FOLLOWING THE DOCTOR’S ORDERS

IT’S EASY TO TAKE IT FOR GRANTED, TO ASSUME THAT it’ll always be there, carrying you through thick and thin, no matter how much stress, neglect and abuse it has to endure. Still, at some point or another, you have to give it the attention it deserves. It may be inconvenient, and it may be wearisome, but you’ll do it … because, well, this is your heart we’re talking about. You have to take care of your heart.

But you don’t have to tell the College twice: At first indication that the heart of campus was anything but the picture of perfect health, experts were called in, tests were analyzed and a comprehensive treatment plan was drafted to bring the Cistern, the fence around the Cistern Yard and the exteriors of Randolph Hall, Porters Lodge and Towell Library back up to snuff.

“It started as a small repair project – we were just slated to do some work on the shutters and windows of Randolph Hall,” says Amy Diaz Barriga, the College’s architectural design engineer. “But then, as more and more problems became apparent, we realized that there was much more in need of repair.”

That was in 2006. Since then, a team of architects, structural engineers, historical researchers and historic preservationists have conducted the most comprehensive study of the buildings’ historical forensics to date, compiling their findings and their recommendations into the four-inch-thick Conservation Master Plan.

Now, with the $3.7 million appropriated for the project in 2007, the College will begin tackling the signs of wear and tear this summer, eventually repairing the stucco, stone stairways, handrails, gates, window sills, windows, shutters, columns, caps and cornices.

“Repair is the key word here – we are just stitching up those areas of the buildings that need attention,” stresses Diaz Barriga. “We know it’ll take more than a bandage to do so, but if we do it now, it will save us more problems in the future.”

And, because most of the repairs are on the exterior of the building, the project should not infringe on the daily activities of the College community.

“We have kept the comfort and convenience of the faculty and staff as one of our top priorities,” says Monica Scott, vice president of facilities planning. “No one will have to change offices, and we are committed to keeping the lines of communication open so everyone is aware of what to expect, when.”

The first thing employees can expect is the erection of scaffolding, starting on the south side of Randolph Hall.

“We’ll keep the relevant people informed about the scheduling of scaffolding as soon as we know when it’s going up,” says Diaz Barriga. “It should affect most people minimally, and there will always be access to the buildings.”

As the project progresses, the campus community will be updated, and the buildings’ occupants will be notified specifically as work on their particular building approaches.

“The biggest change for the occupants of the buildings will be when they take out the windows – there will be plywood in the windows temporarily while the wood elements of the windows are being repaired,” says Diaz Barriga, explaining that the original glass will be replaced once it has been cleaned. “We know this will be inconvenient for those people, but we’ll be in constant contact with them to keep them posted throughout that process.”

Although the project should only take 9–12 months in all, the work must be done around the annual events held in the Cistern Yard (e.g., commencement, Spoleto concerts, etc.) and therefore could be spread over as many as three years.

“Considering that we’re fixing more than 180 years of deterioration, three years is not much time,” points out Diaz Barriga. “These are very old buildings – they are National Historic Landmarks, and it’s our job to take care of them. We take that responsibility very seriously.”

And rightly so: This is heart of campus we’re taking about – and you have to take care of your heart.
COASTING: Tracy Bates Is Along for the Ride

WE ALL HAVE OUR UPS AND DOWNS – though not quite like Tracy Bates does.

One minute he’s soaring sky-high, the next he’s going downhill fast. He’ll be on top of the world and then he’ll plummet more than 400 feet in less than four seconds. It’s been known to happen five, six, seven times a day. And, frankly, that’s on a good day.

“Nothing’s better than a day at the theme park, riding the coasters and just having fun,” smiles Bates, who tries to visit six, seven times a day. And, frankly, that’s on a good day.

“Nothing’s better than a day at the theme park, riding the coasters and just having fun,” says Bates, who tries to visit at least one theme park every other month – sometimes more. “We go whenever we can. It’s our way of getting away and letting loose.”

And for Bates, that means hitting the rides.

“I guess I count as an adrenaline junkie,” says Bates, who caught the roller coaster fever on Montu during his first trip to Busch Gardens Tampa Bay in 2000. “That’s what got me hooked. It’s a winding, twisty ride. It’s so much fun.”

Since then, he’s visited some 19 theme parks and ridden over 80 coasters – many, many times.

“I know all the sneaky little sections now,” says Bates, lab manager in the Student Computing Center in the Addlestone Library. “Coasters can really only fool you once. But they’re still fast and they’re still fun.”

And that’s exactly what he’s after.

“I like the speed. I like them to be tall and fast and smooth,” he says, adding that, out of all the rides he’s taken, his highest marks go to Millennium Force (Cedar Point in Ohio), which drops from 310 feet to 10 feet at around 95 mph.

“It’s not the fastest, but it’s still a fast coaster. And it’s silky smooth. It’s just fun – and that’s what I like: the fun,” he says, noting that, at two-and-a-half minutes in duration, it’s also a long ride, especially compared to Top Thrill Dragster (also at Cedar Point), which accelerates to 120 mph in less than 4 seconds and is completely over within 30. “It’s like being launched out of a cannon. It’s kind of a one-trick pony, but it’s still worth doing. Where else are you going to go that fast that quickly?”

The speed and G force that these coasters offer are certainly not things that most of us will experience in any other capacity – nor would we want to. But roller coasters give us all the thrills without the fear – at least that’s how Bates feels.

“I don’t know that I’ve ever been scared by a coaster,” he says. “I don’t think they’re scary. I think they’re fun. I love the experience.”

He loves it all: being heaved through mazes of steel, stepping out of the coaster onto shaky legs, even waiting on the ground in anticipation.

“Waiting in line, you’re taking in the experience, watching people’s faces when they get off, watching people in utter terror,” he says. “The rides are designed around the queue line – they want you to be entertained while you wait.”

Bates, however, typically enjoys front-of-line access, one of the perks to having season passes to his favorite parks. But, from time to time, he does stand in the line for the front car, his personal favorite car in the train.

“The back is faster, but I like to see where I’m going,” he says, adding that the various rides’ “sweet spots” are an ongoing topic in online roller coaster chatrooms, where coaster fanatics discuss rides and compare the different combinations of height, speed, inversions and G force.

“They get really into it. Who cares? I’m after fun. Just because it has five loops instead of six, is it five-sixths as fun?” Bates rolls his eyes. “I’m not that picky. I don’t need it to be fancy – I just need it to be fun.”

After all, Bates is just along for the ride.
THE LIGHT CLINKING OF THE HALYARDS against the aluminum masts. The gentle rustling of the furled sails in the breeze. The soft lapping of the water against the hulls. The brisk flapping of the mainsails in the wind.

These are the sounds that waft up the spiral staircase and into the bright, airy loft where Colin Bentley sits, leaning back in his chair and gazing out, over the marina, and onto the Charleston Harbor.

“I have a million-dollar view,” he says as he gets up and walks to the doorway, where he points out the postcard-perfect panorama of the Charleston peninsula. “People pay a lot of money for views like this.”

Indeed, what many people would pay for – a peaceful day on the docks or a pleasant afternoon on the boat – is precisely what Bentley gets paid for as the College’s primary sailing instructor and the dockmaster of its J. Stewart Walker Sailing Complex in Mt. Pleasant.

But – despite the prized views from his office and the natural soundtrack of the marina – things aren’t all seagulls and sunshine.

“It’s a lot of work out here – there’s always something that needs to be done,” says Bentley, who describes his dockmaster role as a one-man physical plant for the sailing complex and the entire fleet. “I do it all – repairs, maintenance, painting, carpentry, welding, whatever needs to be done. We have 50 boats, so there’s always something that needs to be repaired. The maintenance never ends.”

And, unfortunately – aside from the otters (whose bad-mannered bathroom habits have become the bane of Bentley’s job) – maintenance is at the bottom of the list of his favorite things.

“I’m a real hands-on guy – a fix-it guy. But I don’t enjoy that. The maintenance isn’t fun. It’s pretty repetitive,” he says. “But the people change each year. So, even though I’m teaching the same thing every year, the people I’m around change – I guess that’s why it doesn’t get old.”

And, considering that he’s been the dockmaster for 21 years, that’s saying a lot – especially since he took the job to hold him over while he looked for something that would use his master’s degree in underwater archeology.

But this isn’t the first time he’s gotten “stuck” at the College of Charleston. After five years in the Navy, Bentley came here as a student, but soon decided that he wanted to study underwater archeology – a program the College doesn’t have.

“I thought about leaving for another school, but I was living on Sullivan’s and paying $170 for rent … so I figured history would do,” laughs Bentley ’85.

That flexibility to shift unexpectedly – to come about, as dictated by the wind, letting things play out however they must – is exactly what’s made Bentley the man for the job.

“I’m flexible and can change gears for the different conditions, and not get frustrated about that,” he says, explaining that the weather controls everything he does, especially when he’s teaching. “Ideally, we’ll spend 85 percent of the time on the water, but there are a lot of times when we have to move it to the classroom. So I have to be flexible and have my lecture material ready. The water is a much more volatile environment than a classroom.”

But if the weather is the most challenging aspect of his job, students’ enthusiasm is the most rewarding.

“Having a student that really gets into sailing, that’s neat,” he says. “It’s a small percentage, but a handful of people get really into it and continue on with it. When you see that, that’s fun.”

And, of course, those million-dollar views aren’t all that bad either.

The College of Charleston Sailing Association offers non-credit sailing classes between April and August for $350. For more information, visit cofc.edu/sailing or contact Colin Bentley at 216.8450 or bentleyc@cofc.edu.

ON THE MOVE
The Strength and Conditioning office has moved to the Carolina First Arena, where a new practice facility will soon be available. “The space is going to be about twice the size of the old weight room,” says assistant director of strength and conditioning Joey Hannant, adding, “I think the only thing I’m going to miss about the old space is the parking.” Of course, that’s a small price to pay for the new space and the new equipment that will fill it. Any changes to contact information will be announced when available.

GARDENERS’ PICK

Oleander

AKA: Nerium oleander.
ON CAMPUS: Found at 22A Glebe Street and at the entrance of the WA parking lot on St. Philip Street.
DESCRIPTION: This evergreen shrub grows quickly and is carefree, hardy and tolerant of drought and even brief periods of freezing temperatures. Its narrow, dark-green leaves are attractive all year, and its showy, fragrant flowers – which range from white to shades of yellow, pink, salmon and red – will bloom from mid-spring into fall.

TIPS: To prevent businesst at the base, pull up unwanted suckers. Removing spent flowers before they form seed extends the bloom period.
To control shape and size, cut to your preferred height. Prune in late summer, cutting back just above the leave nodes, to encourage branching and blooming the following year. Caution children not to eat leaves or flowers and avoid burning clippings.
YVETTE LAMBRIGHT KNOWS THE importance of community. She knows that, when you reach out and support your neighbors, you’re not just empowering them, you’re empowering your entire community – strengthening its people, cultivating its relationships, broadening its resources and enriching its future. Another thing she knows: She can always depend on the support of the College of Charleston community.

She learned the extent of the College’s dependability when, in July 2007, she posted a message to the Faculty and Staff Listerv explaining that she had organized a back-to-school drive for Lowcountry families who couldn’t afford school supplies for their children, and she hoped to fill 500 bookbags with supplies. The response was outstanding: Backpacks, three-ring binders, dictionaries, crayons and compasses came flooding in from all over campus.

“I was totally taken aback by the response,” says the administrative assistant in the Ann and Lee Higdon Student Leadership Center. “It was wonderful.”

Perhaps the most notable response came from the Office of Accountability, Accreditation, Planning and Assessment, which decided to take Lambright’s back-to-school drive on as its annual pet project.

“We all wanted to donate to a cause, but we didn’t know which one,” recalls Karin Roof, director of survey research in the AAPA office. “Donating school supplies is a cause we all could afford to do, and something we felt we could all have fun doing.”

“It is a real added bonus that we are assisting with something that’s important to a member of the College community,” adds Ashleigh Parr, AAPA compliance officer. “Plus, you can’t beat the hug you get from Yvette when you drop off the supplies.”

Knowing that the AAPA office came together to support her – and, in turn, the greater Charleston community – couldn’t make Lambright happier.

“That was the whole goal – I wanted the community to get involved,” she says. “I love doing community stuff, so I was trying to get the whole community to participate. It just feels good to know that the community will step up to take care of each other.”

And Lambright has certainly stepped up – taking the initiative to start the drive and coordinating the entire effort for two years. This year she’ll continue her efforts, although she has given much of the responsibility to a local organization, Concerned Citizens of the Peninsula.

“I’ll still collect the supplies, put them into the bags and bring them to the pool party,” she says, explaining that the drive culminates every year in a pool party with food, a DJ and games. “It’s just a fun day for the kids – they’re happy playing in the pool – and, when the parents get that backpack at the end, they go away happy, too. For me, that’s the reward – everyone is happy and we’ve done something to help.”

And, of course, it’s not just about colored pencils and composition notebooks. It’s about reaching out and building that sense of community.

“The goal is to let the parents know that the community does understand and that we want to help,” she says, adding that she usually sets aside the College-donated supplies to show where they came from. “I think it’s important that they know that the CoC community cares.”

And it certainly does care – you can count on that.

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THE GIVING SPIRIT: Yvette Lambright Rallies for the Common Good

Yvette Lambright Rallies for the Common Good

The BATTERY Project – the College’s effort to implement a new suite of computer programs to improve its administrative operations – has reached a new and exciting phase. Thanks to the continued commitment and hard work of 132 members of the College community, the finance module will be the first of the new modules to go live this summer, with the final module scheduled to go live in December 2010. During this period, The BATTERY Project will affect the day-to-day operations at the College. You can help make the transition smoother by checking the affected offices’ webpages for the answers to your questions and respecting the stated timelines for processing your requests. For a complete list of affected offices and for more information, visit cofc.edu/battery.

UNDER CONSTRUCTION

- The new weight room, racquetball courts and practice court at the F. Mitchell Johnson Physical Education Center will be finished this month, and the new classrooms will be finished in July.
- The roof of the Marion and Wayland H. Cato Center for the Arts will be completed in June, as will the interior finishes on all but the fourth floor, where cast stone work and window installation will be finishing up in July.
- At the new science center, the roof and greenhouse were finished in May, and the HVAC installation began. Ceiling framing and exterior hardscaping are ongoing. The project is on schedule for a late-2009 completion.
- The interior demolition of Craig Cafeteria began in May and has just wrapped up, with almost all of the waste and debris being recycled or salvaged. The courtyard renovations have begun, and the new construction is about to begin.
- The construction contract for the temporary parking lot at 34 George Street (the old Great Wall Chinese Restaurant) should be awarded this month, for an August completion date.
SAVE THE DATE

THE PALMETTO STATE: THE MAKING OF SOUTH CAROLINA
Learn about the defining episodes in S.C. history and the importance of race relations in the state’s historical memory and cultural life.
When: Sat., June 27, 5–7 p.m.
Where: McKinley Washington Auditorium
Fee: None
Contact: Georgette Mayo, 3.7627, mayog@cofc.edu

WOMEN IN POLITICAL OFFICE WORKSHOP
Women who want to run for elected office or be part of a campaign will learn campaign fundamentals, including how to use technology to their political advantage. For more information and to register, visit c4women.org.
When: Sat., July 18, 9 a.m.–4 p.m.
Where: Education Center, room 116
Fee: $50 for College employees
Contact: Ginger Rosenberg, 763.7333, ginger@c4women.org

KIDS CHEER CAMP
The College’s cheerleading squad will teach children (ages 3-12) cheers, chants and dances at this one-day cheerleading camp.
When: Sat., Aug. 1, 9:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m.
Where: Carolina First Arena
Fee: $30/each for children of College employees
Contact: Ashley Ruthsatz, 557.8801, ruthsatz@cofc.edu

Robert Crout has spent more than 30 years getting to know the Marquis de Lafayette like few (if any) others do—and now it’s time for a faceoff. He’s going head to head not with the French military officer himself, of course, but with another Lafayette expert—and he’s doing it in the upcoming PBS documentary, Lafayette: The Lost Hero. The film, says WGBH International’s Lafayette factsheet, “is presented from the point of view of two characters—one French and one American—each obsessed” with how Lafayette’s life can inform us about French-American relations and our respective cultures. As the American “character,” Crout was interviewed extensively and will have a prominent role in the feature-length film, which is expected to air on public television this summer.

“When we started, the producers really didn’t know that much about Lafayette beyond the basic historical facts,” says the adjunct history professor. “As we talked and I could flesh out the real person for them, they could see why I was so enthusiastic about teaching people why he’s celebrated in so many places.”

Indeed, in places like Spain, Poland, South America and Algeria, Lafayette is the Defender of Liberty, remembered for expanding the ideals of freedom and equality that he first embraced in the United States.

“What interested him about the principles of the American Revolution was that these are not principles that apply just to Americans, but to all humanity. He believed the principles of life and liberty should apply to everyone,” says Crout, explaining that it was for such principles that Lafayette fought in the American Revolutionary War, and to those principles he dedicated the rest of his life. That, however, is just one area where Crout and his French counterpart disagree.

“Sometimes different people from different national backgrounds can look at the same historical figure and see different things—it’s just based on their perspectives,” says Crout, adding that a French version of the film is also in production. “I want to bring to both the French and American public a truer image of Lafayette, the public figure and the man.”

And if anyone’s up for it, it’s Crout.

NEWS BRIEFS: News You Can Use

• The following faculty members were honored at the 2009 Celebration of Faculty: Deborah Jeter, senior instructor of mathematics, Distinguished Teaching Award; Scott Peeples, associate professor of English, Distinguished Research Award; Michael Phillips, interlibrary loan coordinator and director of summer sessions, Distinguished Service Award; Diane Cudahey, associate professor of teacher education, Distinguished Advising Award; Elizabeth Jurisch, associate professor of mathematics, Distinguished Advising Award; Duncan Munro, senior instructor of biology, Distinguished Advising Award; Susan Farrell, associate professor of English, Distinguished Teacher/Scholar Award; Tom Gilson, head of reference librarian, Librarian Emeritus.
• David Desplass, associate professor of entrepreneurship, was selected as one of the Charleston Regional Business Journal’s 2009 Forty Under 40.
• College employees may purchase season passes to the theatre department’s 2009–2010 performances for the discounted rate of $64. For more information, contact Marie Oleksiak at oleksiakm@cofc.edu or 3.6306.
• Bobby Cremins Basketball Camp is accepting applications for its four summer sessions for ages 4 to rising seniors, including day and overnight camps. For dates, prices and more information, visit bobbycremins.com or contact Kyle Robinson at 3.8209 or robinsonk@cofc.edu.
Thanks to everyone who participated in the last photo quiz, and congratulations to Teresa Calhoun, administrative specialist in the Office of Mail Services, who was the first to guess that the object in question was the gorilla sculpture in the 58 George Courtyard. Created by a Sculpture IV student out of PVC pipe, chicken wire, two pairs of worker gloves, plaster and a whole lot of Spanish moss from Dixie Plantation, “Grillas Gone Wild” was installed for the Halsey Institute of Contemporary Art’s annual juried art show, Young Contemporaries, in April and has been slyly catching the attention of passersby ever since.

Take a look at the picture above. The object can be found on campus. Do you know what it is? The first person to submit the correct answer will win a tasty lunch for two at Liberty Street Fresh Food Company, compliments of ARAMARK. Good luck!

Send your submission to lutza@cofc.edu by Friday, July 24, 2009. The contest is open to all College faculty and staff. One submission per person, please.

What’s your favorite way to beat the summer heat?

Laquita Blockson
Assistant Professor of Management and Entrepreneurship

“I love to eat popsicles and ice cream on a hot day. It reminds me of my childhood, when the Good Humor man drove his truck down my street every summer evening.”

Darnell Collins
Postal Courier, Mail Services

“Cooling under the AC with a big cup of lemonade.”

Michelle Futrell
Senior Instructor/Director of Sports Medicine

“I welcome the summer heat! I’m kind of cold natured so doing anything outside - golf, pool, even yardwork - is perfect.”

Aaron “Scully” Hartwell
Groundskeeper

“I use the garden hose.”