

College of Charleston Employee Newsletter

portico

Fall 2014



THE DOCTOR IS **in**

Clara Hodges is always around to lend an ear.



< FRIENDLY COMPETITION. We all know that Charleston is the friendliest city in America (as confirmed by *Conde Nast Traveler's* 2014 Readers' Choice Awards), but the Office of Admissions wants to prove that the College of Charleston is the friendliest campus, too. **Admissions has issued a campuswide challenge to adopt its newly implemented 10/5 rule**, which requires employees to smile at or make eye contact with campus visitors within 10 feet and to speak to visitors within 5 feet. So let's rise to the challenge - and to the ranks of friendliest campus in the nation.



COFFEE TABLE BOOK. Grab your books, a coffee and a table - all in one place. The new **Starbucks in the Addlestone Library** accepts all payment forms, including Dining Dollars and Cougar Cash and features an outdoor lounge area on Rivers Green.

REBOOT. We all need a little time to refresh and restore every once in a while - and so does our classroom technology. Over the summer break, **IT was busy** updating classroom computers; installing Microsoft Office 2013 Professional and solid state drives on Windows classroom computers for super-fast boot times (3x faster), lower noise levels, better reliability and lifespan and lower power consumption; and replacing old document cameras with new, user-friendly Lumens document cameras that enhance images' quality, resolution and clarity. After all, everyone should return from the break with a little more clarity!



FAIR SHARE. The Office of the Institutional Ombudsperson is a neutral resource for employees and students to come to with their concerns and problems. The **ombudsperson, Deni Mitchell**, is there primarily to listen and advise - not to take sides or disciplinary action. For more information, visit ombuds.cofc.edu.

JOIN UP. With the goal of building a sense of community among LGBTQ employees and allies on campus, the new **LGBTQ Faculty/Staff Coalition** welcomes LGBTQ faculty and staff members - as well as their partners, families and allies - to its social events on the first Wednesday of every month. The coalition hopes also to connect and collaborate with student groups and off-campus community groups serving the local LGBTQ community. The next event will be held on October 1 at 5:30 p.m. at the Tattooed Moose. For more information, contact Tammy Ingram at ingramt@cofc.edu or Melinda Mead Scharstein at scharsteinm@cofc.edu.



ALL THE HUBBUB. In the first four months after its launch in May, the College's comprehensive news hub, **The College Today**, was viewed nearly 300,000 times by a total of 72,325 users. With news releases, articles, videos, photos and social media featuring events, programs, facilities and people who make up the College community, *The College Today* is a one-stop shop for staying connected and up to date on everything CofC. Get the latest, submit story ideas and subscribe to the weekly e-newsletter at today.cofc.edu.



COLLEGE of CHARLESTON

ON THE MARK

THE COLLEGE'S NEW LOGO HAS ALREADY MADE ITS MARK ON CAMPUS AND BEYOND. With all academic and administrative departments and offices using the new graphic and the word mark - together and unmodified - the College will present a consistent and coordinated image. Keep in mind

For more information and to download the Logo Standards Guide, visit marcomm.cofc.edu and click on College Logo.

that the name of your specific school/department/office/program may be added to the logo to create your own unit-specific version of the logo. There's no need to order new business cards, letterhead or envelopes until your current supplies are gone, but when it's time, letterhead and envelopes with your specific department/office information can be ordered from apptcard.com/scco. For questions

about standards, to obtain logo files, to submit a design request or to request review of a design, email marketing@cofc.edu.

LEARN BY HEART. Fire and EMS is offering **free American Heart Association CPR/AED training courses** for faculty, staff and student workers through the end of the semester. The goal is not just to increase the effectiveness of the 40+ AEDs on campus (see fireandems.cofc.edu/aed/locations.php), but to certify at least 5 percent of the campus community in CPR and AED use



so that the College can be designated a HEARTSafe Campus by February 2015. To register for your free training, visit fireandems.cofc.edu/cpr/employee.php and use the promo code STAFF14. To set up a custom course for your group or department (minimum of six people), email ems-training@cofc.edu.



FIT IN. Faculty and staff can now get their workouts in at the **George Street Fitness Center**. All it takes is a \$50/period GSFC employee pass, and you have full access to all the cardio equipment, machines, weights, benches, lockers and showers any time during open recreation hours, except 3-6 p.m., Monday-Thursday. The current period ends December 17, and - pending review of the program's impact on students - the spring period is January 7-May 8. To get your GSFC employee pass, follow the Marketplace link to Facility Memberships on campusrec.cofc.edu and start using your Cougar Card for entry the very next business day.



< GROUND CONTROL. We have a breathtaking campus. That's pretty much a fact. Also a fact: We have the Grounds Crew to thank for a large part of our campus' beauty. A few more facts about the Grounds Crew:

- Last year they laid out **2,900 bales of pine straw.**
- Last spring they planted **188 flats of flowers.**
- Last May they released some **2,000 praying mantis.**
- In the last eight years, they **avoided using aerosol or fogging** for mosquito control.



HUNGER STRIKES. Satisfy that growling tummy no matter where you are at the College. With a new **P.O.D. Express** at the Harbor Walk West building on the eastern shore of the peninsula (Mon.-Thu., 7:30 a.m.-6 p.m.; Fri., 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m.) and another at the new College of Charleston North Campus (Mon.-Thu., 7:30 a.m.-6 p.m.; Sat., 7:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.), you're never too far from fresh, healthy and convenient options. From freshly prepared sandwiches and salads, grab-and-go snacks and even Starbucks coffee, these mini-markets have you covered.

COUGAR COURAGE. The College was recognized as one of the **seven bravest campuses for LGBT students in the South.** Created by Campus Pride and published by *The Advocate*, the list highlights schools that "stand out not just as good colleges, but 'brave spaces.'" The College's distinction as a brave space is thanks not just to its Gay-Straight Alliance's Second Chance Prom, its Safe Zone program or its plans to create a new Gender and Sexuality Equity Center, but to its students, faculty and staff, who last spring staged several nonviolent protests against the bill to cut its Campus Reads! Program budget because the program purchased and taught the homosexually themed book, *Fun Home*. The rabble-raising College brought to Charleston the musical adaptation of *Fun Home*, which is now on Broadway. It just goes to show, fortune favors the brave.

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED.

In an effort to accommodate future educational demands, the College's mission statement has been revised to designate the College of Charleston as a comprehensive university and the **University of Charleston, South Carolina**, as a research institution. This enables the College to offer doctoral programs should they be needed in the future. The statement does not change the undergraduate College of Charleston name or mission, but gives the institution the means to adapt to and meet the Charleston community's needs for graduate education and research through UCSC. In other words, it empowers the College to take higher education a little bit higher.



CONNECT WITH THE OUTDOORS. Thanks to the **24 wireless access points** that have been installed across campus, everywhere from the Cougar Mall to Patriots Point, we can now enjoy the beauty of our campus grounds and still stay connected to the College network. So, go ahead, step outside to connect with nature *and* the network!

NEWS BRIEFS

APPLAUSE

The *Princeton Review* named the College one of the best institutions for undergraduate education in its 2015 list of **The Best 379 Colleges**, and Charleston was one of its **Top 10 College Towns.**

The College was named one of the nation's **top 30 colleges for studying business abroad** by *Business Research Guide.*

The College received a \$75,000 award for research and technology development from **NASA's Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research.**

The College of Charleston campus was named one of the **Top 10 Best College Landscapes on the East Coast** by LawnStarter.com.

Community Pride Inc. Charleston County awarded the Captain Pride Award to the **Office of Sustainability** for its excellence in environmental stewardship practices.

The **Avery Research Center for African American History and Culture** received a \$75,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Arts to produce a film about the life of VertaMae Grovesnor.

The College's **International Cross-Curricular Accelerator for Technology (I-CAT)** received a \$250,000 S.C. Department of Commerce grant.

NerdScholar named **Chris Korey** (academic experience/biology) as one of its 40 Under 40: Professors Who Inspire.

PERKS

Employees are eligible for discounted tickets to the **South Carolina Aquarium** through February. When purchasing tickets online, use the promo code cofc14, or you may present the promo code at the aquarium's ticket window.

Affordable Travel of Orlando offers employees several discounts on **Orlando parks, lodging and travel.** To explore the deals, visit orlandovacation.com/discounts and enter CofC, or call 866.463.0412.

YourLocalSecurity.com is offering employees a **free security system and a \$100 Visa gift card** with the purchase of alarm monitoring services and a \$499 customer installation charge. For more information, call 855.540.1503 and mention that you are a College of Charleston employee.

Employees are eligible for **SunTrust at Work**, a comprehensive banking and benefits program. For more information and to sign up, visit suntrust.com/suntrustatwork or call 866.849.3483 and use the membership identification code 88389.

Several **local restaurants**, including Taziki's on King St. and the Swamp Fox Restaurant in the Francis Marion Hotel, offer discounts to College employees. Carry your Cougar Card at all times.

MEMOS

The College's **Boundless Campaign** is seeking photos of what *Boundless* means to you. Submit photos to lorenzj@cofc.edu. On November 1, the College is celebrating the launch of its historic \$125 million comprehensive fundraising campaign. Stay tuned for details on a faculty/staff event coming this fall.

COFFEE HOUR

SAVE THE DATE

OCTOBER 10

PORTICO COFFEE HOUR

Enjoy a cup of coffee, some breakfast treats and the company of the other people who call the College "work." The first 10 people to drop in will get a *Portico* mug and a T-shirt with the College's new logo.

8:30-9:30 a.m.
Liberty Street Fresh Food Company, Faculty/Staff Dining Room
Info: theportico@cofc.edu

NOVEMBER 16 & 17

FIRST HOME BASKETBALL GAMES

Come and support your Cougars under new head coaches Candice Jackson and Earl Grant. Go Cougs!

2:00 (women's team) on Sunday
7:00 (men's team) on Monday
TD Arena

Info: CofC Ticket Office, 3.2632
athleticstickets@cofc.edu

DECEMBER 1

SOTTILE HOUSE TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY

Get your picture taken with Santa, watch a performance by the ECDC students and enjoy some holiday treats and tunes.

4:00-5:30 p.m.
Corner of Green and College ways
Info: Alexa Thacker, thackera@cofc.edu, 3.6673



A Short Walk to the Harbor

You know it's down there – a straight shot down Calhoun Street, less than a mile away from your office. And they say it's nice: the College's newest, most modern facility. And yet – out of sight, out of mind – you haven't taken the 15-minute stroll to check out **Harbor Walk** for yourself.

Here's a sample of what you're missing: fresh and airy classrooms, labs and faculty offices in Harbor Walk West for the departments of biology and physics and astronomy during the renovation of the Rita Liddy Hollings Science Center and, in Harbor Walk East, state-of-the-art classrooms, research labs, student workspaces, a conference room and faculty offices for the Department of Computer Science. And views – *really great views*.

"One reason people come to the College is for its beauty, its incredible views and its waterways," says Alyson Goff, the College's project and space manager. "This is just one more way to give them that. The College is growing, and this is going to be another iconic part of our campus."

Designed to be an extension of campus, the buildings are on a seven-year lease and are easily accessed by foot, bike and the CARTA shuttle, which has increased its frequency and now offers multiple pickup points. So, come see for yourself! 📍



FULL OF LIFE

The first time **Patrick Harwood** drove through the gates of Magnolia Cemetery, it was like discovering a whole new world. He'd lived in Charleston for 18 years, but – suddenly – it all seemed new again.





Patrick Harwood's book, *In the Arms of Angels: Magnolia Cemetery - Charleston's Treasure of History, Mystery and Artistry*, is available at the College of Charleston Bookstore and on Amazon.



Photos courtesy of Patrick Harwood.

It was spring break 2008, and the adjunct communication professor was tired of grading midterms. He needed to do something outside – stretch his legs, take in some fresh air. He packed up his camera and headed up Meeting Street, and stumbled into this enchanting, expansive marshside burial ground.

Walking among the graves, Harwood was mesmerized by the cemetery's grand burial monuments, as well as its natural beauty and wildlife. He couldn't help but start taking pictures. And he did the same thing a week or so later. And then the next week, and so on, most often concentrating his lens on the birds that make the cemetery and surrounding wetlands their home.

During winter break 2010, Harwood realized he had taken photos of more than 40 species of birds – enough to fill a book. Less than a year later, he published *The Birds of Magnolia Cemetery: Charleston's Secret Bird Sanctuary*.

Harwood sold hundreds of books. Yet he still felt his work was not done. Magnolia Cemetery kept calling him. So he kept visiting, kept taking pictures and, this past spring, he published a second book, *In the Arms of Angels: Magnolia Cemetery – Charleston's Treasure of History, Mystery and Artistry*.

Harwood's book celebrates the cemetery's beauty as well as the fascinating lives of many of its inhabitants. Within Magnolia Cemetery lie many South Carolina politicians, judges, writers and Confederate officers and

soldiers. The crews of the Civil War submarine *H.L. Hunley*, including the sub's namesake, Capt. Horace Lawson Hunley, are also buried here.

"It kind of became the 'it' cemetery, if you will. It set the standard high," says Harwood, whose book was published with the help of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences.

Opening in 1850, Magnolia Cemetery was part of America's rural cemetery movement in the 19th century, when people pushed for the creation of picturesque, spacious cemeteries outside of America's crowded cities. The cemetery possesses a morbid, stone-and-Spanish-moss-laced beauty on par with more famous historic Southern cemeteries in New Orleans and Savannah. Here, ponds, dirt trails and flowering shrubs and trees surround the cemetery's monuments and tombs, many of which feature elaborate Victorian designs and ornate ironwork. The cemetery and its landscape are so beautiful that many Charlestonians once took a trolley from the city to a stop close to the cemetery gates for weekend picnics on its grounds.

Still today, it is frequented not just by families and friends of those buried there, but also by picnickers, history buffs and people just needing to stretch their legs and get some fresh air.

People like Harwood – who still returns regularly, and is always pleasantly surprised to keep on discovering something, or someone, new. 📍

GOING THE

Extra Mile

You don't drive 75 miles to get to a job you don't like – a job you don't believe in, a job you don't *absolutely love*. You have to get something special out of your work to drive that far – and you must provide something just as special once you get there.

And **Clara Hodges** certainly does. Her commute from her home in Walterboro is just the start: Once on campus, she applies that same commitment, that “whatever it takes” attitude, to everything she does.

“I love my job and I love the College, so I come to work and do my best,” says the administrative assistant to the provost. “I take on the day’s tasks and do whatever is needed, and I don’t like to leave before I know everything is taken care of. That’s my job security.”

It’s safe to say that Hodges’ job is secure. In her 23 years at the College, she has proven her dedication to and pride in not only her job, but also her office and the greater campus community.

“Our office is the backbone of the academic divisions. We have a very important role on campus, and I am very proud to be a part of that,” Hodges says. “I feel that anything that goes out of academic affairs is a reflection on me.”

And this extends beyond the confines of her own office: Hodges considers herself a representative of the College as a whole.

“I see my role as a pillar or post on campus for the people who are looking for information about the College. I see myself as a source of information both off and on campus,” she says. “My mom has a habit of telling people, ‘If you want to know anything about the College of Charleston, ask Clara – she knows everything there is about it.’ And I try to live up to that. I try to be

a wealth of information. I take pride in my knowledge of the College. So I’m always trying to learn. And I try to make the College better than it already is.”

And, ask any of the thousands of people she works with on any given day, and they’ll tell you that Hodges and her helpful can-do approach make the College a better place.

“I really appreciate the people I work with. I form so many relationships with people on and off campus, so customer service is the key,” she says. “You have to learn how to listen. You have to learn how to observe.

You have to learn to think about a resolution. And, if you don’t have a resolution, you have to figure out how can you get that issue resolved. If you can’t deal with the many facets of personality here – on and off campus – you can’t do this job.”

Fortunately, Hodges is what they call a *people person*.

“I love to talk. I enjoy meeting people. I just like to know people’s

backgrounds and who they are. I like to extend my hand and put a face with the name,” she says, adding with a laugh: “Sometimes I think of myself as Lucy (from *Peanuts*) with her psychiatry booth. People just love to talk to me. And it’s a wonderful feeling that they think enough of me to call and ask me my opinion. I really just like helping people – that makes me so happy. It warms my heart.”

And there it is: that special thing that makes those 75 miles worth all the traffic, all the gas and all the time spent on the road. Sure, Hodges loves her job, takes pride in her workplace. But, ultimately, it’s that heartwarming feeling that drives her to campus every single day. 📍

“I really just like helping people – that makes me so happy. It warms my heart.”





Outside Agent

WHEN BRUCE FLEMING GRADUATED FROM HIGH SCHOOL IN BRITISH COLUMBIA, HE EARNED A GIFT THAT WOULD TRANSFORM HIS LIFE: A COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP FROM THE KELOWNA GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB. This gift enabled Fleming to play collegiate golf, as well as begin an academic career that led to his bachelor's, master's and doctorate degrees from Washington State University.

And it's something that has stuck with Fleming ever since.

Today, in his spare time, he operates Play Collegiate Golf, helping talented, college-bound high school golfers identify the best universities for them to accomplish their academic and athletic goals.

High school student-athletes can become so preoccupied with their athletic pursuits in college that they give short shrift to the academic environment of a university. Thus, Fleming offers these students consulting services focusing on the scholarly aspect of a student-athlete's life.

"My goal is to help them forecast where they want to play, with their academic goals in mind," says the Office of New Student Programs' director of experiential and residential programs, who is also the director of iCharleston, which helps students study abroad their first semester of college. "I try to fit what their goals are into several different options across the U.S. and Canada."

He also tries to emphasize to his young clients and their parents just how much of a commitment in time and energy is expected from a varsity college athlete.

"It's like a job," Fleming says of the



constant practice, playing, training and traveling endured by college athletes. "Playing collegiate golf requires a commitment to a coach, a team and an institution that is much different than playing junior golf tournaments as an individual."

Always mindful of the scholarship help once extended to him by his hometown country club in British Columbia, Fleming gives two in-kind scholarships each year to an American and a Canadian, donating 30 hours of his time to help those golfers discover the perfect college for play and study.

"It's the reason I went back and started this business," says Fleming. "It's a good way to give back."

And maybe even transform a life.



One for the Books

THE SEARCH FOR A GOOD PLACE TO GRAB A COFFEE, SPREAD OUT YOUR NOTES, PLUG IN YOUR LAPTOP AND GET TO WORK JUST GOT A WHOLE LOT EASIER.

With the recent improvements to the **Marlene and Nathan Addlestone Library**, there is more study space than ever before - not to mention more power locations, more study rooms and generally just more flexibility and efficiency. Oh, and a Starbucks coffee shop on the first floor.

It's all part of the library's overhaul that made room for the South Carolina Historical Society's collections on the third floor, which moved the entire stacks collection into new mobile shelving on the second floor. In addition, the Special Collections Reading Room was expanded, three new study rooms were built and 200 seats for students were added, including 50 in the new high-tech lecture/learning classroom on the third floor.

"The new flexible classroom is an inviting space that can be used as a high-tech classroom or open study space," says John White, dean of libraries, "and the high-efficiency shelving gives us room to grow the print collection for the foreseeable future."

Indeed, there's plenty of room for growth for everyone now. So, go ahead: Grab a seat!



**GUESS
WHAT?**
FALL 2014



IF YOU THINK YOU KNOW WHAT THE OBJECT in the above photo is and where it can be found, send your guess to theportico@cofc.edu by Friday, October 17. The names of those who submit the correct answer will be entered into a drawing for a free lunch for two at Fresh Food Company. The contest is open to all College faculty and staff.



LAST ISSUE

CONGRATULATIONS TO RICK KRANTZ, chief of Fire and EMS, whose name was drawn at random from those staff and faculty members who correctly guessed that the object in question was the post indicator valve behind the J.C. Long Building at the St. Philip Street entrance to the R Lot. The PIV, which has been there since 1970 and still serves as the main control valve for the fire sprinkler system in the J.C. Long Building, features a little window that indicates when the valve is open or shut.



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