened to him.

"I learned a lot about how to take care of myself the right way," he said. "I fell in love with baseball and CCU all over again, and I feel like I really grew up and figured out how to be a man. It's weird that a scar on your arm can do that, but it has."

He cut his long hair off, and talks now about the poetry of baseball, of its unspoken side. "It's not X's and O's…there are so many ins and outs to the entire game, not just pitch calling. It's so much more than just throwing the baseball; it's a cat and mouse game."

Holmes' dedication off the field has rubbed off on a lot of the players, and that's evident by the team's collective GPA, which is almost always above 3.0. But more than that, he's shown them how to be professional, manage their time and how to behave in public settings.

"He's taught us how to be gentlemen and represent the program," senior pitcher Austin Kitchen said. "He always leads us in the right direction, telling us we won't succeed on the field if we don't perform well in the classroom."

THE BEYOND

Holmes graduated cum laude at the end of the 2018 season, and with a year of eligibility left, he entered the MBA program, which he is on track to complete by Summer 2019. In late March, he was tabbed as a 2019 Senior CLASS Award candidate, one of only 30 such players in the nation. CLASS is an acronym for "Celebrating Loyalty and Achievements for Staying in School."

He doesn't have firm plans for what happens next, and it doesn't seem to bother him. He'd like to keep playing ball, but even if he did, he said, eventually that would come to an end. His degrees have prepared him for a career in environmental project management or construction management, but until then, he's going to keep taking it one day at a time.

"You can't look too far in advance, especially about things you can't control," he said. "I'll take it one pitch at a time."

Coaches and teammates aren't too comfortable talking about what Coastal Baseball will be like without Bobby Holmes. Players know already that someone will have to step up into shoes that are too big to fill.

"If I had enough guys like him, I might could die in the third-base coaching box, because where else in the world would I rather be?" Gilmore said. "He's one of the most all-time respected players we've had here. He is one of two of the most selfless players I've ever coached. His legacy here is great as a player, but when he walks out of here, I'll remember him more for the man that he is." ■

Check out Holmes' interview online
coastal.edu/magazine

Go Coastal Go Global

Welcome!
欢迎到北京
Bienvenue!
Wilkommen!
Bienvenidos!
Добро пожаловать!

With the expansion of campus activities dedicated to enhancing global perspectives, CCU has reorganized its former Office of International Programs and Services into the **Center for Global Engagement**. The center has increased CCU's international partnerships to more than 80; initiated visiting international lecturer and scholar programs; implemented mentoring programs to help students apply for Fulbright, Rotary and Gilman scholarships; and just recently launched the Global Advancement of Perspective Grant program to support projects that contribute to enhancing the global perspective of the campus community.

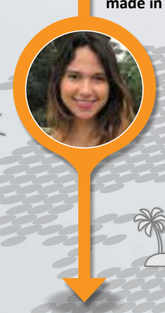
WINDOW TO THE WORLD:

Many cultural and engagement activities take place throughout the year that bring the world to CCU, including:

- **International Education Week**
- **Great Decisions Lecture Series**
- **International Movie Series**
- **International Arts Activities**
- **International Experience Community**

STUDENT PROFILE

VALENTINA FERNANDEZ



Bogota, Colombia
Major: Economics and Finance (double major)
"I came to CCU in 2016 because I wanted to experience life overseas in the USA. It's been one of the best decisions I've made in my life so far."

STUDENT PROFILE

SALMA OUBKKOU

Morocco
Major: Education (Ph.D.)
Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant (Arabic)
"As an international student, I find that CCU is the perfect destination for its diversity and multicultural spirit. So, I am here as a cultural ambassador who is ready to share and ready to learn as well."

STUDENT PROFILE

DANIEL HUENEKE

Andernach, Germany
Major: Logistics
"Last year, I participated in an exchange program and visited CCU for the first time. I liked it so much that I came back. Coastal is a great experience. I'm in touch with people from all over the world who I can call my friends now, and I get more every day. Chants up!"

CCU was recently awarded its second Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant in Arabic and recently hosted its first Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence, launching Arabic language offerings on campus.

STUDENT PROFILE

QUN WANG

China
Major: Finance
"Study abroad is a good opportunity to learn about the American culture and practice your English. Because of its location near the beach, this area of South Carolina enjoys warm, long summers and mild, short winters, so students get to study and live where many Americans vacation! The people are friendly and kind, and the community is a safe, welcoming and relaxed place to live and study. Meanwhile, the housing of CCU is comfortable. As an international student, I also can get a scholarship."

Experimental class programs in graphic design, business and computer science with Chinese universities bring talented students to campus through the CHEPD Transfer Articulation Program.

WORLD VIEW:

Our students, professors and staff traveled to more than **40 COUNTRIES** last year to study, conduct research, attend conferences and participate in competitions.

PRESTIGE SCHOLARSHIPS:

Mentoring programs have been developed for prestigious international scholarship programs. In 2017, a CCU student was awarded the University's first Fulbright Student Research Grant and first Gilman Scholarship. In Fall 2018, a CCU student won the institution's third Rotary Global Grant and in Spring 2019, another won the first Critical Languages Scholarship.

WORLD CLASS:

MORE THAN **200 STUDENTS** FROM OVER 60 COUNTRIES COME TO CCU TO STUDY.

$60,000+ ANNUALLY:

Cooperation with colleges, local communities and donors has raised the scholarship support for education abroad to more than $60,000 annually!

SCHOLARS WITH GLOBAL EXPERIENCE:

THERE ARE **20** **FULBRIGHT SCHOLARS** AMONG CCU'S CURRENT FACULTY AND STAFF.

THERE ARE **12** **FULBRIGHT SCHOLARS** AMONG CCU'S RETIRED FACULTY AND STAFF.

LEARN MORE ABOUT CCU'S GLOBAL INITIATIVES AT COASTAL.EDU/MAGAZINE.

CCU SOCIAL

CHANTS WORKING ABROAD

BOARDING PASS

#TEALnation? More like #TEALworld

A recent social media campaign titled Chants Working Abroad made it clear that CCU is well represented across the globe. We asked alumni with international careers to describe how Coastal prepared them to work in a different country and how current students could start laying the groundwork to do the same. As seen on our Facebook page, here are some of the responses.

#CCU

[SOCIAL MEDIA]

@CCUchanticleers

/CoastalCarolinaUniversity

@CCUchanticleers

NAME
Eric Barrett ’13

DEGREE
Master of Arts in Teaching

OCCUPATION
IB Coordinator

EMPLOYER
Dunecrest American School

LOCATION
Dubai, United Arab Emirates

HOW COASTAL PREPARED YOU FOR AN INTERNATIONAL CAREER
Coastal Carolina University and the Spadoni College of Education placed me around professionals who provided a foundation ensuring success in many different arenas. Professors continually challenged my conceptions of education and humanity.

ADVICE FOR STUDENTS
It’s quite simple: travel. Take every available opportunity to challenge your worldview and “comfort zone.” Leave the fear and ignorance at the airport gate and see the world.

NAME
Katie Correia ’09

DEGREE
Marine Science

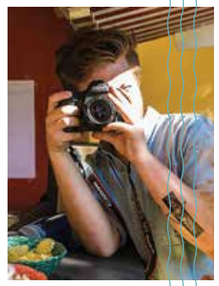
OCCUPATION
Science and Education Manager

EMPLOYER
The Central Caribbean Marine Institute

LOCATION
The Cayman Islands

HOW COASTAL PREPARED YOU FOR AN INTERNATIONAL CAREER
I went on a coral reef ecology Maymester course to Jamaica led by Erin Burge, Ph.D., and Eric Koepfler, Ph.D. The course opened my eyes to living, working and thriving in marine science outside of the United States.

ADVICE FOR STUDENTS
Work hard, play hard!



NAME
Will Dameron ’15

DEGREE
B.F.A. Theatre

OCCUPATION
Freelance Designer / Filmmaker / Photographer

LOCATION
Hanoi, Vietnam

HOW COASTAL PREPARED YOU FOR AN INTERNATIONAL CAREER
The liberal arts and research portions of the education at Coastal encouraged me to get experience finding ways to gain new knowledge, which has helped tremendously in adapting to new cultures as I’ve moved around.

ADVICE FOR STUDENTS
Branch out! Try new things. College is a great time because you have space to explore and learn with a freedom that you won’t necessarily have again after school.

NAME
Dari Wright ’88

DEGREE
Business Administration

OCCUPATION
Commercial Banking Officer

EMPLOYER
HSBC Bank

LOCATION
London, England

HOW COASTAL PREPARED YOU FOR AN INTERNATIONAL CAREER
Through Coastal’s study abroad program, I met amazing people from all over Europe. I had the opportunity to visit multiple countries and learn that the world is not as big and scary as I thought.

ADVICE FOR STUDENTS
Always be open to new opportunities as there are many paths to get you where you want to go.

NAME
Erin Optiz ’16

DEGREE
Biology

OCCUPATION
Marine Mammal Trainer

EMPLOYER
Coral World Ocean Park

LOCATION
St. Thomas, Virgin Islands

HOW COASTAL PREPARED YOU FOR AN INTERNATIONAL CAREER
A big move that helped prepare me for my international career was changing majors from marine science to biology and identifying what courses would best set me up for success.

ADVICE FOR STUDENTS
Tell someone your goals because you never know what might come from a quick conversation with your professor, coworker or peer in class.

CHADWELL TAKES REINS FROM MOGLIA AS HEAD FOOTBALL COACH

After six seasons as one of the most unique and effective coaches in collegiate football, Joe Moglia stepped down in January 2019 and passed the ball to associate head coach Jamey Chadwell.

A titan in the business world, Moglia brought his successful vision to the Chanticleer program in 2012. During his tenure, the program gathered an impressive list of honors, including its first-ever postseason win and four conference championships. The Chanticleers finished each year in the top 25 nationally and ranked as high as the No. 1 team in the country in both 2014 and 2015.

Moglia began his brilliantly nontraditional career as a football coach in the late 1970s and transitioned into investing, where he eventually rose to become CEO of TD Ameritrade before returning to coaching in 2008. His credo is epitomized in his student accountability strategy, BAM (Be A Man), which insists that his athletes "stand on their own two feet, take responsibility for their actions, always treat others with dignity and respect, and recognize they will live with the consequences of their actions."

"I was saddened when Coach Moglia informed me that he was going to step down as our head coach," said Chadwell, who joined the CCU coaching staff in January 2017. "He is an incredible mentor not only to me but also for all of the young men in our football program, past and present, and has helped develop countless student-athletes who have gone on to great success in life after football."

A native of Tennessee, Chadwell played quarterback at East Tennessee State University (1995-1999), where he began his coaching career in 2000. He became an assistant coach at Charleston Southern University in 2004, where he later served as head coach for four seasons (2013-2016) after head coaching stints at North Greenville and Delta State. Six months after joining CCU, he was named interim head coach for the 2017 season during Moglia's medical sabbatical.

On the field, Chadwell has won more than 60 games in his nine years as a head coach. He is a two-time FCS National Coach of the Year finalist and three-time Big South Coach of the Year.

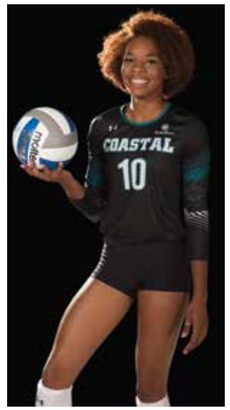
"I am excited to build on the great foundation that Coach Moglia has put in place here as we continue to move forward in becoming one of the best programs in the Sun Belt," Chadwell said at the press conference announcing the coaching transition.

Moglia continues to serve as chairman of athletics until 2021, with executive authority for the football program.

CCU Head Football Coach Jamey Chadwell

CLUB SPORTS: The Coastal Carolina University men's club ice hockey team won the East Coast Collegiate Hockey Association (ECCHA) Colonial Championship on Feb. 10 with a 4-3 victory over Liberty University. The championship is the league's first in its six-year history. The team practices and plays home games at the Wilmington Ice House in North Carolina. They finished the 2018-19 regular season with a 15-7-3 record, winning games against the University of South Carolina, Clemson, the College of Charleston, and the University of Richmond on the way to the championship.

HARDEMAN NAMED FEMALE ATHLETE OF THE YEAR



Leah Hardeman

CCU volleyball player Leah Hardeman was named the 2017-18 Sun Belt Conference Female Athlete of the Year. The annual award is the highest individual honor given in the Sun Belt Conference, based on outstanding leadership, achievement and character.

Hardeman, a graduate student in her final semester at CCU, started her stellar collegiate athletic career in the indoor volleyball program and switched to beach volleyball in 2018.

In indoor volleyball, she swept every conference award, including Sun Belt Volleyball Player of the Year, Sun Belt Championship Most Outstanding Player, first team All-Sun Belt and Sun Belt Preseason Offensive Player of the Year. She was also named the Sun Belt Offensive Player of the Week four times in one season. She was the first Division I player in NCAA volleyball history to earn a conference's POY award in all four seasons of eligibility.

In beach volleyball, Hardeman posted a 5-9 record last season, and has played a role in helping to develop the young program that started in 2016.

"This award is so special to both Leah and our volleyball program," said head volleyball coach Jozsef Forman. "Her servant leadership is a great example for every Coastal Carolina student-athlete. There will be many successful student-athletes and teams in Coastal Carolina's future, but there will never be another Leah Hardeman."

CCU student-athletes perform strong in the classroom

A record 320 Coastal Carolina student-athletes posted at a 3.0 grade point average (GPA) or better for the Fall 2018 semester, including a record 138 that earned dean's list honors. In addition, 79 Chanticleers had a perfect 4.0 GPA, earning president's list recognition for the fall term.

Headlining the group was the women's golf team; all nine members had a 3.0 GPA or better and made either the president's (five) or dean's list (four). All eight team members on the women's tennis team posted a 3.0 or higher with six members earning either president's list (four) or dean's list (two) honors.

On the men's side, the men's tennis team had eight of its nine members post at least a 3.0 GPA, including six who earned president's (two) or dean's list (four) recognition, while the men's golf team had seven of its eight squad members earn a 3.0 or higher, with two each earning spots on the president's and dean's list.

Eight other teams had more than 60 percent of their rosters earn at least a 3.0 or better for the semester, while the football team recorded a department-best 34 student-athletes combined on the president's and dean's list.

LEGEND OF THE LINKS: Dustin Johnson, CCU alumnus and the world's No. 1 golfer, was inducted into the Myrtle Beach Golf Hall of Fame on Feb. 27. Johnson played collegiate golf at CCU from 2003 to 2007. He held the title of No. 1-ranked golfer for 64 consecutive weeks, the fifth longest streak in PGA Tour history. The South Carolina-based rock band Hootie and the Blowfish, host of the annual Monday after the Masters tournament, was also inducted.

Class Notes

1980

Tony Cox has been named vice chairman of the South Carolina Department of Transportation. He is an executive vice president of real estate at Burroughs & Chapin in Myrtle Beach.

1985

Tim Perkins has retired from coaching after working 33 years as an assistant football coach at Marion High School. His background includes serving as the athletic director for Marion School District One. He also serves as the Marion County School District transportation supervisor.

1986

Pam Goecke Kemp has opened All Suds, a soap-making and retail shop in Fayetteville, Ga. She specializes in artisan soaps, lotions and bath products.

1987

Jay Kirby has been promoted to vice president of public affairs at Santee Cooper Cooperative in Kingstree, S.C.

Andy Rosenbaum was recognized as the employee of the quarter for the Department of the Navy Office of the General Counsel. He is a civilian paralegal managing the command's Freedom of Information Act and Privacy Act programs at the Space and Naval Warfare Systems Center Atlantic in North Charleston, S.C.

1990

Blake Kline has opened Atlantic Coast Pain Specialists in Florence, S.C., which is a branch of his Conway office. His background includes working at Florence Neurosurgery and Spine, and as chief of anesthesiology at Carolinas Hospital System.

1992

Kirk Kirkland has been named a real estate broker at Charleston Metro Homes Real Estate. His background includes more than 25 years in the yacht brokerage business.

1994

Mandy Gardill Dunlap recently celebrated her 20th anniversary at RE/MAX Southern Shores. During her career, she has been a Top 10 RE/MAX agent in the Carolinas, RE/MAX Southern Shores No. 1 sales agent for multiple years, inducted into the RE/MAX Hall of Fame, and honored with the RE/MAX Lifetime Achievement Award.

Jim R. Rogers' one-act play, *Geriatric Monologues*, was selected for the 2019 Piccolo Spoleto in Charleston, S.C. The performances are scheduled for May 25 and 26, and June 1 and 2 at the Threshold Repertory Theatre. The play is based on Rogers' books of poetry, *Starts and Stops Along the Way* and *Looking Around*.

Chris Thomas is a psychology instructor at Florence-Darlington Technical College in Hartsville, S.C.

1995

Steve Childers was recently promoted to assistant principal at Sedgefield Middle School in Goose Creek, S.C. He and his wife, Nikki, are expecting a baby in June.

1996

Mike Chambers has been promoted to executive vice president chief banking officer at Partners Bank of California. A founding employee and investor of Partners Bank, he has worked there for 11 years, most recently as senior vice president.

1997

Greg Ackerman has been named a senior manager at Webster Rogers LLP, an accounting and consulting firm. Based in Myrtle Beach, he specializes in performing financial audits and reviews of various types of companies and organizations across multiple industry lines. Ackerman also is a member of CCU's HTC Honors College and Center for Interdisciplinary Studies board of visitors.

James Smith is the system director of financial aid reporting and reconciliation at Lone Star College in Houston, Texas.

1999

Benjamin Hill, an associate professor of clinical neuropsychology at the University of South Alabama, is a fellow at the National Academy of Neuropsychology (NAN), where he was elected to the board of directors. In 2017, he earned the NAN's Early Career Award, which is given to individuals who make substantial scholarly contributions to the field of neuropsychology within 10 years of receiving their doctoral degree. Hill earned a Ph.D. in clinical psychology from Louisiana State University in 2008.

2000

Eric Bennett is an analyst with the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality in the Underground Storage Tank/Leaking Underground Storage Tank program. He previously was the acting minerals administrator for the U.S. Forest Service at Boise National Forest working out of the Idaho City Ranger District.

Pattie Dyson Carmichael has been named the teacher of the year at Aynor Elementary School in Aynor, S.C. She has been teaching in the school's child development area for 21 years.

Rob Spino has been named teacher of the year at Forestbrook Elementary School in Myrtle Beach, where he has taught for nine years. He teaches physical education. Spino also is a teaching associate at CCU.

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[Alumnus *of the* Year] Christy Smith Everett

Christy Smith Everett, chief operations officer of Grand Strand Water & Sewer (GSWSA), earned an MBA from Coastal Carolina University in 2008. She joined GSWGA 17 years ago and is responsible for the engineering and construction division, including the planning and implementation of its capital improvement plan.

Since 2013, Everett has served on CCU's College of Science board of visitors and is a member of Women in Philanthropy and Leadership at the University. She also serves on the boards of the United Way of Horry County, the Conway Medical Center Foundation and the Conway Medical Center. She is a senior fellow of the Waccamaw American Leadership Forum and serves on the Socastee High School Athletic Association board. In addition, she was a member of the Horry County IMAGINE 2040 comprehensive plan steering committee.

Everett is a licensed professional engineer in South Carolina and North Carolina and holds a water and sewer utility contractor's license in both states. She is a member of the S.C. section of the American Water Works Association, the Water Environment Association of S.C., the S.C. Water Quality Association, and serves as vice chair of the S.C. Water Utility Council.

Christy Smith Everett '08

A native of Horry County, Everett lives in Socastee with her twins, Lewis and Andrea. She earned a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Clemson University.

[Young Alumnus *of the* Year] Whitney Shipman Glenn

Whitney Shipman Glenn was named the 2017-18 Horry County Schools Teacher of the Year. She earned a Master of Education in language, literacy and culture from CCU in May 2018. A second-grade teacher, she began teaching at Pee Dee Elementary School in 2012, where she has also taught kindergarten.

Glenn serves on the CCU Spadoni College of Education board of visitors and the EdTech Task Force for Horry County Schools.

She lives with her husband, Steven Glenn, in Conway. She earned a bachelor's degree in early childhood education from Clemson University in 2007.

Candidates nominated for the Alumnus and Young Alumnus of the Year Awards are chosen by a steering committee consisting of the college deans. Criteria for the annual awards include loyalty to CCU, record of service and accomplishments, and demonstration of positive attributes.

Whitney Shipman Glenn '18

Class Notes

2001

Kevin Cox has been promoted to sales supervisor for HTC's Business Services Department. He also was re-elected to the CCU Alumni Association board of directors.

Christopher St. John recently earned a Ph.D. in financial and retirement planning from the American College of Financial Services. He also earned an MBA from CCU and a master's degree in financial services from the American College. In addition, he has earned more than nine key financial designations including: Certified Financial Planner™, Chartered Financial Consultant®, Certified Divorce Financial Analyst™, Chartered Advisor for Senior Living™, Chartered Life Underwriter®, Certified Fraud Examiner, Accredited Estate Planner®, and Chartered Advisor of Philanthropy. He also serves on the Coastal Educational Foundation board of directors, Wall College of Business board of visitors, Chanticleer Athletic Foundation board of directors, and the Department of Finance and Economics advisory board.

Ryan White and his wife, Tracy, welcomed their first child, Harrelson Elizabeth White, on Jan. 27, 2019. He owns Ryan White Agency, which offers products from the Horace Mann Insurance Company. Based in Conway, he has been providing insurance and financial services to educators in Horry County for the last 18 years.

2002

Meredith Sherman Delcamp has been named a partner at Shutts & Bowen LLP, a full-service business law firm with offices throughout Florida. She works in the business litigation practice group in its Tampa office. Delcamp earned a certificate in environmental law from Tulane University Law School, where she also earned a juris doctor degree.

Brian Lowe is senior promoter for Live Nation Clubs & Theaters Midwest. His 17-year career within House of Blues Entertainment/Live Nation Clubs & Theaters began in January 2002 with an internship during his senior year at CCU. He lives in Lakewood, Ohio, with his wife, Britny, and 2-year-old son, Archie.

2003

Amanda Phillips has been promoted to vice president at CresCom Bank in Litchfield, S.C. She originates mortgage loans in Litchfield/Pawleys Island and surrounding areas.

2004

Patricia Collins Frady is a senior manager at Heath, Fania and Co. PC in Surfside Beach. She is a certified public accountant and a master analyst in financial forensics.

2007

Jason Cox has been named the new athletics director at Conway High School in Conway, S.C. He worked the last 10 years at Green Sea Floyds Middle and High School, including five years as its athletics director.

Anne-Marie D'Onofrio is an associate technical editor/report administrator for the Integrated Air Services team of Weston Solutions Inc., based in West Chester, Pa. Weston provides environmental and infrastructure support services to federal, state and local government, and industrial, utility and commercial clients.

Jae Hatchett is vice president of business development and operations manager at Oneliance Corporation in Charlotte, N.C. He also owns three Two Scoops Homemade Creamery locations in the Charlotte area. His daughter was born in March 2018.

Staff Sgt. Claudia Witte McNally represented Fort Bragg when she ran in the 2018 Army Ten-Miler on Oct. 7 in Washington, D.C. The psychological operations specialist was recently accepted in the Army's Officer Candidate School.

Benjamin Staples is included in The State's 20 under 40 class for 2019. He is an assistant vice president at Ameris Bank. According to reports, the class members use their talents and energy to excel in their professions and to push the Midlands to greater heights.

2008

Ryan Belcastro and Kamee Locke were married on Dec. 1 in Larned, Kan. He is the warehouse manager of Pumps and Controls in Denver, Colo.

Stacie Bowie has been named vice president of finance and administration at Lander University in Greenwood, S.C. She most recently served as a senior vice president of public finance with Stephens Inc., an independent financial services firm.

Derrick Wise is the founder of the Wise Education Foundation, based in Columbia, S.C. Named for Wise's parents, Rev. Dr. Patrick and Mablean Evans Wise, the foundation offers scholarships to help deserving individuals pursue higher education. **Justin Pichey** is the foundation's director of public relations. **Harry Titus** '16 serves on the organization's board of directors. Since the foundation started in 2014, it has awarded 20 scholarships. For more information, visit www.wisescholarship.org.

2009

Zack Byrd has been named an assistant women's golf coach at the University of Mississippi. He previously held a similar position at Colorado State University.

Alexis Skelley Elliott is therapist/owner of Diabetes and Obesity Treatment Strategies in Myrtle Beach. She also is a behavioral health coach at the Diabetes Wellness Council. She is a licensed clinical social worker, a certified diabetes educator and a health education specialist. Elliott earned a master's degree in social work from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington.

Ashley Moore Hinch has been named teacher of the year at Conway High School in Conway. She teaches AP environmental science to juniors and seniors, and biology to college prep and honors sophomores.

2010

Catherine Frederick earned a Ph.D. in marine bio-resources from the University of Maine in December 2018. She lives in Bangor, Maine.

Ciera Young has published her first book, *Cheers to Him*, which recounts the journey of a 29-year-old woman who spent years of getting relationships wrong and dealing with the consequences. Young also is the owner of fanCEE, a photography and visual content business.

2011

Amy Haggard is the new assistant director of alumni and student engagement for the Honors, Scholars and Fellows House at Florida State University.

Lauren Moore is a real estate attorney at Harvey & Vallini LLC. She earned a juris doctor degree from the Florida Coastal School of Law in Jacksonville. Moore lives in Murrells Inlet.

Tyler Parker is a senior manager of premium partnerships for the Brooklyn Nets and the Barclays Center.

Rob Shields, the owner of NautiFish Rum Bar at the Lake of the Ozarks, has been recognized as a Rising Star under the age of 40 by Lake Lifestyles magazine. In addition, he recently opened Missouri Grown ReLeaF and is striving to become the largest vertically-integrated medical/recreational marijuana company in Missouri. The company's goal is to help people in need, decrease opioid abuse and educate the community on the health benefits of cannabis.

Matthew Tremaine is the new installation manager at IZON Golf, a leader in GPS technology for the golf industry. Before joining IZON Golf, he was a project manager at Clear Channel Outdoor. Tremaine

[Alumni Profile] Randy Furtner '90 – Net present value

Fresh from active duty in the Navy, Randy Furtner '90 was looking for his next challenge. His wife, Holly, and her parents encouraged him to further his education. It was an intimidating idea for him because no one in his family had ever attended college. Living at the time in Little Creek, Va., he began working his way down the East Coast in search of a college to attend.

"I saw a lot of schools, but was most comfortable at Coastal," said Furtner, who enrolled as a freshman at age 27. "The people were great. They treated me really well and were very welcoming and embracing."

With moral and financial support from Holly, who was a nurse, Furtner focused all his attention on earning a finance degree. He remembers being academically challenged in classes taught by the likes of professors Gerald Boyles, Darcy Carr, Eddie Dyer, James Eason, Linda Henderson and others.

"Attending Coastal was so profoundly life-changing," Furtner said. "The school has a very warm spot in my heart. I loved all my classes, but I'll never forget Dr. Boyles' first class. The first thing he wrote on the board was a net present value calculation. And he said if you learn nothing else from this class than this, you will have learned something truly important. And it's been foundational to everything I have done during my career."

Furtner aspired to be a college professor, but that quickly changed when Boyles encouraged him to obtain an MBA. Furtner said he wasn't sure what to expect as he transitioned from the smaller, lesser known Coastal to the nationally ranked program at the University of Washington.

"There were students from all the elite private schools in the country," he said. "I had no problem whatsoever with the coursework and working with the students on any projects. My Coastal education was all that I needed to be successful in graduate school. And that same foundation has carried me through my career."

Just nine years after earning his MBA, Furtner was named the divisional CFO of Armour Swift-Eckrich, which is owned by Conagra Foodservice. His background also includes serving various roles at Conagra, two stints as CFO at Trident Seafoods and a similar role at CTI Foods.

Holly and Randy '90 Furtner

In February 2018, Furtner became the CFO at Grimmway Farms in Bakersfield, Calif. The family-owned company, founded 50 years ago by the Grimm brothers Rod and Bob, is the largest carrot grower in the world, harvesting roughly 2.5 billion pounds annually. Grimmway owns 43,000 acres of organic farmland and also is the largest organic vegetable grower in the United States. It provides more than 60 organic vegetables to numerous major grocery store chains, including Albertsons, Publix, Safeway, Kroger, Whole Foods and Trader Joe's.

During his career, Furtner has found his niche as a financial change agent. He helps companies redefine their business processes, creating strategies for growth and profitability. He says the hardest thing to do is to come in, become a part of the team and change their processes without changing the foundation of who they are and what made them successful.

At Grimmway, he's helping to develop the company's first strategic plan, building a data warehouse and implementing Tableau, a business intelligence and analytics software.

"We are putting in the tools and processes that will allow us to be scalable," Furtner said. "Our goal is to double or triple our revenue given the strong demand for organic vegetables."

by Jerry Rashid

Class Notes

lives in Scottsdale, Ariz., and is pursuing a master's degree in software engineering at Arizona State University.

2012

Eric Heiken is the digital marketing manager at Condo-World Resort Properties in North Myrtle Beach.

Gloria Kleich is an accounts payable accountant at The Brandon Agency, a leading brand strategist agency based in Myrtle Beach.

2013

Josh Brown has been named teacher of the year at Midland Elementary School in Galivants Ferry, S.C., where he teaches fifth-grade social studies and math.

Kevin Colyer and **Kristen Vanneman** were married at Atalaya Castle at Huntington Beach State Park in Murrells Inlet on July 13, 2018. Their reception was held at The Hall at St. John's. They live in The Market Common in Myrtle Beach.

John Paribello and **Sadie Giza** '14 were engaged in New York City. Their wedding date is Oct. 12, 2019. While at CCU, she was a founding member of Alpha Xi Delta sorority, and he was a member of Pi Kappa Phi fraternity.

Nathan Rood is the new SEO digital marketing manager with Inter-Coastal Net Designs in Ocean Isle Beach, N.C.

Sebastian Soderberg, professional golfer, will be playing on the European Tour in 2019. He finished fifth on the European Challenge Tour's order of merit, to be one of 15 players to graduate to Europe's top circuit. Soderberg is No. 309 in the Official World Golf Ranking.

2014

Sadie Giza and **John Paribello** '13 were engaged in New York City. Their wedding date is Oct. 12, 2019. While at CCU, she was a founding member of Alpha Xi Delta sorority, and he was a member of Pi Kappa Phi fraternity.

Lauren Gross is engaged to John McCants Jr. They plan to get married Nov. 16 at Belin Memorial United Methodist Church in Murrells Inlet. She is a second-grade teacher at Seaside Elementary School in Murrells Inlet.

Megan Harmon has been named teacher of the year at Kingston Elementary School in Conway.

Abby Merrell, an art teacher at Conway Middle School, has been named the school's teacher of the year.

Kara Metzner and **Nicholas Ciaston** '16 were married in CCU's Lackey Chapel on Oct. 27, 2018. Kara, who also earned a master's degree in educational leadership from CCU in 2016, is a first-grade teacher at Carolina Forest Elementary School, and Nicholas is an engineer at the Sheraton Myrtle Beach Convention Center Hotel. They live in Conway.

Alex Palumbo is a photographer and cinematographer in Long Island, N.Y. Learn more at alexpalumbo.us.

T'ara Smith is the project manager for Beyond Type 2, a resource website for those impacted by Type 2 diabetes. She earned a master's degree in nutrition education from American University in Washington, D.C.

2015

Lauren Allen graduated from the American University Washington College of Law in May 2019. She has accepted an associate position at Diaz Reus & Targ in Miami, Fla., following completion of the bar exam in July 2019.

Megan Gooch works for First Command Financial Services in Highland Falls, N.Y.

De'Angelo Henderson is a running back with the NFL's New York Jets. He previously played with the Denver Broncos, who drafted him in the sixth round of 2017 NFL Draft.

Ali Rogers Huggins has been named teacher of the year at East Elementary School in Dillon, S.C.

Tonisha Lee is pursuing a master's degree at Winthrop University.

2016

Nicholas Ciaston and **Kara Metzner** '14 were married in CCU's Lackey Chapel on Oct. 27, 2018. Kara, who also earned a master's degree in educational leadership from CCU in 2016, is a first-grade teacher at Carolina Forest Elementary School, and Nicholas is an engineer at the Sheraton Myrtle Beach Convention Center Hotel. They live in Conway.

Ryan Faust and **Emilye Rybarczyk**, who were engaged March 29, 2019, plan to get married in May 2020 in Greenville, S.C. They met during their sophomore year at CCU.

Samantha McKenzie is pursuing a master's degree in social work at the University of South Carolina. She is doing her field placement in the crisis unit at Three Rivers Behavioral Health.

Dana Radford and Eric Bennett were married Sept. 1, 2018, in Marion, S.C. She is a health and fitness coordinator at Verizon in Wilmington, N.C., where the couple lives. She also is pursuing a master's degree from New York Chiropractic College, and previously served in the U.S. Army from 2005 through 2012.

Erica Robles is a senior registered behavior technician at SOS Health Care, where she works with special needs children.

2017

Marquay Byrd is a Navy cryptologic warfare officer with Cryptologic Warfare Activity 66 in Fort Meade, Md.

Theresa Calabrese has been hired as a graphic designer at Jack Porter, a multidisciplinary design group in Greenville, S.C. She previously worked at T2H Advertising in Myrtle Beach.

Jonathan Krause has been named a customer service representative at CresCom Bank. He works at the Meeting Street branch in Charleston, S.C.

Casey Schroeder has opened Clean Eatz Café in Columbus, Ohio. He is also is a catcher for the Birmingham Barons, the Double-A affiliate of the Chicago White Sox.

2018

Brandon Brown is the marketing director for his family-run NASCAR Xfinity Series operation, Brandonbilt Motorsports.

Lucas Byrd is a part-time fitness specialist and a certified personal trainer at the McLeod Health & Fitness Center in Florence, S.C. He earned his personal training certification from the American College of Sports Medicine in August 2018.

Matthew Perdue is an economics teacher at Carolina Forest High School in Myrtle Beach.

Connor Wrightson was recently named an associate of sales and leasing at Avison Young, a full-service commercial real estate services firm. He specializes in office/flex space leasing. His responsibilities include both tenant and landlord representation services for corporate and private organizations throughout the Washington, D.C., metro area.

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[Alumni Profile] Carlos Figarella '09 – Virtual reality

With his Coastal Carolina University marketing degree in hand, Carlos Figarella '09 has been a rising star in the consumer technology industry. He's worked in sales and client services in New York City for companies such as MarketStar, BDS Marketing and Beats by Dre. For the last three years, Figarella has been thriving at HTC VIVE in Seattle, Wash.

VIVE touts itself as a first-of-its-kind virtual reality platform, built and optimized for room-scale VR and true-to-life interactions. With the advancement of extended reality (XR), artificial intelligence, blockchain and 5G, VIVE envisions a truly immersive and connected world. Its goal is to create the reference platform for both VR hardware and software, with a commitment to engineering premium products and experiences.

"Our mission is to unleash the human imagination through virtual reality," said Figarella, who serves as the company's senior strategic account manager. "The smartphone has been such a transformational piece of the technological revolution. But we think this will be even bigger. This will take the screen out of your hand and put you into immersive worlds. We are taking gaming, training, simulation and entertainment to the next level."

Figarella's responsibilities include leading VIVE's retail partnerships and distribution. He manages how the company's products look and feel as well as how they eventually reach the consumers. "I work with Amazon, Microsoft, GameStop, Best Buy and like distribution channels to tell the VR story. My goal is to really help people understand what the capabilities of our products are as well as what the creative process can look like if you use them."

VIVE virtual reality system.

Carlos Figarella '09

Figarella strongly believes VR will change not only how the world consumes content, such as media, music and games, but how everyone will learn and acquire new skillsets. He says that during the evolving Fourth Industrial Revolution, new skills and advancements will be needed to further develop digital technology.

"I think VR will be that bridge to help us get there," he said. "I want to encourage people to create and leverage that technology for where we go next. With this being so cutting-edge, I really believe that this is going to change humanity."

While Figarella has high hopes of becoming a global executive within the VR industry, where he can drive innovation and empower those who use the technology, he hasn't forgotten where it all began.

"When I look back at my Coastal experience, I would have never thought I would be sitting where I am today," said Figarella, who was born in Puerto Rico and attended high school in Augusta, Ga. "Coastal helped set the foundation for me and strengthened my core principles and values. Getting into the real world and always having that to reference back to is something that I have always appreciated. You have to dream big. No matter where you are today, as long as you are improving on it tomorrow, you'll always get to where you want to go."

by Jerry Rashid

Class Notes

SEATTLE ALUMNI EVENT

Rad Lowery ’00, Christopher St. John ’01, ’09, Katie ’00 and Jon Louis

Vin Motta, Matt Farrell ’13, ’15

CCU IN SEATTLE

Our first-ever alumni and friends gathering in Seattle on March 8, held in conjunction with the baseball team’s appearance in the Seattle Baseball Showcase in T-Mobile Park, featured guests from coast to coast. The Pyramid Alehouse served as the perfect location for reconnecting and networking.

Sherry Johnson ’96, Sunnie Malik ’16

Maureen Jordan, Teresa Burns

Diane Sanders ’05, Kristy O’ Brien ’08

Sue Gomez, Nick Twigg

Amanda and Rob Walker

Robert Wingate, David Sage ’85, Wren McMeekin ’07, Chris Johnson

Kayla Johnson ’06, ’14, ’15, Wayne White ’92

Andrew Nevitt ’10, Brian Bunton, Alyssa Englebrecht ’10

Carlos ’09 and Tanayia Figarella

Luis Lopez ’94, John Vrooman

NEW YORK SENIOR SHOWCASE

Drew Hardy ’14, Jackie Irving ’14, Drew Taylor

Erica Patton, Caitlen Patton ’16

Robin Russell ’85, Justina Adorno ’13

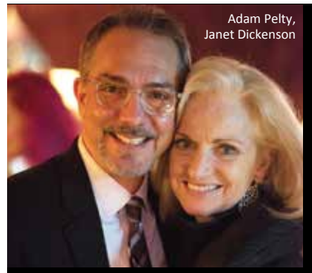
SENIOR SHOWCASE

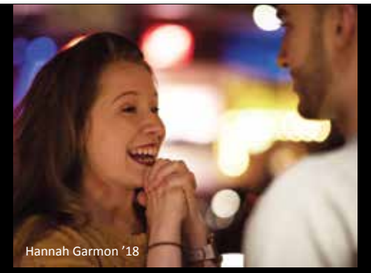
The Thomas W. and Robin W. Edwards College of Humanities and Fine Arts and the Department of Theatre entertained alumni, students and friends following the annual Senior Showcase performance in New York City on March 12.

Macy Lanceta, Amelia Dobbs

Guy Bannister, Maggie Mayeaux ’17, Kaleb Allen ’17, Rhett Hanenkratt ’17

Brandon T. Snider ’99, Hannah Coffman, TJ Little, Kevin Kane ’98


Adam Pelty, Janet Dickenson


Hannah Garmon ’18

Emily Peiffer ’17, TJ Little, Kevin Stites

Brett Klock, Sophia Kider ’18, Izabel Dorst ’18

Emma VanDeVelde, Zach Montou, Justina Adorno ’13, Hannah Coffman, Maggie Renfroe, Sophie Goron

Meagan Sharp ’16, Jordan Sharp ’16

Class Notes

BOOTS AND BRONZE ALUMNI EVENT

Robert '78 and Renee Smith, Renee and Lex Gardner

Devin Parks '08, Kelly Moore '05, Leigh Anne Gaskins '98, Cheryl Honeycutt

BOOTS AND BRONZE

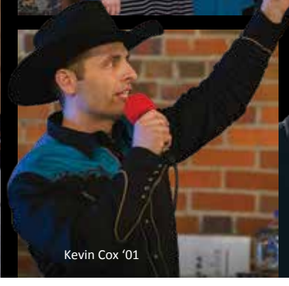
The third annual Boots and Bronze event was held at the Conway Farmers Market on March 17. Alumni and friends enjoyed a barbecue buffet, craft beer tasting, music by RetroGrade and a reverse raffle. Proceeds support the CCU Alumni Association Endowed Scholarship Fund.

Brian Bunton, Kayla Johnson '06, Stan Parker '83

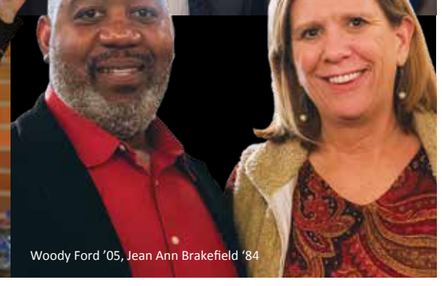
Chrissy Mays '99, Ashley Setzer

Boots and Bronze Planning Committee

Ronda and Scott DeHollander



Kevin Cox '01



Woody Ford '05, Jean Ann Brakefield '84

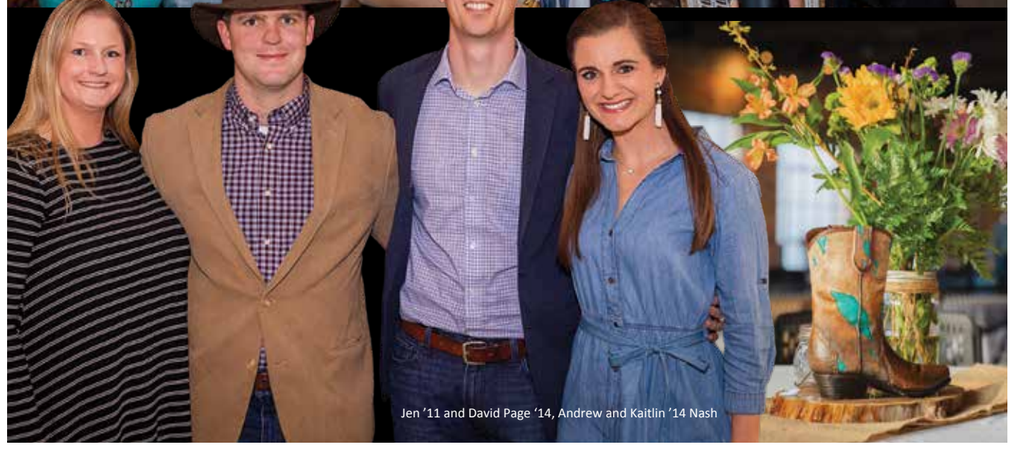
Kevin '01 and Leanne Hagen

Chad Lily, Crystal Leoffler, Ken and Ali Santiago, Ashley Adams, Dan Trudeau

Eddie and Stephanie '09 Bushong

Jill Shelley '17, Courtney Willoughby '04

Jenna and Gene Jazwinski



Jen '11 and David Page '14, Andrew and Kaitlin '14 Nash

‘Persistent faith in me’

Norman names scholarships for professors who inspired him

Robin Russell, Josh Norman and Linda Kuykendall

Pro football star Josh Norman has named endowed scholarships for two of his favorite professors as part of his recent $1.5 million gift to Coastal Carolina University.

The Robin E. Russell Scholarship will support students in the Department of Theatre, and the Linda P. Kuykendall Scholarship will support students in the Department of Communication, Media and Culture. A third scholarship is the Joshua R. Norman Walk-On Student-Athlete Endowed Scholarship.

“Professors Russell and Kuykendall were the foundation of my educational experience while I was a student at Coastal Carolina University,” Norman said. “I have never forgotten their willingness to understand who Josh Norman truly is, and I wanted to give back to my two most important professors. Their persistent faith in me is why I wanted to honor them with the scholarships in their names and for their departments.”

Russell is an associate professor of theatre in the Department of Theatre. She joined CCU’s faculty in 1995 and has directed countless theatre productions.

“It has always been my goal to be a strong advocate for every student who walks through my door,” Russell said. “One of the many joys of teaching is to learn from each of my students. From Josh, I learn humility. I am so humbled and overwhelmed by this beautiful honor.”

Kuykendall is a senior instructor in the Department of Communication, Media and Culture. She has taught speech and communication at CCU for 32 years. Kuykendall pioneered the structuring of the communication major at CCU and has been instrumental in its growth.

“I feel honored and privileged,” Kuykendall said. “It’s heartwarming to know Josh wants to help students academically. Coastal Carolina University clearly had an impact on his academics. It wasn’t just football.”

Norman’s donation is the largest gift ever given to the University by a former Chanticleer student-athlete. A majority of his gift has been designated for the Brooks Stadium expansion project, which includes increasing seating capacity to at least 20,000 and adding luxury suites and an upper deck to the west side of the stadium. In recognition of his philanthropic generosity, CCU announced during Homecoming 2018 that the athletics field house at the stadium has been named the Marrio and Josh Norman Field House, after Josh and his brother, Marrio, who also played football for the Chanticleers.

“Through Josh’s example of philanthropy, we’re reminded to always reach back and lend a hand to assure the success of others,” Russell said. “Josh is a beautiful soul who will undoubtedly end up a star on the field and the stage.”

Boeing grant supports veterans transition program

An $80,000 grant from Boeing of South Carolina will fund the Boeing Skills to Lead – Veterans Career Transition Program through the Wall College of Business.

“The Boeing Skills to Lead – Veterans Career Transition Program will help veterans achieve better job placement and career development by helping them understand how to transfer their military skills to the civilian workforce,” said Gregory Nance, director of veterans services at CCU.

The program consists of a two-hour orientation and five development modules, culminating with two hours of one-on-one coaching. Veteran participants will receive the latest information about techniques to succeed as a leader, practice the applications of techniques through case study and role play, and discuss how to transfer learned skills to the civilian workplace. Specific modules include: understanding leadership, understanding yourself; using power and influence; negotiating; performance management; and working in teams.

The program is highly individualized and includes a detailed self-assessment of one’s own leadership strengths and weaknesses, the establishment of a personal development plan, and personalized coaching so that veterans will be able to understand how their various skills will translate to different settings. Facilitators include experts in veterans’ transition to the civilian workforce as well as experts in organizational leadership.

Participants will be recruited through CCU’s Office of Veterans Services. Retired military enrolled at CCU are also eligible as well as spouses of active military members and veterans. Those who successfully complete the Boeing Skills to Lead – Veterans Career Transition Program will be awarded a TEAL Belt in Leadership from the CCU’s Executive Development Program. Program graduates will have access to additional services through the University’s Career Services Center.

Since 2010, Boeing has invested more than $37 million in nonprofit organizations across South Carolina.

WIPL receives grant from Newman’s Own Foundation

Women in Philanthropy and Leadership (WIPL) for Coastal Carolina University received a $20,000 grant from Newman’s Own Foundation, the independent foundation created by the late actor and philanthropist Paul Newman. The grant supports WIPL’s annual Women’s Leadership Conference and Celebration of Inspiring Women, which empowers women by offering opportunities for business networking, powerful engagement, inspiration, and personal and professional growth.

“Newman’s Own Foundation is helping to fulfill Paul Newman’s dream of positively impacting the lives of others,” said Terri DeCenzo, WIPL executive director. “We are extremely grateful to receive this generous grant from Newman’s Own Foundation. It is affirmation that what we are doing to empower women to make societal change is a worthwhile endeavor. It further allows us to transform the lives of students at Coastal Carolina University through scholarship and leadership development opportunities. Perhaps of greatest significance is sharing in the legacy of Paul Newman.”

More than 800 people regularly attend the Women’s Leadership Conference, which features inspiring speakers, informative panel discussions, engaging breakout sessions and the Tidelands Health Expo.

The Celebration of Inspiring Women recognizes and celebrates extraordinary women who have demonstrated visionary leadership in various disciplines and whose lives and accomplishments have had a substantive and positive impact in South Carolina and beyond.

Newman’s Own Foundation uses all net profits and royalties from the sale of Newman’s Own food and beverage products for charitable purposes. Since 1982, Paul Newman and Newman’s Own Foundation have donated more than $540 million to thousands of charities around the world.

Since its inception, WIPL has awarded 210 students more than $260,000 in financial support through a fully endowed scholarship and annual awards.

CCU Lifetime Giving Recognition

Coastal Carolina University greatly values the generous donations from alumni, faculty, staff, friends, parents, foundations and estates. Without your support, the University would not flourish.

Every gift is appreciated. Donors who have given $10,000 or more to Coastal Carolina University as of Dec. 31, 2018, are listed below under their respective Lifetime Giving Recognition Society Level. Please note total lifetime giving does not include pledges or planned gifts, but only actual funds received.

In addition to receiving membership into the following Lifetime Giving Recognition Societies, each CCU alumnus has also received an Alumni Association Lifetime Membership.

† an acknowledgement of the gift of more than 1,000 acres at Waties Island given for educational and research purposes by the estate of Anne Tilghman Boyce.
**Deceased*

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($10,000,000+)

TRUSTEES SOCIETY
($5,000,000 - $9,999,999)

Anne Tilghman Boyce*†
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Manuel and Mary Emily Vallarino
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Johnny and Kaki Williamson
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($500,000 - $999,999)

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Myrtle Beach Area Chamber of Commerce
Ocean View Memorial Foundation Inc.
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Mr. Michael D. Pruitt '84 and Mrs. Mary S. Pruitt
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Santee Cooper
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Patrick '95 and Susan D. Sparks
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Conway National Bank
Felburn Foundation
Mr. Dalton B. Floyd Jr. and Mrs. Linda B. Floyd '75
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Larry and Marian Lyles
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CCU President Emeritus Ronald R. Ingle and Mrs. Judith Ingle
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($10,000 - $24,999)

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