

# portico

March 2011

How a cow  
managed to save  
**David Battey's** life

Why **Jarod  
Charzewski** thinks  
it's time for change

## Reaching Out for Hope

Edie Cusack and the REACH Program give  
new hope to students with disabilities



## GARDENER'S PICK

# CHINESE FRINGE FLOWER, *LOROPETALUM CHINENSE VAR. RUBRUM*

**ON CAMPUS:** Located directly behind the Addlestone Library on Rivers Green, at the south end of the Albert Simons Center for the Arts and along the west side of the fence between the Simons Center and 44 St. Philip Street (dwarf variety, Purple Pixie).

The striking foliage and showy blooms of the pink-blooming loropetalum selections are sometimes called raspberry plants and bear names like Purpleleaf, Purple Majesty, Fire Dance, Zhuzhou Fuchsia and Razzleberry.

**DESCRIPTION:** Part of the witch hazel family, the pink-flowering loropetalum is a fast-growing evergreen shrub with cultivars that can reach 15' tall and 10' wide. It has a loose, open growing habit, and its drooping, tiered branches create graceful layers of soft, purplish green foliage with golden, bronze, olive, maroon or ruby hues that intensify in the fall. The showy, ribbon-like flowers are often prolific in the spring, though they also bloom sporadically throughout the year.

**TIPS:** Use in mixed-plant borders or as foundation plants, underplantings, screens or hedges. Plant in loose, well-drained soil (once established, it will tolerate drought) and in sun to partial shade. The more sun the plant gets, the heavier it will bloom; selections with darker foliage need more sun to retain color. Remove lower limbs to create a small tree. Propagate from seed or cuttings.

## BOOK CLUB

# Reading from the Same Page

**IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW OLD WE ARE**, how extensive our education or what life experiences we've had: We all have a lot to learn. Fortunately, we all have a lot to share, as well.

That's the idea behind the campuswide **International Author Series Book Club**, which invites students, faculty and staff to read and discuss books on a monthly basis from Sept. to Nov. and Jan. to April. With books, a meeting space and brownbag dinners supplied by the Office of Multicultural Student Programs and Services, the club is open to anyone and requires no commitment.

"You can't force-feed books," says Angela Cozart, associate professor of teacher education and the club's facilitator. "People are only going to read what they want to read."

Thus, upcoming title selections range from students' requests (e.g., *Act Like a Lady, Think Like a Man* by comedian Steve Harvey and Shanae Hall's counter-arguing *Why Do I Have to Think Like a Man?*) to cultural portraits (e.g., Kathryn Stockett's *The Help* and Lisa See's *Shanghai Girls*). And, in the past, the club has read books like *One Hundred Years of Solitude*, *The Kite Runner*, *Things Fall Apart* and *The Color of Water*.

"We read books by people from different cultures, ethnicities and genders," says Cozart, a first-generation Puerto Rican-American who grew up in a multicultural neighborhood. "Not everyone is exposed to diverse ways of thinking; this is one way of building an understanding between different cultures and perspectives."

It isn't just the authors who offer different points of view, of course; the faculty, staff and students all add to the discussion.

"That's what I love about talking about literature - different people get different things out of it," says Cozart. "Everyone has something to contribute."



To suggest titles for the International Author Series Book Club, or to obtain your copy of this month's book, *Act Like a Lady, Think Like a Man*, contact Angela Cozart at [cozarta@cofc.edu](mailto:cozarta@cofc.edu) or 3.6353.



## Cow at Heart

### IT DOESN'T MATTER IF YOU'RE BART SIMPSON

himself, you can't tell **David Battey** not to have a cow, man!

It is, after all, what saved his life – and, without it, he probably wouldn't last a day. That's because, despite his trim physique, this man is a cow at heart – or, more precisely, at heart valve.

Before Battey got his bovine pericardial heart valve in 2004, he'd struggled with heart disease for decades, his own aortic valve becoming more and more calcified and causing pieces to break off into his bloodstream and make it impossible for his heart to pump.

"It was like being in a car wreck in really slow motion," says the information technology coordinator for the Office of Research and Grants Administration, who was finally rushed into surgery when his doctors also discovered a balloon aneurysm on his aorta. "My days were numbered. You have to have pretty much given up to let them rip open up your chest like that."

They opened his chest on Friday, Aug. 13. When he first woke up on Aug. 16, it was his 18th wedding anniversary – and the beginning of the rest of his life. He'd missed out on three days of flooding, power outages and fallen trees caused by the weekend's back-to-back tropical storm and hurricane. But – with his new heart valve rebuilt from a cow's pericardial tissue – he vowed those were the last days he'd miss out on.

"I do not take a day lightly," Battey says, his voice cracking. "I know that I owe my life to that poor calf – and I try to live life for the both of us. I think of that baby calf every day."

Quite frankly, it's hard *not* to think of cattle when you're in Battey's office. His bookshelves are overloaded with black-and-white heifers, and his walls plastered with photos and posters of cows of all colors and types.

But Battey doesn't need illustrations or figurines to remind him of cows.

"I really do have an awareness that I am part cow," he says, adding that he hasn't eaten beef since his surgery. "I think I am more appreciative of each life that I encounter now – human or furry. I am so happy to see my wife every day – her love is what I appreciate most. I know I am closer to my pets than ever before, too."

With four dogs and two cats, Battey is an enthusiastic animal lover, for sure. But – having grown up loving the 50–60 cows on his family's Texas farm – it's safe to say that cows will always have a special place in his heart.

"If I could get the zoning," he smiles, "I'd raise a cow in a heartbeat." 

# Within Reach

STUDENTS DISCOVER NEW  
POSSIBILITIES AT THE COLLEGE

**V**oices crack. Faces flush. Shoulders heave. Eyes well up and noses run. Around here, a box of tissues doesn't stand a chance.

"There are more tears shed in this office ...," muses **Edie Cusack '90**, director of the College's REACH (Realizing Educational and Career Hopes) Program. "I doubt there's anywhere else on campus that sees the kind of tears we see."

Fortunately, these are the good kind of tears: tears of hope, gratitude and triumph. These are the tears of parents who thought their children would never function on their own, of students who had given up not just on their dreams, but on life altogether. These are the tears of people with a new sense of worth and a new vision for their future. For the students in the REACH Program – coming to the College changes everything.



With their intellectual disabilities no longer a barrier, these students will spend the next four years attaining academic knowledge and the social, career-development and independent-living skills they need to become responsible, productive members of society.

“The most important thing they’re learning is that they *do* have the ability to learn, study and grow,” says Cusack, who came to the College to get the program started a year ago this month. Since then, the College’s REACH Program has become the prototype for programs of its kind. “I get calls on a regular basis from other schools saying, ‘You’re the best in

the country, how can we be like you?’ It’s really amazing, considering how new we are.”

The program officially launched seven months ago; its first six students arrived on campus in August.

“They were very much overwhelmed when they first got here,” recalls Cusack, adding that the hardest thing for most of the students was learning how to budget their time and get to class on time, just like every other first-year student. “But, for many of these students, the biggest lesson is self-confidence and believing in themselves.”

For the first two semesters, the students are enrolled in learning communities that link two courses with an integrated theme. With preparatory pre-teaching sessions and debriefing sessions sandwiching each class, the students are eased into their academic studies; beginning the second year, they are free to choose their courses.

Still, what students learn outside the classroom is just as important to the college experience. As one of the state’s two four-year programs of its



All students must learn how to budget their time and do their homework. But REACH students also must learn to believe in themselves.

kind that includes on-campus living, the College’s REACH Program gives its students the truest college experience possible. Living together with typical students, an undergraduate residential adviser and graduate assistants in the REACH House on Coming Street, the REACH students are able to learn basic life skills in a supportive, interactive environment. They are also supported by academic and social mentors.

“I think the mentors get just as much out of the experience as the students with disabilities,” says Cusack. “They are learning to look past the disability and to see the person. They are taking

the disability out of the equation, and that’s all I really want. I want disability just not to matter.”

As for the REACH students themselves, they are finding their disabilities matter less than they thought – especially in terms

of their futures. Not only do they learn interview strategies, communication skills and résumé preparation, but they also participate in both on- and off-campus internships in their fields of interest.

“One thing we try to do is develop realistic career goals,” says Cusack. “If you think about it, that’s what any school does for any student: help them work toward realistic career options.”

Sometimes this means reining in ambitious dreams of becoming surgeons or politicians; other times it’s just a matter of educating – as was the case of the REACH student who wants Cusack’s job when she graduates from the program.

“I want to do what you do,” the student told Cusack. “I want to give an education to the people no one else would give to.”

It’s enough to bring a tear to the eye. 



## It's (All) About Time

**I**t takes time. It takes movement. It takes energy, awareness and attention. And – thanks to Jarod Charzewski and Liz Vaughn '09 – time-based media has everything it takes for its big moment in Charleston this month.

The **Receiver Time-Based Media Festival** – which is bringing together 28 artists from all over the country and even Canada for a weekend dedicated solely to time-focused art – is the realization of an idea that Charzewski and his former student sat on for years. Last summer, however, they found renewed momentum and managed to pick up some interns and sponsors to get the festival going.

“It’s really something that the community can get behind, because you’re experiencing it

For more information about Receiver Fest, the visiting artists and the schedule of events, visit [receiverfest.com](http://receiverfest.com). Select events listed on the calendar, [opposite page](#).

together,” says Charzewski, assistant professor of studio art, explaining that Receiver Fest defines *time-based media* as any work of art that requires time for the maturation or completion of the art experience for its viewer. “Time-based art makes an experience. You’re not just looking at a painting of a landscape or a portrait or a sculpture – you’re watching it unfold over a period of time.”

From March 10 to 13, a variety of events, lectures, installations, kinetic sculptures, performances and video screenings will be unfolding all over Charleston: at the Redux Contemporary Art Center, the Children’s Museum of the Lowcountry, the Old Jail, the main branch of the Charleston County Library and campus locations like the Marion and Wayland H. Cato Jr. Center for the Arts, the John M. Rivers Communications Museum (including in Charzewski’s basement-level studio) and the nook between College Lodge and the Halsey Institute of Contemporary Art. With some performances continuing 24 hours a day, the weekend will certainly be action packed.

“It’s an exciting time – and you’ll see acts that never come here,” says Charzewski, adding that every event is free to the public. “You know, Spoleto is great in scale and cost, but this is something that’s small in both – and that means this is full of really accessible and worthwhile projects.”

The project was certainly worthwhile of Charzewski’s time, energy and attention – and he hopes it makes Charleston more aware of time-based media.

“As much as the arts is part of Charleston’s culture, time-based art is neglected – it’s left out of the circle,” he says. “I want Charleston to broaden its definition of art and embrace all art forms.”

It is, after all, about time. **P**

# march



**SUNDAY**      **MONDAY**

**>> With two T3 Personal Mobility Vehicles** now in their fleet, Public Safety is riding down crime full speed ahead! These three-wheeled scooters are sturdier than two-wheeled Segways, and - with a maximum speed of 20 mph - they go a lot faster, too. "The vehicles are a force multiplier in the sense that they can transport officers quicker than they are able to run," says Lt. Nestle Grimes, adding that because they allow officers to cover more ground more quickly, patrol coverage increases - plus, "they give officers a height advantage in large crowds." And, with an extra battery pack for 24/7 travel, these zero-emission, all-electric vehicles cost only about 10 cents a day to use. Sweet ride!

**8**  
**MULTIMEDIA WORKSHOP**  
 HDR Digital Photography  
 6-8 p.m.  
 Education Center, room 207  
 Info: Dave Brown, 3.8168, browndd1@cofc.edu

**9**

**THURSDAY**

**3**  
**FACULTY/STAFF TOWN HALL MEETING** with President Benson and the Executive Team, 4-5 p.m.  
 Stern Center Ballroom  
 Info: Ron Menchaca, 3.3395, menchacar@cofc.edu

**FRIDAY**

**4**  
**TV:** Tim Fennell, producer and director of television and video production, and his family appear on *Family Feud* 1:30 p.m. on Fox 24  
 Info: Tim Fennell, fennellt@cofc.edu

**SATURDAY**

**5**

**10**  
**RECEIVER FEST**  
 Opening celebration, featuring David Bowen  
 6-9 p.m. Redux Contemporary Art Ctr (136 St. Philip)  
 Info: Jarod Charzewski, receiverfest@gmail.com

**11**  
**RECEIVER FEST**  
 Video screenings, etc., featuring Elizabeth Stehling '05  
 5-9 p.m.  
 Old Jail  
 Info: Jarod Charzewski, receiverfest@gmail.com

**12**  
**RECEIVER FEST:** Performance, featuring Lisa Walcott  
 10 a.m.-4 p.m.  
 Comm. Museum  
 Info: Jarod Charzewski, receiverfest@gmail.com

**15**  
**IRISH FILM FESTIVAL:** Screening/discussion of *Michael Collins*  
 6-8 p.m.  
 Addlestone Library, room 227  
 Info: Joe Kelly, 3.4815, kellyj@cofc.edu

**16**

**17**  
**IRISH FILM FESTIVAL:** Screening/discussion of *The Crying Game*  
 6-8 p.m.  
 Robert Scott Small Building, room 235  
 Info: Joe Kelly, 3.4815, kellyj@cofc.edu

**18**

**19**



There's no doubt that the College is a nurturing place. You can see it in the azaleas' vivid blooms, you can hear it in the students' confident voices, you can sense it in the staff and faculty's empowered pursuits: At the College, things don't just grow, they *thrive*. This semester's amateur photography contest is your chance to show off not just the flora and fauna cultivated across campus, but the artistic perspective and creative talent thriving here, too.

Submit your photos of the natural beauty of the campus grounds for a chance to win (prize TBA). The winning photograph will be printed in the June/July issue of the *Portico* - so, go ahead: Give it your best shot!

For more information, including how to submit your photography, visit [portico.cofc.edu/photocontest](http://portico.cofc.edu/photocontest).

**Thanks to everyone who participated in last month's readership survey.** This is *your* newsletter, and we appreciate all of your support, feedback and suggestions. To see the results, please visit [portico.cofc.edu/results](http://portico.cofc.edu/results).

**26**  
 Student/Faculty/Staff (3 ON 3)  
**BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT** (half-court games)  
 10 a.m.-4 p.m.  
 Silcox Center  
 Info: Ryan Small, 3.1833, smallr@cofc.edu

**31**  
**DANIEL BIDDLE (AUTHOR) LECTURE:**  
*Tasting Freedom*  
 7-9 p.m.  
 Addlestone Library, room 227  
 Info: John White, 3.8016, whitej@cofc.edu

GUESS  
WHAT?  
MARCH 2011



LAST  
ISSUE



**CONGRATULATIONS TO BARBARA HALLBERG**, manager of Cougar Card Services, who correctly guessed that the object in question was the bottle tree in the courtyard of the Caroline and Albert Simons, Jr. Center for Historic Preservation at 12 Bull Street. A student built and installed the sculpture last year at the request of Diane Miller, administrative assistant in the Historic Preservation and Community Planning Program. 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](mailto:lutza@cofc.edu) by Friday, March 11. The names of those who submit the correct answer will be entered into a drawing for two tickets to the theatre department's production of *Pride and Prejudice*.

COLLEGE of  
CHARLESTON

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## NEWS QUIZ

- A** Where does the College rank among the top Peace Corps-producing medium colleges and universities?
- B** Where did the College get the \$125,000 to buy its new Yamaha CFX Concert Piano?
- C** Which honor did the S.C. African American Heritage Commission recently bestow to Karen Chandler, associate professor of arts management?
- D** What did Jennifer Baker, assistant professor of philosophy, recently talk about on the national radio show, *To the Best of Our Knowledge*?
- E** The Sottile Theatre is being renovated to improve its what?
- F** When is the deadline for submitting staff training applications (available on MyCharleston, under "Employee Forms") for summer 2011?
- G** What information is included in the Cougar Card mini statement found under "My Accounts" in MyCharleston?
- H** Employees who fill out the consent form on MyCharleston (under the "Employee" tab, click on "Banner Self Service," then "Employee," "Tax Forms" and "Electronic W-2 Consent") will no longer receive what in the mail?

**A. 11** B. An anonymous donor **C.** The 2010 "Preserving Our Places in History" Individual Award **D.** Procrastination **E.** Acoustics **F.** March 15 **G.** Cougar Cash balances, Dining Dollar balances and a 60-day transaction history **H.** Paper W-2 forms