Stepping Up to the Plate

The faculty/staff intramural program that Gene Sessoms and Freddie Lipata built — and how the ball got rolling with a surplus of pedometers

How Brian Fisher is inspiring the College to become a model of sustainability

Why Mark Sloan and Cass Runyon are over the moon
Oh, stop your blushing. It’s OK to revel in some well-earned praise about the College of Charleston community (and to agree with the proud comments it makes). In case you haven’t heard, the College, its students and its staff and faculty are really pretty awesome. Here’s what people are saying:

“CofC exercise program initiative a win-win for all. Program offers learning experience while helping residents be healthy”
- Headline in the Post and Courier concerning the College’s C-PARCS program and how College students give exercise lessons to the disadvantaged

“The College of Charleston School of Business has built a solid reputation for providing a relevant, rich learning environment for both students and professionals alike.”
- Dick Wilkerson, chairman and president of Michelin North America, on selecting the College to deliver a global logistics and transportation professional development program to its employees and affiliates

“Concentration, in every sense of the word, seems her stock-in-trade. That, and using her hours to the full. How else to explain such accomplishment?”
- Post and Courier book reviewer Bill Thompson on Carol Ann Davis, associate professor of English, whose second volume of poetry, Atlas Hour, was published by Tupelo Press this summer

“Charleston is a vacation destination for many people, so it is cool to live in a place other people are only lucky enough to visit. The beach is 10 minutes away, and on the weekends the campus is deserted due to all the beach bums and surfers who couldn’t get to the beach fast enough after class on Friday afternoon.”
- Biology student Andrea in a Huffington Post article on the 10 best places to go to college (the College is No. 2)

**ROLDEX**

**NAME:** Adrianne Davis

**TITLE:** Administrative Assistant for Building and Equipment Maintenance

**AT WORK, CALL FOR:** Anything to do with technology

**AT HOME, CALL FOR:** Advice, to vent, gift selection … pretty much anything

**LOVES:** Law & Order: SVU

**HATES:** When people crack their knuckles, or any other bones (“Gives me the creeps!”)

**QUIRK:** Has a room filled with over 150 Mickey Mouse items, mostly plush: The biggest is 41” tall.

**CAN’T LIVE WITHOUT:** Jeans and spaghetti

**HOLIDAY PLANS:** Relaxing with family and friends, wedding planning and working her Mary Kay business
WE ALL HAVE IDEAS FOR MAKING THE COLLEGE AN (EVEN) BETTER PLACE, AND NOW THERE’S JUST NO EXCUSE FOR NOT HAVING THEM HEARD. In September, President P. George Benson formed a provisional staff advisory committee that is meant to bring staff members’ concerns and suggestions to the College’s leadership team.

“Through the Staff Advisory Committee, all non-instructional employees at the College will finally have a voice in the governance of the institution,” says committee chair Marcia White, senior director of marketing for admissions and academics. In addition to contacting one of the provisional committee members individually (see left) or logging onto sac.cofc.edu to give input confidentially/anonymously, “staff can share and comment on information through the staff listserv (staff@cofc.edu) or send their ideas, recommendations, complaints and opinions to the committee at sac@cofc.edu,” White says.

And, this coming March, staff will have the opportunity to vote for their representatives for the 2012–13 academic year. Beginning July 1, these new representatives will begin their terms and have the ear of President Benson and other College administrators.

“I believe the creation of a College of Charleston staff organization is long overdue,” says Benson. “I hope and expect the Staff Advisory Committee will play an important role at the College.”

The S.C. Arts Commission named Lee-Chin Siow, associate professor of music, one of its four 2011 Individual Artist Fellows.

Christian Coseru, associate professor of philosophy, was awarded a NEH Summer Institute grant to stage a two-week institute on Buddhist and contemporary philosophical perspectives of consciousness.

The Charles Stewart Mott Foundation awarded Terry Peterson, senior fellow in the School of Education, Health, and Human Performance, a grant to study the impact of the nationwide 21st Century Community Learning Centers.

Chair of the music department Steve Rosenberg earned the S.C. Arts Commission’s Elizabeth O’Neill Verner Award for his commitment to establishing the significance of early music.

The Arthur W. Page Society granted its 2011 Distinguished Service Award to Tom Martin, executive-in-residence in the communication department.

President P. George Benson earned the 2011 Milliken Medal of Quality from the S.C. Quality Forum.

NEWSBRIEFS

The College was named one of “the best and interesting institutions in the nation” in the Fiske Guide to Colleges 2012 and No. 11 among the regional universities in the South in the U.S. News and World Report’s 2012 Best Colleges Rankings. It was also included in the 2012 edition of the Princeton Review’s “The Best 376 Colleges.”

Page Keller, director of the Center for Excellence in Peer Education, was appointed the College Reading and Learning Association’s IMTPC (International Mentor Training Program Certification) coordinator, a three-year position.

Jazz Artists of Charleston awarded its 2011 Jazz Citizenship Award to Karen Chandler, associate professor of arts management.

Biology professor Phil Dustan earned the Royal Geographical Society’s prestigious Ralph Brown Expedition Award for his pioneering coral reef research in Bali.

Biology professor Gavin Naylor received a $2.2 million NSF grant to study the evolution of sharks, rays and chimaeras.

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THE PROVISIONAL STAFF ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- Tom Casey, Human Resources (nonvoting, ex officio member)
- J.J. Corbett, Information Technology
- Herbert Frasier, Physical Plant
- Stan Gray, Marketing and Communications
- Silvia Youssef Hanna, Academic Advising
- Enid Idelsohn, Jewish Studies
- John Inman, Health Services
- Aron Kuch, Financial Aid
- Cheryl McClary, Physical Plant (nonvoting, ex officio member)
- Brian McGee, President’s Office (nonvoting, ex officio member)
- Anne McNeal, Academic Experience (secretary)
- Marlene Navor, Athletics
- Robert Reese, Public Safety (co-chair)
- Jacob Stoudenmire, Riley Center
- Sheila Vanek, Development
- Marcia White, Marketing and Communications (chair)
- Marlene Williams, Grounds
BARNET GARDEN: Despite delays due to structural issues underneath the neighboring John M. Rivers Communications Museum, the overhaul of the courtyard at 58 George Street is scheduled to be complete by the end of this month. A gift to the School of the Arts from Bill and Valerie Barnet ’84, the new Barnet Garden will feature a small stage for performances, a brick patio that can be covered for various occasions, plenty of green space and – along the perimeter – benches and student sculpture. The garden is meant to invite people in for a little artistic relaxation.

5 COLLEGE WAY: Used as the contractors’ field office during the 2009–10 exterior repairs to Randolph Hall, Towell Library and Porters Lodge – and undergoing its own construction since last March – 5 College has been busy. Due to some major structural deficiencies – which have now been repaired – the estimated completion date for the School of Humanities and Social Sciences’ new space has been delayed until March. It will be used as faculty offices for the English and communication departments.

72 AND 74 GEORGE STREET: Construction at 72 George is well under way and should be complete by February, while work at 74 George will begin around the new year and is expected to finish up over the summer. Despite their different schedules, the buildings’ renovations are almost identical: All historic materials will be restored, exterior wheelchair ramps will be added, ground-floor bathrooms will be made ADA compliant, roofs will be replaced and new mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems will be installed. Though the former will feature a conference/media room on the ground floor, both buildings are dedicated almost entirely to faculty offices. English faculty will reoccupy the two buildings for the fall 2012 semester.

CENTER FOR SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH CONSTRUCTION: Preliminary work has begun to reconfigure the second floor of the BellSouth Building for the new Center for Social Science Research. Designed to facilitate collaborative research, the 7,000-square-foot state-of-the-art space will centralize many of the social science research labs already on campus and will include cognitive testing labs, data collection rooms, a relocated archaeology wet lab and a computer lab for data analysis. Construction is expected to begin in earnest by the end of the year and wrap up by August 2012.

DANCE STUDIO CONVERSION: What was once one big room (Room 245) in the Robert Scott Small Building is approaching the end of its transformation into five smart classrooms, two offices and a seminar classroom. Tentatively scheduled for completion at the end of this month, the classrooms should be available for the spring 2012 semester.

24 BULL STREET: Ongoing repairs to the front porches at 24 Bull involve replacing damaged columns, railing and balusters, as well as installing a new metal porch roof and addressing any structural damage that is found. Work will continue until the end of this summer.

TD ARENA MARQUEE: Construction began last month for the lighted, scrolling TD Arena marquee that will be installed in front of the former Carolina First Arena on Meeting Street early next year.

298 MEETING STREET: The Gibson-Fronenberger House (student housing) is undergoing some general maintenance and repairs to its 187-year-old structure. This will continue through the summer.
NO MORE HUNGRY COUGARS ROAMING AROUND OUR CAMPUS! The all-you-care-to-eat City Bistro has taken over the old a-la-carte dining location, nearly doubling the square footage in the process. With its solid hardwood floors, bamboo countertop facings, entertainment area (complete with a flat-screen TV and cozy chairs) and bar and outdoor seating, the new restaurant has a whole new feel - and a whole new, upscale menu. The four primary stations are the brick oven for pizza and pasta (which has a walk-up service window, to be opened for late-night patrons soon), a Mongolian grill, a soup/salad/build-your-own-sandwich bar and a dessert station with a smoothie bar (also with a walk-up service window to open soon) - and, those who are on the run have a to-go option, too. Last but not least, the facility is equipped with a compressor for food waste and uses recycled, fully compostable service ware - so, even though the building footprint is bigger than the old Hungry Cougar, its carbon footprint is smaller!

AS THE PROUD HOST OF THE FIRST COCA-COLA FREESTYLE MACHINE on any college campus in the Southeast, the Stern Center Food Court is keeping the soft drinks flowing. And, talk about better flow: Its new cash wrap counters not only have space for more grab-and-go items and an additional cashier, they help reduce rush-hour bottlenecking. Smooth!

WITH TWO (FRESHLY CARPETED, PAINTED AND FURNISHED) WORKROOMS where peer educators hold office hours, group meetings and one-on-one meetings with their mentees, Suite 106 in the Education Center is the ideal spot for the Center for Excellence in Peer Education. “We love that the office is centrally located on campus,” says Page Keller, the center’s director. “Our peer educators feel at home and relaxed, and they stop by even when they don’t have to be here.”

IT’S FEWER THAN 10 METERS FROM THEIR OLD SPACE, but Cougar Card Services’ new space on the first floor of Berry Hall (formerly Clyde’s store) makes a world of difference. “The renovation plan incorporated our specific needs to maximize efficiency,” says Cougar Card Manager Barbara Hallberg. “We thought we would miss the wall of windows that overlook Calhoun Street, but the new, bright and cheerful surroundings are even better.”
With its eye-catching color scheme, there's no chance of the Grice Marine Lab’s new ocean-going laboratory being lost at sea. The mobile lab, which arrived to the College this past spring, can be transported across the world via cargo ship and easily placed on board research vessels. Best of all, its transport doesn’t require the disassembly of equipment inside, like a gas chromatograph or cytometer. As Grice post-doctoral investigator Jenny Davis says, the van “functions as a home-away-from-home laboratory.” And that allows for oceans of discovery!

You can help - if you act fast. Through FAST (Faculty/Staff Assisting Students in Trouble), faculty and staff can report their concerns about students who seem to be suffering from academic, financial or personal problems that are keeping them from succeeding at the College. To access the online report form, visit undergrad.cofc.edu/fast/ or log onto MyCharleston, choose either the Faculty or Employee tab and click on the FAST link. The form will go to the appropriately specialized College staff. The earlier the concern is expressed, the more likely the student is to succeed.

Now that the days are short and it’s getting dark early, take the time to mosey over to the Cistern Yard and take in the full effect of the lighting system that was installed during last year’s landscaping overhaul. With more than 90 new fixtures – some accenting the branches of the majestic live oaks, some highlighting the features of the sizable buildings – the Cistern Yard takes on a whole different mystique. It is simply glowing.

Soy burgers. Soy milk. And now soy ink? Believe it or not, in this case, the soy version is actually better than the real thing. Soy ink sometimes costs less than petroleum-based ink and almost always produces brighter, sharper colors – thereby using less ink and lasting longer. Soy ink is made largely from U.S.–grown soybeans, while normal ink is made largely from foreign oil. Soy toner cartridges are recyclable and the normal toner cartridges are non-biodegradable and produce VOC toxins. Soy toner does take longer to dry, but it produces the same result as petroleum ink – at least on paper. To join the growing number of offices on campus that are making the switch to soy toner cartridges, contact Sean Van Hannegeyn in procurement at 3.3849 or vanhannegeynsm@cofc.edu.

Ever feel like you’re being watched? Yeah, there might be a reason for that. There are now nine (and counting) cameras peering down on us as we innocently go about our business – and they’re live streaming the footage 24/7 for everyone to see at webcams.cofc.edu. But the webcams are hardly an infringement on anyone’s privacy. They actually provide a great service – to prospective students, who can see classes meeting outside on the Cistern Yard; to parents, who can watch their students at Quidditch practice on Rivers Green; and even to you, when you want to leave the office right when your ride pulls up to the George Street entrance to Physicians Promenade. If you’re interested in sponsoring a webcam or know of a place that would be perfect to have one, contact Andrew Bergstrom, the man behind the webcams, at bergstroma@cofc.edu or 3.5294.
The Cave Bear at the Natural History Museum

can finally feel at home now that he has his very own cave. Meant to simulate typical bear caves found throughout Central Europe, the cave is made almost entirely out of Styrofoam. “They basically created the shape with Styrofoam, went through and rounded out the edges and then put on three layers of paint,” says Jim Carew, the museum’s curator. “When the paint dried, all these different colors started coming through. It was really an amazing process.” This 30,000-year-old cave bear, for one, couldn’t be happier with the results.
As the College’s new sustainability guru, Brian Fisher is fond of the three Rs. No, not reduce, reuse and recycle. Restoring, reconnecting and reshaping – as in, restoring the world, reconnecting its people and reshaping the discourse on sustainability.

They’re lofty goals, but not beyond reach, says Fisher, political science and environmental studies professor and – as of August – the College’s director of sustainability. Referring to his new position as a mission rather than a job, Fisher is hardly fazed by his newfound responsibilities. The way he sees it, if we all do our part, anything is possible.

“So much about sustainability is at the local level,” says Fisher, who feels certain he can count on his colleagues to help make the College a model sustainable campus. “What we want to do is inspire people and empower them to get engaged. We have to inspire each other. We become the example.”

Fisher himself was first inspired to become the example when, disillusioned with his career as a product liability lawyer, he quit his job, sold his belongings and backpacked across the world for two years. After witnessing how the majority of the world lived in poverty and without adequate sanitation, he returned to the United States with a commitment to change the way we all live and think, hoping to erase the disconnect between so many Americans, their global brothers and sisters and, of course, Mother Earth.

And that’s exactly what he has been doing in the classroom for the past two years: changing the way his students think and live, inspiring them to take
action. Now in his new role, he’s taking this commitment to inspiration to the next level – and he envisions the College becoming the example for sustainable campuses everywhere. But first, says Fisher, we must identify what’s at stake for the College in an honest, candid manner – taking time to investigate and analyze the core threats to sustainability both on camps and in the community at large.

That investigation process began with the 2010 Greenhouse Gas Audit and the 2011 Campus Transportation Study. But it’s not over yet; as Fisher says, this first phase involves piecing together a vision for the College’s long-term sustainability. Phase 2 (forming a committee of College faculty, staff and administration) and Phase 3 (analyzing the greenhouse gas audit and cultivating a strategic sustainability action plan) are scheduled for next semester, with Phase 4 (drafting the plan) following in summer 2012 and Phase 5 (review and dissemination of the plan) that fall.

In the meantime, Fisher has created a blog and will be launching a monthly sustainability speaking series, sending out environmental scorecards, setting up water refill stations, among other things. But, he insists, although incorporating tangible climate goals like becoming carbon neutral is important, addressing the College’s needs must go way beyond recycled rainwater and composting.

“Climate change is an outcome or consequence of imbalanced systems (human and biophysical). We need to address that imbalance, not any one consequence,” he says. “It’s time to define sustainability as a philosophy: What are the critical variables in this system that cause inequity and injustice – and, on the flipside, generate hope, faith and connection?”

It’s a lot to consider, for sure. But, the way Fisher sees it, that’s what it’s going to take to carry out his favorite three Rs.

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2010 GREENHOUSE GAS AUDIT STATS

:: We used over 82,000,000 kWh of energy*
:: Our total carbon footprint was 77,564 metric tons (of CO₂e**): 6.7 metric tons per student (Furman: 13.4, USC: 8.6, Clemson: 7.1)
:: Our No. 1 source of total CO₂e emissions was purchased electricity (59%)
:: Our No. 2 source was commuting (15%)
:: Study abroad air travel represented only 6% of our total emissions
:: Paper was only 1% of the total

* in fiscal year 2010 alone; **CO₂e = CO₂ equivalent

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“So much about sustainability is at the local level. What we want to do is inspire people and empower them to get engaged. We have to inspire each other. We become the example.”

- Brian Fisher, director of sustainability
A League of Their Own
There they stood in the dugout. Some were in shorts, others in sweats, even a few in actual baseball pants. A couple of serious-looking players, squinting through dark-rimmed glasses, pounded their fists into well-worn gloves, knocking off years-old closet dust. Others, somewhat bemused, examined their borrowed gloves as if discovering a mutant limb. This motley crew’s multicolored, multi-logoed hats may not have matched, but their smiles were uniform.

Smiles – and laughter. A lot of laughter. Together, that was really the final score to all the games played this past June and July on Tuesday and Thursday evenings at the Patriots Point softball field.

The idea for the nascent faculty/staff intramural program had emerged earlier from a dilemma of sorts – a problem with pedometers. Gene Sessoms, director of Campus Recreation Services (CRS), had received 30 from State Farm, and – in hopes of inspiring a few people to get out and exercise – he offered them to staff and faculty. When more than 30 people (165, to be precise) wanted to take advantage of this little donated device, however, Sessoms took it upon himself to accommodate. Finding spare moments here and there to contact various State Farm agents in the area, he eventually gathered enough for everyone. “The good vibe I got when I hand-delivered those 165 pedometers across campus propelled me to do something else,” he explains.

That something else was to bring people together. Sessoms and his assistant director, Freddie Lipata, saw on a daily basis the wonderful role that intramural sports played in students’ lives. Why not take that model and apply it to the faculty and staff?

“For many of us, we don’t really have a reason to interact with our colleagues out of the office. We thought maybe some outside activity might make new connections with people across campus.”

– Gene Sessoms, director of CRS (right), with Assistant Director Freddie Lipata

During the summer, more than 100 campus members – from admissions to athletics, English to IT – delivered some big-time hits, made some dazzling catches and endured some cringe-worthy errors, all while creating their own field of dreams.

The fun continued this fall, when – every Friday night – eight teams representing various College offices tied on bowling shoes at the Charleston Rifle Club and turned this private facility into an extension of campus. Folks from the Lightsey Center tested the bowling skills of chemistry professors, while public safety officers promised tickets to anyone who beat them.

Ticket or no ticket, what Sessoms and Lipata have created – which goes far beyond the scope of their daily duties and responsibilities – is more than an ad hoc program. It’s common ground and a unique chance for camaraderie that all faculty and staff can truly enjoy.

Editor’s note: Stay tuned for announcements from CRS about the next bowling season, slated for March, and the summer softball league, starting in June.
The Many Phases of the Moon

Few things are both so familiar and so foreign, so inescapable and so inaccessible, so expected and so extraordinary, unremarkable and unimaginable, universal and unique. But the moon! The moon is a glowing ball of all of those things: so automatic, it determines our measurements of time; so awesome, it inspires our superstitions, our culture and our arts.

“Our relationship to the moon is unlike any other relationship,” says Cass Runyon, associate professor of geology (who also answers to Moon Babe). “We see it every day – from our backyard, from our kitchen window – but it is still mysterious and captivating. And, like our distant ancestors, we are still enchanted.”

“It’s our sister sphere,” adds Mark Sloan, director of the Halsey Institute of Contemporary Art, “but, even though it’s right there in front of us all the time, there’s still this certain kind of romance and mystery to it. I think that’s what’s intriguing to both the scientific spirit and the artistic spirit.”

And it was that intrigue that brought these two spirits together to marry the sciences and the arts into one multidisciplinary, multi-institutional, multi-year project, informally dubbed the Moon Project. It was two years in the making, but – with funding from NASA and the NASA Lunar Science Institute – the pair traveled to Johnson Space Center (JSC) in Houston, Texas, last summer to gather specimens for the first exhibition, From the Moon: Mapping & Exploration.

“We were on a quest,” says Sloan. “What we wanted were cool things.”

And, between the Apollo 15 moon rock sample, the twice-worn-to-space astronaut’s glove and the stunning lunar imagery – much of it never before seen – they certainly found some cool things.

“I was pretty much geeking out the whole time,” Sloan readily admits, noting that holding a piece of Mars and visiting the Cosmic Dust Lab were among his favorite parts of the trip. “It was really neat, too, to see what a rock star Cass is there.”

Indeed, Runyon has worked with JSC off and on since 1982 (“many moons!” as she says). She is currently part of the science team for NASA’s Moon Mineralogy Mapper (M3) and the lead scientist for education and public
outreach, which involves hosting nationwide workshops to help educators weave the moon into their curricula.

“Education: That is always my goal,” she says.

And, of course, it’s also the goal of this exhibition, which kicked off last month with an educational “Moon Fest” that featured stations where school kids could make craters by launching objects into a “kiddy pool”/moon surface, see how much they would weigh on different planets and moons and walk out a scale model of the solar system.

“We’re hoping to inspire others to want to know more, to inspire our next generation of lunar scientists,” says Sloan.

But the exhibition, which will continue through March 3, 2012, isn’t just for kids. The main exhibit, located on the second floor of the School of Sciences and Mathematics Building, leads visitors through the history of man’s understanding of the moon.

“It literally goes from Galileo to Google Moon,” explains Sloan. “It’s amazing how far we’ve come, but it’s almost more amazing how we got here.”

In addition to the artifacts from JSC, there are pieces collected from France, Germany, New Zealand, Japan and even right down the road: an alumnus, who wishes to remain anonymous, has loaned the exhibition his world-class collection of lunar maps, on display in Special Collections at the Addlestone Library.

“The focus here is the history of our understanding of the moon – how technology has changed our perceptions through mapping and imagery,” says Runyon, noting that a project book will be published by W.W. Norton in 2013 and, that fall, a second exhibition will come to the College: this one examining “the moon through the lens of the arts and humanities.”

Sure enough: There’s always another side to the moon.

Editor’s note: The exhibition is open Mon.–Sat., 11 a.m.–4 p.m. Tours are available. Stay tuned for additional events relating to this project: moon.cofc.edu.

From the Moon: Mapping & Exploration: Organized by the Halsey Institute of Contemporary Art and the Department of Geology and Geosciences, School of Sciences and Mathematics at the College of Charleston. Produced by the Halsey Institute and the geology department and the Northeast Planetary Data Center at Brown University. Funding and support by NASA, Moon Mineralogy Mapper and the NASA Lunar Science Institute, with the cooperation of the Lunar Planetary Institute, Houston, Texas, and the College’s School of the Arts, Addlestone Library and School of Sciences and Mathematics.
At the College, we expose students to a broad spectrum of knowledge through our liberal arts and sciences curriculum. However, do we possess the cultural literacy to understand the current world of our students?

Here are five things you should know to start filling in your own gaps of knowledge (or at least make you seem a little more with-it):

**A new beach/party game**

**Washers** - this portable game of skill is similar to Horseshoes and involves throwing washers into a cup

**How to hear new music**

**Spotify** - this music streaming service has everything for the music lover (and it’s free for the basic package)

**An app you need**

**Instagram** - this app allows you to transform your camera phone images into something beautiful, retro and cool

**Textese* (the language of texting)**

**ASAIK** = “as soon as I know” or **1drfl** = “wonderful”

**Five musical artists/groups you should know**

Fleet Foxes, Odd Future, J. Cole, Lil B and Bon Iver

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*Textese* challenge:

⇒ o b4 I 4get, 2moro will b a gr8 day @ d CofC.

“Oh, before I forget, tomorrow will be a great day at the College of Charleston.”

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**GARDENER’S PICK**

**Musical Notes Clerodendrum**

*CLERODENDRUM INCISUM*

With its delicate white buds resembling musical notes, this small bushy shrub is decidedly apropos for its locations on campus: the N.E. Miles Early Childhood Development Center’s music garden and the School of the Arts’ new Barnet Garden (see page 4). Whether planted in full sun or shade, the buds open on and off all year, developing into showy flowers with red stamens. This easy-to-grow evergreen is the perfect landscape plant for short hedges, in small groupings or simply on its own.
The College’s campus is full of award-winning faculty and staff. They win Fulbrights, prestigious research grants, SoCon accolades and industry recognition for the amazing jobs they do. And that’s all great, but we at the Portico, want to hand out a different type of award – one that celebrates the everyday life and personality of our campus, the things that traditional awards just miss or overlook. We present to you the first recipients of the Porty Awards. (Think high school superlatives meet the Oscars!)

And the winner is . . .

porty Awards

GRAND PORTY AWARD
Most likely to still wear shorts on the coldest day in Charleston:
Herb Silverman
Mathematics

MOST LIKELY TO INTRODUCE HERSELF AS “GODDESS OF THE UNIVERSE” TO ANYONE, ANYTIME:
Dorinda Harmon
Admissions

MOST LIKELY TO GET YOU TO OPEN UP A THESAURUS:
Reid Wiseman
Biology

MOST RECOGNIZABLE VOICE ON CAMPUS:
Mike Robertson
Media Relations (“the Cougar Alert guy”)

MOST LIKELY TO HAVE TO EXPLAIN HER JOB TITLE, DAY AFTER DAY, AND DISPEL ANY CONNECTION TO A FAMOUS RACEHORSE:
Heather Alexander
Faculty Secretariat

We encourage you to nominate someone for a Porty Award – just make sure the category is creative, specific and fun. Each recipient will receive an official Porty Award certificate to proudly display in their office or home. Send your nominees to Alicia Lutz at lutza@cofc.edu.
Congratulations to Silvia Youssef Hanna, academic adviser in the Academic Advising and Planning Center (AAPC), who correctly guessed that the object in question was the large-scale painting displayed on the second floor of the Lightsey Center. The piece, titled *Clutter* (2010), was submitted for the 2010 AAPC Art Matters Show by communication major Rebecca Jankowitz.

If you think you know what the object in the above photo is and where it can be found, send your guess to lutza@cofc.edu. The names of those who submit the correct answer will be entered into a drawing for a free lunch for two at the Fresh Food Company. The contest is open to all College faculty and staff.