THE PERFECT GUEST

The College has a colorful visitor this summer. Here to raise funds and awareness for its cause and to draw attention to and enthusiasm for community arts, our new guest has the potential to attract crowds to our campus and to our city. But put away the silver polish and the good linens: This guy is neither choosy nor judgmental. In fact, he is even willing to sleep outside.

The life-sized sculpture of a loggerhead sea turtle that the College is hosting as part of the South Carolina Aquarium’s public art project, Turtles on the Town, asks only for a little attention and consideration during its three-month visit to campus. Oh, yeah, and a little maintenance from Janine McCabe, who painted the sculpture earlier this spring, which was a new and challenging experience in and of itself.

“I’m used to painting renderings for costumes, so this is very different,” says the visiting assistant professor of costume design, adding that priming, sanding and using materials tough enough to withstand Charleston weather conditions was also new to her. “I was nervous at first. I’d never done anything like this.”

McCabe, however, doesn’t shy away from new things. After earning her MFA in costume design from University of Virginia and then designing costumes on and off Broadway for four years, the ’98 College alumna was offered a one-year visiting appointment teaching costume design in the theatre department last spring.

“I was always interested in teaching so I thought this would be an excellent opportunity to see if I enjoy it,” she says. “It turns out I really love teaching.” It’s a good thing, too, since McCabe was recently offered a tenure-track position. “I’m very happy. It worked out really well.”

The same can be said for her turtle, titled “Soaring,” which is on display in the courtyard in front of the Albert Simons Center for the Arts. It’s one of the 34 turtles sponsored by local organizations to raise money for the SC Aquarium conservation programs. Each turtle has been incorporated into independent walking tours and organized scavenger hunts, to encourage people to get out, explore the area, appreciate public art and learn about sea turtle conservation.

The 34 sponsors of Turtles on the Town selected their turtles’ designs from over 200 proposals. According to Dean of the School of the Arts Valerie Morris, who helped select the College’s turtle, McCabe’s “proposal demonstrated the creativity and good design skills that Janine has revealed in her costuming work.”

McCabe’s design was inspired by the sea turtles she saw on a trip to Hawaii. “The way the light reflected off of them was so beautiful,” she recalls. “That’s one of the things I wanted to show with this turtle.”

With its earthy greens, heavenly blues and ethereal silvers, McCabe’s turtle is also meant to evoke a sense of flying – soaring – not just through the water, but through existence.

“Turtles look like they’re flying underwater, so my idea was to paint the front flippers similar to wings of a bird, or an angel,” she says. “I have made it earthier at the bottom, like the brown, olive and red seen on loggerheads, and fading up to sky blue and shimmering white. If we don’t take care of the environment on our planet, then the beautiful turtles that have been in existence for millennia will remain only as a mystical, spiritual remembrance.”

It’s clear that McCabe has a true appreciation for sea turtles and that her concern for their well-being is genuine. “Their existence depends on so many factors,” she says, explaining that loggerheads don’t reach reproductive maturity until they are 20–25 years old and that the temperature of the ocean water determines the sex of the baby turtles.

“I think people would be more careful if they knew how delicate the population is.”

For more information about Turtles on the Town and how you can help in the conservation of sea turtles, visit turtlesonthetown.com.
“My house really showcases my different interests,” says Zender, who has been curating for 6 years and living in his house for 7. “It’s definitely a manifestation of who I am and what I like to do.”

“My house really showcases my different interests,” says Zender, who has been working as the communications museum curator for 6 years and living in his house for 7. “It’s definitely a manifestation of who I am and what I like to do.”

It’s clear, then, that Zender is a collector and that he likes to listen to and play music. He has an estimated 2,000 LPs and 33 musical instruments. Although he does play the guitar in the blues-fusion band Rhythm Method, many of the instruments on display in his house are just for, well, display.

“I have a lot of instruments that just strike me as interesting for one reason or another,” he says. “The same goes for my record collection. A lot of things I have just because it has record art or because the album cover is neat.”

That’s not to say he doesn’t listen to each one of his records from time to time. He does. Even the 200–300 “horror-related” LPs – you know, Halloween tracks, horror movie soundtracks, gothic metal/psychedelic rock.

“There are a lot of creepy, odd sounds on those records,” he says. “It’s a lot of fun to listen to them and hear what different instruments can do. There’s some really wild stuff out there.”

And, apparently, a lot of it has found its way into Zender’s house – and not just into his record collection. From the unicycle and the robot dog in the kitchen to the Garfield phone and disco ball in the music room – if it’s wild, it’s here. But even the angry ashtray (“No smoking,” it yells when its matches are removed from its dish) and the annoyed cube (“Put me down,” it demands when it’s picked up) seem pretty tame compared to Zender’s black-lit powder room with its psychedelic posters, strobe lights, glow-in-the-dark stickers and perpetual Jimi Hendrix soundtrack, which plays whenever the door is shut.

Although it is a little overwhelming, the powder room is the one room in the house lacking a playful shout-out to a horror movie. Indeed, between the shower curtain in the upstairs bathroom depicting the silhouette of Mother from the Psycho shower scene and the chalkboard in the dinette outlining “Dracula’s Schedule” for October 29–31 (you better watch out if you live on Warren Street, Highway 52 or Live Oak Drive in Moncks Corner), it’s hard to feel completely at home – at least for the first-time visitor.

“Most people want a tour when they first come inside,” says Zender. “I don’t mind. I like showing people around and telling them the stories behind everything. It’s a lot like what I do at the museum.”

The one with the antique televisions, telephones and projectors, that is.
The classrooms are dark. The cafeteria is closed. The campus is empty. Things just seem to assume a quiet calm after the last day of spring semester exams. For everyone but the custodial technicians in residence life and housing, that is.

“There’s two weeks of nonstop work for us,” says Gail Moore. “And I mean nonstop.”

That’s because Moore and the other nine custodial technicians in residence life and housing have only a few days to get the residence halls and historic houses in tip-top shape for the Spoleto performers and production staff, residence life and housing conference staff and Maymester students.

“It’s us against the clock,” says Moore. “It takes a lot of time. Now that there are stoves and refrigerators in almost all the halls, just one suite takes four hours.”

Multiply that by something like 900, and you’ve got a lot of man-hours piled up for just 10 people.

Even after the initial two weeks of nonstop work, the summer conference season keeps all of residence life and housing busy.

“During conference season, the residence halls are run very similar to a hotel-type environment,” says Tavia Sessions, director of housing and administrative services. “We bring groups in, and once they leave, we clean and prepare for a new group arrival. Generally there is a 3-to-5-day turnaround after each group leaves, depending on the size of the group that left and how long it stayed. We have around 150 conference groups, which equals about 3,000 participants, that stay with us from May 14 to August 1.”

Things get back to the normal pace for custodial technicians once the students move back in for the school year. That’s when Moore lets the students know just how she expects them to treat the common areas at Warren Place, where she cleans the lobbies, hallways, laundry areas, conference rooms, stairwells and common bathrooms during the semester.

“You have to start at Day 1 in order to get the kids to do what you want them to do,” she says. “They’ll listen if you speak up at the beginning. Once they know I won’t put up with something, all I have to do is raise my voice.”

Moore has been raising her voice off and on for over a decade now – having worked in all the residence halls except Buist Rivers. When she first took the job at the College after working in shipping and receiving at the Naval Shipyard for 21 years, she was a little taken aback.

“I’d never known students would live like this,” she says. “Those kids give me a run for my money.”

But Moore doesn’t mind cleaning up for the students – she knows “everyone wants to live in a clean environment. That’s why I try to keep my building up at all times,” she says. “I keep it together. If you let it go one day, it will get it out of hand. You might have to do a little more on Mondays – after a weekend of fun – but I do it and I keep it up.”

And after an entire year of fun? “You can’t even imagine,” says Moore. “You never know what you’re going to find in those rooms.”

Except, of course, you know you’ll find Moore there.

Shade Gardens

Shade gardens offer a welcomed shelter from the Lowcountry summers’ sweltering heat – not just for us, but for plants as well. The following are some plants that will thrive in shade gardens.

FLOWERING PLANTS: Impatiens, camellia, curcuma ginger, Japanese fatsia, azalea.

NON-FLOWERING PLANTS: Aucuba, polka-dot plant, hosta, evergreen giant, caladium, cast iron plant, English ivy, holly fern, nandina.

Some of these plants require more sunlight than others. Before cultivating, visit the shade garden at 59 Coming Street to see how they are used and be sure to check the plant’s full profile, including watering and soil pH requirements.
FAN BY NATURE: Devon Hanahan’s Passion for the Cougars

Devon Hanahan just can’t help herself. She shouts. She sweats. She jumps up and down. Sometimes she even bakes cookies.

“I think that’s why they picked me,” jokes the Hispanic studies instructor of her recent appointment as the 2006–2007 Cougar Club Faculty/Staff Fan of the Year. “I know how these things work.”

The cookies may have helped, but Hanahan’s enthusiasm and dedication are what the Cougar Club was honoring when, at the Athletics Award Banquet last April, it presented her with a golden whistle, housed in a velour-lined wooden case inscribed with her name and her new “Fan of the Year” title.

“Devon attends most sporting events and does so with so much passion,” says Monica Pawlowski, development director of athletics and executive director of the Cougar Club. “She is recognizable and respected. She is always around, and the Cougar Club and student-athletes appreciate her support.”

This kind of support comes naturally to Hanahan. “I feel like all my students are my kids, and I support them all — not just the athletes,” she says. “I try to recognize their birthdays, go to their musical performances, just be there when they accomplish something. They’re somebody’s kids, and when their parents can’t be there, I want to be there to cheer them on.”

But it’s not just her students that draw her to the College’s sports events. It’s also a sense of tradition and community. As a child, she attended basketball games at the Willard Silcox Physical Education and Health Center (her mother taught secondary education at the College) and, as a student (she is an ’87 alumna), she showed her Cougar pride as often as she could.

Having Cougar pride, she says, “makes all the difference in the world. It enhances the college experience so much. It gives you a sense of belonging, of community, of camaraderie. It’s just more fun.”

While Hanahan herself never played sports or even thought about being a cheerleader (“I was the Honors College-type kid who tripped every time I entered a classroom,” she laughs), she certainly enjoys the environment.

“I’m a big shoutier. I can’t not jump up and down,” she says. “I definitely don’t fit in in the basketball faculty/staff section. Everyone else claps very politely, and there I am jumping out of my seat. I can’t help it. It’s so fun.”

That it’s fun is key for Hanahan. “You can go through life two ways: having fun or not having fun,” she says. “I prefer to do it having fun.”

And the Cougars wouldn’t have it any other way.

UNDER CONSTRUCTION

• Construction on the new science center is expected to begin in early fall. It will feature a 150-seat auditorium, state-of-the-art research and teaching laboratories and gathering areas for faculty and students.

• In May, all the foundations and pile caps were poured for the School of the Arts project and the north stair tower was torn down. The first floor and the structure for the second floor are expected to be poured by the end of July.

• The George Street project is still on track for an August 2007 completion. Hardscape and interior work will continue throughout June and July.

• Steel erection and concrete pours at the John Kresse Arena and Carolina First Center began last month and will continue throughout June and July.

TECHNO BYTES

Last year, the Departments of Academic Computing and Administrative Computing and Telecommunications Services (ACTS) converged to make a new organization, Information Technology, or IT. The departments now under IT include the CIO, Programming and Network Services, Information Services, Infrastructure Services, Finance and Planning, Strategic Communications, Support Services, and Teaching, Learning, and Technology.

The services once found on the websites for the two separate departments (Academic Computing and ACTS) can now be found on the IT website, cofc.edu/it/. Please update your bookmarks according to the following information:

Setting Up Accounts: cofc.edu/it/GettingStarted/Facstaff/
Accessing Help: cofc.edu/it/GettingHelp.html
Available Technology: cofc.edu/it/GettingHelp/ITLearningTools.html
Background Information: cofc.edu/it/ITatCofC.html

For more information about the new organization of IT, contact Sr. VP for Technology/CIO Bob Cape at 953-6402.
You probably know where Little Thai Too is. And you could walk from campus to the King Street La Hacienda blindfolded. But do you know where the P.M. Clement building is? What about the S. Brown building? If you had a view like Sarah Zeigler does, you’d know that these buildings are the very hotspots you visit for those spicy Thai and Mexican bites, respectively. Indeed, the director of the Sottile Theatre has a whole different perspective from her office at the top of Randolph Hall’s east tower. With windows on each wall, the bright, comfortable space is Zeigler’s own little haven. “I feel very fortunate to have this office,” she says. “I’d always wanted to be in it, so it’s like a dream come true.” And, with all those windows, it might just be a daydream come true, too!

Know someone with a must-see workspace? E-mail Alicia Lutz at lutza@cofc.edu with the name of the employee and a description of why the workspace is interesting.

**NEWS BRIEFS: News You Can Use**

- **Susan Kattwinkel**, associate professor in the theatre department, was appointed the College’s director of the First Year Experience.

- **Victor Wilson**, senior vice president for student affairs, was elected to serve on the governing board for the new University School of the Lowcountry.

- English Professor **Paul Allen** won a Pushcart Prize for his essay “Juice,” which was originally published in The Southern Review. The essay will be published in The Pushcart Prize: Best of the Small Presses this year.

- Senior Instructor of Computer Science **Christine Moore** has assumed the duties of campus director of the College’s South Carolina Alliance for Minority Participation program.

- The **State Health Plan** now covers one colonoscopy every 10 years for those who are 50+ years old, even if there are no apparent problems present.

- **Santee State Park** is offering state employees a 30% discount on week-long cabin stays during June and July. Enter or mention the promotion code SSSEE07 to receive the discount. For more information, visit southcarolinaparks.com.

- **Garden Wise Nursery and Garden Center** is offering College employees a 10% discount on all purchases. Garden Wise is located at 2599 Bohicket Road on Johns Island. For more information, call 425-6453.
Look high and low!

Thanks to everyone who participated in last month’s photo quiz, and congratulations to Kevin Taylor, building and grounds supervisor in Physical Plant, who was the first to correctly guess that the object in question was the miter on Bishop’s Gate at the President’s Home, 6 Glebe Street. Also known as the Bishop Smith House, the home was built by Robert Smith, the College’s first president, not for the College, but as a parsonage for St. Philip’s Episcopal Church, where Smith was the minister.

Take a look at the picture above. This object can be found on campus. Can you figure out what and where it is? The first person to submit the correct answer will win a tasty lunch for two at Craig Cafeteria, compliments of ARAMARK. Good luck!

Send your submission to lutza@cofc.edu by Friday, July 13, 2007. Please include your name and your department in the e-mail. The contest is open to all College faculty and staff. One submission per person, please.

WORD ON THE BRICKS

“WHAT’S YOUR FAVORITE 4TH OF JULY TRADITION?”

John Roper, Administrative Assistant, Avery Research Center for African American History and Culture

“Getting together with family and grilling out and just having a good time. I’m a vegan now, but I have fond memories of eating barbecue under the tree with my family.”

Laetitia Sobiesuo, Records Analyst, Registrar’s Office

“As a foreign-born American, Fourth of July is and always will be another public holiday that I get to spend quality time – if I am lucky – with my three children.”

Denny Ciganovic, Director, Career Center

“I sleep all day! No, really, we sometimes go see the fireworks and maybe go see one of the parades, but we don’t really have a tradition.”