Pelham Spong opens up about her love for burlesque dancing and her alter ego, Plume de Paname.
Just because the racquetball court can be a little confined doesn’t mean your choice of opponents has to be! Campus Recreation Services has established the **Racquet Sports Partners** program for racquet sports players who are looking for others to join them on the court. Visit campusrec.cofc.edu and click on “complete the form” to join the list of players. For more information, contact Kevin Ferrelli at ferrellikd@cofc.edu or 3.5556.

**EVERYTHING’S MORE FUN WITH A FRIEND!** That’s why Campus Recreation Services has established the **Run 4 Fun** partner-pairing database to help students, faculty and staff find a compatible running and/or walking partner (or group). Organized by pace, location choice, age, gender, interests and goals, the database is updated regularly – making finding the perfect partnership a walk in the park. To sign up and get running, visit campusrec.cofc.edu and click on “Information flyer,” or contact Kevin Ferrelli at ferrellikd@cofc.edu or 3.5556.

**JUST BECAUSE THE RACQUETBALL COURT** can be a little confined doesn’t mean your choice of opponents has to be! Campus Recreation Services has established the **Racquet Sports Partners** program for racquet sports players who are looking for others to join them on the court. Visit campusrec.cofc.edu and click on “complete the form” to join the list of players. For more information, contact Kevin Ferrelli at ferrellikd@cofc.edu or 3.5556.

**WE ALL NEED A LITTLE ESCAPE SOMETIMES**, and – with the new **4.3-mile interpretive walking trail at Dixie Plantation** now open to staff and faculty – it’s easier than ever to get away from it all. Just follow U.S. 17 South to S.C. 62 and take the dirt road to Dixie. It’s amazing what a little walk in the woods can do. The trail is open Mon.–Fri., dawn until dusk. For more information, contact Barney Holt at holtw@cofc.edu or 3.1836.

**WANT TO PROVIDE A SERVICE TO THE GREATER CHARLESTON AREA** and support local economic development? Want to do a little networking while making the College look even better than it already does? Well, it’s go time! The Center for Entrepreneurship is looking for staff and faculty members who are experts in their respective disciplines (human resources to biology, law to retail, medicine to information technology) to join its new **GO-Team**. Meant to help establish the center as the go-to catalyst for entrepreneurship in the Charleston region, the GO-Team will answer people’s questions and help guide them to a solution. All you have to do is be available to answer preliminary questions and, when needed, to speak with clients for 30 minutes or so. Go for it! Share your talent! Get more information and sign up with Brenda Dispenza, dispenzab@cofc.edu or 3.5247.

**ALONG WITH AN ABUNDANCE OF VEGETABLES, HERBS AND FLOWERS**, the new **Green Teaching Garden at Grice Marine Lab** is cultivating a learning opportunity for us all. Intended to educate the public about the importance of rainwater collection and the potential in urban gardening, the 1,200-square-foot plot at the front of Grice Marine Lab includes a rainwater collection system with a 1,500-gallon cistern and eight rain barrels for irrigation, a compost area for residents living and working at the lab and four raised beds for the herb garden, the perennial garden, the vegetable garden and the butterfly garden. The Marine Biology Graduate Student Association – which installed and maintains the garden – donates the vegetables from the garden to local homeless shelters and dries and sells the herbs at Grice Marine Lab to raise money for its student travel fund. Once the garden is a bit more established, it will be used as an educational tool for students and the public.

**GOT SOMETHING TO SAY?** The **Staff Advisory Committee to the President** wants to hear your ideas, recommendations, opinions and even your complaints. Speak up: Email sac@cofc.edu or the staff Listserv (staff@cofc.edu), visit sac.cofc.edu and click on “Suggestion Form” or log onto the community forums at community.cofc.edu and post to the staff forum. You may also directly address the members of the new, permanent Staff Advisory Committee, which takes office on July 1. The divisional representatives include Clara Hodges, Herbert Frasier, Meredith Chance and Elizabeth Dixon; check the staff forum and/or Listserv for the names of the newly elected at-large representatives. There are plenty of opportunities to be heard!
The Preservation Society of Charleston honored the College for its 2009–10 renovation to the Cistern Yard with three 2011 Carolopolis Awards for the exterior preservation of Randolph Hall, Towell Library and Porters Lodge.

The Huffington Post listed the College as one of the 10 best places to go to college; Inside College listed it as one of the 21 hottest colleges in the nation; The Princeton Review named it one of the best value colleges; and Kiplinger magazine listed it as among the 100 best values in public colleges.

Hispanic studies instructor Devon Hanahan and mathematics professor Martin Jones were named among The Princeton Review’s list of the best 300 professors in the U.S.

The Department of Public Safety received Advanced Law Enforcement Accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies.

The S.C. Arts Commission named the Halsey Institute of Contemporary Art the recipient of the 2012 Elizabeth O’Neill Verner Governor’s Awards for the Arts in the Organization category, with special recognition for the Halsey’s director, Mark Sloan.

Co-edited by Associate Professor of English Myra Seamon, postmedieval: a journal of medieval cultural studies received the 2011 PROSE Award for the Best New Journal in Social Sciences and Humanities.

Cara Delay, assistant professor of history, received a Fulbright Scholarship to spend the 2012-13 academic year in Dublin, Ireland, where she will research and write Desolate Journeys: Reproduction and Motherhood in Ireland 1950–2000.

College employees receive a $45 discount on any of the 12 non-credit community sailing sessions that the College’s sailing program offers this summer. For more information about these (approximately three-week) classes, which include 15 hours of on-the-water instruction and four hours of classroom time, visit cofc.edu/sailing and click on “Learn To Sail” or contact Greg Fisher, fishergv@cofc.edu or 3.8252.

College employees sending their children (ages 8–16) to Charleston Tennis Camp at the Patriots Point Athletics Complex this June are eligible for a $50 discount with mail-in registration before May 11. Each five-day camp (Mon.–Fri., 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m.) is led by the Cougars men’s tennis coaches and players. For more information and to download a printable registration form, visit charlestontenniscamp.com or contact Jay Bruner at brunerj@cofc.edu or 478.6448.

For more employee discounts, visit hr.cofc.edu/benefits/special-discounts.php.

All faculty and staff email accounts are currently being transitioned to the College’s new Exchange 2010 server; this transition is expected to last through the middle of the fall 2012 semester.

A list of notaries public on campus can be found under “Employee Quick Links” in the Employee section of MyCharleston.

The S.C. Arts Commission named the Halsey Institute of Contemporary Art the recipient of the 2012 Elizabeth O’Neill Verner Governor’s Awards for the Arts in the Organization category, with special recognition for the Halsey’s director, Mark Sloan.

May 14
SPOLETO SNEAK PREVIEW
School of the Arts faculty highlight must-see festival events
6 p.m., Free
Simons Center Recital Hall
Info: 3.6527

May 24
OPENING RECEPTION
FOR RETURN TO THE SEA: SALTWORKS
BY MOTOI YAMAMOTO
Motoi Yamamoto (shown above) kicks off his three-week residency
5–7 p.m., Free
Halsey Institute
(exhibition through June 30; open Mon.–Sat.,
11 a.m.–4 p.m.)
Info: 3.4422, halsey.cofc.edu

May 26–June 9
PICCOLO SPOLETO YOUNG ARTISTS SERIES
Students and alumni perform a different concert every day, Mon.–Sat.
12 p.m., $11
Simons Center Recital Hall
Info: 3.5927, music@cofc.edu
Derrick Niederman is not a man to be deterred.

Once upon a time, the adjunct mathematics professor was an aspiring crossword puzzle creator, though his submissions to The New York Times were not meeting with much success. Three times he sent puzzles to crossword editor Eugene Maleska, and three times he was rejected.

“Before you send your fourth puzzle,” Maleska told him wearily, “wait a while.”

For Niederman, “a while” was a mere three weeks. It was 1981, and the then-26-year-old soon rejoiced upon hearing that Maleska had accepted his latest attempt and that publication in the Old Gray Lady was imminent.

“As soon as I published a puzzle in the Times, I felt I wrote the first line in my obituary,” says Niederman. “Then I thought, OK, now what?”

True to puzzlemaster form, it did not take him long to answer that question.

Niederman, who grew up in Connecticut, began an investment career while continuing to cultivate his interest in all things enigmatic. After working as a securities analyst, he began writing finance primers and mysteries, including A Killing on Wall Street (get it?). Soon he was writing puzzle books, too, as well as meditations on numbers and mathematics. This past March, Niederman’s 12th book, The Puzzler’s Dilemma: From the Lighthouse of Alexandria to Monty Hall, a Fresh Look at Classic Conundrums of Logic, Mathematics and Life, was published by Perigee, a division of the Penguin Group.

That’s not all. Between writing deadlines the past three decades, Niederman, who earned a Ph.D. in mathematics from MIT, reigned as a North American amateur squash champion, competed internationally in bridge tournaments and devised 20 or so other Sunday puzzles for The New York Times.

And then there are his games. Niederman designed a game called 36 Cube (first manufactured by toymaker ThinkFun in 2008), in which the solver must snap assorted-sized plastic towers of different colors onto a pronged, 6” x 6” grid. The goal is to form a perfect cube in which each row and column feature no repeating colors. Think Sudoku meets Rubik’s Cube, but much harder. (Niederman’s premise for 36 Cube was mathematician Leonhard Euler’s famed 36-officer problem, which has been proved impossible to solve. Niederman sought to devise a similar puzzle with a solution, which, even for him, required a good amount of thought and modeling.)

“You have to look at things for their puzzle qualities,” he says. “Ideas like this just don’t hit you over the head.”

Perhaps not, though Niederman says the idea for his latest game, PathWords, came to him in about 10 seconds as he walked down some stairs. Named the Best New Word Game of 2012 by Games Magazine, PathWords challenges players to isolate and cover words in a grid of letters using translucent, colored puzzle pieces that resemble the shapes of Tetris blocks. The tricky part is that one has to cover the words in a specific manner in order to cover every letter on the grid.

For those puzzle solvers who might not be the most literary, don’t despair: There’s a kid’s edition of PathWords coming out soon. And for those able to solve all 40 PathWords puzzles without breaking a sweat, Niederman offers another challenge: a German version of the game that’s also coming out soon. Good luck!
Sometimes it means getting out a sewing needle and stitching things together by hand. Sometimes it means soaking boards in a hot tub overnight, drenching a rope in epoxy or taking a sailing lesson or two. Other times it means building a box out of insulation and duct tape, hooking it up to a tea kettle and heating it on a Coleman propane stove.

Whatever Floats Your Boat

Brady, Flynn’s Cavalier King Charles Spaniel, goes with the flow in his master’s strip-built kayak, Idée fixe.
You just never know what’s going to work – and, when it comes to making sure his boats will float, Mike Flynn will do whatever it takes.

“Boatbuilding is like putting together a puzzle, figuring it out, fitting it all together,” says the chair of the Department of Health and Human Performance, who spent the past six months building a skin-on-frame, Greenland-style kayak, the latest addition to his fleet of handmade wooden boats – including a 16.5’ single kayak, a 20’ stitch-and-glue tandem kayak called Beaucoup fenêtre (French for many holes, in acknowledgement of the multiple punctures made to the hull while stitching with wire) and a 15’ mahogany-and-spruce sailboat called My Own Hands.

“Each boat was different, with a whole new set of challenges. But that’s what I love – the problem solving. I become completely obsessed.”

Flynn’s obsession began when he was living in Indiana and decided to build a boat. Why not? He was, after all, no stranger to woodworking: He’d picked up many skills from his father, who could build and fix just about anything, and had been building furniture for years. His carpentry skills, however, could only take him so far.

“More than anything, in boatbuilding, you need persistence,” he says, noting that his first boat took nearly two years of off-and-on work. “I have had some long pauses on most of my projects. But, eventually, I get back to the shop and start grinding away. The complete and utter immersion in the project is most addictive.”

He became so immersed in his first project that, toward the end, he was staying up until 2 or 3 a.m., working away at the rich, western red and northern white cedar strip-built boat, which he ended up naming Idée fixe, French for obsession.

Indeed, Flynn was hooked – and, 10 years later, he still loves everything about boatbuilding, including “the utter feeling of joy when something you build floats and functions the way it is supposed to function. The first time I took Idée fixe out, I was just hoping she would float, but when I started paddling and saw the first wave crashing over the bow ... it was very emotional,” says Flynn, who is admittedly quite attached to each of his boats – especially his latest: RJC, the 18.6’ reproduction of an Eskimo hunting kayak. Named after his cousin Richie, a carpenter who recently died of Lou Gehrig’s disease (his initials are visible through the ballistic nylon on the red-oak masik), this boat is as much a piece of art as it is a labor of love. The level of craftsmanship that Flynn has put into hand-mortising, steam-bending, lashing and sewing – not to mention shaping and sculpting with sandpaper, hand planes and hand rasps – is obvious in the gentle curves of the smooth wood and the careful ties of artificial sinew that hold it all together. “It looks delicate, but it’s very tough and seaworthy,” says Flynn, who launched RJC in April.

Still, it’s the process that Flynn really loves. He recalls a particularly challenging task that he spent an entire day problem-solving: “My wife poked her head in the shop a few times during the day, and, when I finally emerged, she said, ‘I have never seen you happier!’ I suppose at that moment I should have said, ‘Our wedding day!’ but I just flopped into a chair, happily exhausted!”

Clearly, this is what floats Flynn’s boat.
A DEFINING ROLE
Plume de Paname had always felt the lure of glamour, indulgence and luxury. She’d always been restless, always up for an adventure, always looking for trouble. Not even fast-paced, high-fashioned Paris could keep this blue-blooded French girl satisfied. And so she packed up her furs and her feather fans and headed to America, making her way down the East Coast until she finally settled in the Holy City.
So goes the story of Plume de Paname, the character that Pelham Spong created when she cofounded the burlesque troupe, Ménage à Trois Burlesque. Spong based Plume’s background loosely on her own life (she also tired of her life at home, moved to Paris and settled in Charleston), but gave the fictional character all the rebellious, provocative qualities that she needed to allure her audiences through sultry suggestions and playful coquetry.

“I brought out what was in me that I thought made for an appealing show,” says the office manager for the North Campus, who has been creating and performing her burlesque acts at local venues consistently since her March 2011 debut with Ménage à Trois Burlesque. Last fall, the troupe was selected for one of the coveted spots of the New Orleans Burlesque Festival, and Spong will also be performing in the Asheville Burlesque and Sideshow Festival next month. “Plume gave me confidence, but, at this point, I don’t need her backstory anymore. I mean, she’s still a part of me and I’m still building her persona, but it’s become easier to separate the Plume from the Pelham.”

Indeed, Spong has come into her own as a burlesque performer since she first met Plume. “Burlesque has changed my life,” says Spong, who graduated from the College in 2006 with degrees in French and theatre. “This is the first thing that I’ve done that’s a little naughty. I’ve always been an A and B student, pretty safe and good. It’s something risqué for me, a little mischievous. And that has given me so much freedom.”

Judging from the smoldering performances she puts on with Ménage à Trois Burlesque and Carnivalesque – her other burlesque troupe, which incorporates various performance artists (e.g., the Pain Proof Man, an acrobalance duo, the Strong Man) for “an old-timey circus and sideshow spectacle for grownups” – it certainly seems Spong is enjoying her mischievous side.

“I ask myself now how I haven’t been doing this my whole life. It appeals to me on so many levels: the theatrics, the costumes, the vintage
throwback. All of these elements are in burlesque,” says Spong, who considers herself a film and stage actress first and foremost (you might recognize her from her recent starring role in Pure Theatre’s *In the Next Room or The Vibrator Play*).

“One thing that I don’t have as an actress that I love about burlesque, is that I’m in control of every aspect. I get to be the author, sound designer, costume designer, choreographer and lead role in my performances. I’m a one-woman show,” she says. “I think it’s very fulfilling in that way. It’s a very intense feeling to be in control of the entirety of the performance and its effect on the audience.”

Spong creates her acts to embody the glamour and the class of burlesque’s heyday. She’s quick to add, however, that – although she pays homage to classical burlesque – what she does is a far cry from the bawdy striptease that burlesque came to be in the 1940s.

“This neo-burlesque that showed up in the 1990s is a different beast,” she says. “It’s no longer a show for male audiences. Before, it was catering to a male’s perception, whereas now it’s about women’s perception of their own sexuality. It gives the women the power. It’s very empowering.”

And not just for Spong herself. Women have approached her after several performances to thank her for representing a different view of what sexy is. That’s not just because she’s “at the point where it’s OK if parts jiggle” when she looks in the mirror. She also has a burn scar on her neck and left arm from a pan of hot grease that fell on her as a baby. Because it’s always been there, she doesn’t even notice it, but she knows other people do.

“We’re all told what we’re supposed to look like, and what I’m doing is taking down that barrier and opening up the definition of sexy. I actually feel like I’m giving something to women that they need – giving them confidence to be what they want to be and to be who they are,” she says. “I think it’s important to remind the audience that the sexiest thing a woman can be is confident.”

It’s a lesson she learned well from her alter ego, Plume de Paname.
**72 AND 74 GEORGE STREET:** All offices in these two buildings will have refinished hardwood floors, individually controlled heating and cooling units and operational windows. Construction at 72 George is expected to be complete in May, with 74 George finishing up at the end of the summer and communication and English faculty moving in by the fall semester.

**298 MEETING STREET:** This semester, structural repairs have been made underneath the Gibson-Fronberger House (student housing), which this summer will also receive a new slate roof, a new rear porch and some structural repairs to its side porch. More extensive renovations – including reconfiguring the interior, replacing the siding, painting the exterior and installing new electrical, plumbing, HVAC and sprinkler systems – are likely to proceed in the 2012–13 academic year, during which time the building will be closed.

**24 BULL STREET:** All work at this historic student residence – including chimney repairs, window replacement and installation of siding on the rear addition – is expected to be finished this summer.

**RESIDENCE HALL SUMMER UPGRADES:** The make-up air units at Berry Hall are being replaced and the entire interior of McAllister Hall is being painted.

**SCHOOL OF SCIENCES AND MATHEMATICS BUILDING:** Last semester, Ballinger Architects completed the schematic design for the new labs, classrooms and offices on the second floor of this building. The newly developed space – about 17,000 square feet, total – is expected to be available for use in late 2013/early 2014.

**5 COLLEGE WAY:** This semester, the exterior of this building was repainted, new shutters were mounted and brick pavers were reinstalled. Inside, new pine flooring was installed on the ground floor, and the mechanical, electrical, plumbing rough-in inspections were completed on floors 2–4. Landscaping is being spruced up now, and the space will be ready in August for English and communication faculty to move in.

**CENTER FOR SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH:** With the design build contract awarded to NBM Construction and EE Fava Architects, construction to reconfigure the westernmost portion of the BellSouth Building’s second floor into collaborative research space for the new Center for Social Science Research is expected to be complete in November.
Life at the College is about to get even better for the communication and English faculty members who are moving into 5 College Way and 72 and 74 George Street over the summer. The following English faculty members tell us why.

**CONSEULA FRANCIS**
**74 GEORGE**

**BEFORE:** 22B Glebe ("right next to the grilled cheese guy … I’m going to miss the smell of bacon")

**DREADING:** "For me, packing means cleaning my office. I never look forward to cleaning my office."

**EXCITED ABOUT:** "Individual climate control. I’m always much colder than everyone else. It’ll be nice to be warm and toasty in my office."

---

**JOE KELLY, 72 GEORGE**

**BEFORE:** Robert Scott Small Building, basement swing space ("we affectionately call it the dungeon")

**LOOKING FORWARD TO:**
"Windows! Windows! Maybe even windows that can open?"

---

**EMILY ROSKO, 5 COLLEGE WAY**

**BEFORE:** Robert Scott Small Building, second floor (because "the original office I was assigned – in the basement of RSS – flooded in the first weeks of my time here, and a small snake even found its way up a drain pipe")

**GOING TO MISS:** "Not one thing."

**GOING TO LOVE:** "Not having to give a lengthy explanation to my students about how to find my office."

---

**AT THE COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON, LEARNING NEVER ENDS.** Not for our students, our faculty or our staff. That’s why the College developed the **Staff Professional Development Incentive Program (SPDIP)**, which set aside $20,000 for staff to develop new skills and acquire new knowledge relevant to their positions at the College.

"We all know how important it is to stay informed about what’s going on in our fields. The idea is that our talented and knowledgeable staff can go off, learn the latest, enhance their skills and come back to campus that much better," says Elizabeth Kassebaum, vice president of college projects and chair of the Professional Development Program Committee.

Since December, the SPDIP has allowed 12 staff members to pursue educational opportunities: research/training, academic courses not offered at the College and conferences, workshops and seminars.

Webmaster John Turner, for example, was able to attend the 2012 In Control Web Design Conference, where he got up to speed on current trends that will "make the College more competitive in a world of constantly changing technology."

Of course, the take-home lessons aren’t always technological or even skill based – they often have more to do with reevaluating best practices, networking and getting inspired and reenergized: "Valuable lessons, all," says Mark Sloan, director of the Halsey Institute of Contemporary Art, who got some new ideas and some useful insight when he attended the Society for Photographic Education Conference using SPDIP funds. "The program clearly demonstrates that the administration is interested in the staff’s growth and puts a premium on staying current with best practices. I applaud this initiative."

The SPDIP’s success, expansion and funding levels depend on the quantity and quality of applications, so don’t wait: Apply yourself!

For more information or to request funding for staff development, visit president.cofc.edu/staffdevelopment. The next application deadline is October 1.

---

**HEROES AMONG US:** Two members of the College’s Grounds Crew, **Donald Merckle** and **Torrey Major**, helped save the life of a stranger who suffered sudden cardiac arrest aboard the CARTA Express bus last month. Realizing a defibrillator was needed, they jumped off the bus, ran inside the Physical Plant building and returned with an AED, which fellow bus riders used to shock the patient, who ultimately survived the incident. "Donald and Torrey are the reason the College has public-access defibrillators, and I appreciate that they have taken a CPR class, remained calm and sprang into action," says Resident Fire Marshal Tim Agee.
We’re full of great ideas at the College of Charleston. That’s why it came as no surprise that - when we asked you to submit your big idea for making the College of Charleston an even better place than it already is – the suggestions that flooded in were inspired, thoughtful and creative. Below are just a few of your responses, with more to come in the next issue. Got a big idea of your own? Send it to theportico@cofc.edu.

Interdepartmental Golf Cart Races Around Campus. Winning Team Gets to Keep the Losing Team’s Golf Cart!

We should have an academic version of the British Army’s Boxing Day tradition of officers and enlisted personnel changing roles – i.e., letting faculty change roles with other faculty, staff change roles with faculty, administrators change roles with faculty and/or staff. Let all of us wear each other’s shoes for a day!

I would like to see the sidewalk made a little wider at the corner of Calhoun and St. Philip, closest to Maybank Hall. Perhaps the fence there could be moved back a couple of feet, or made round.

Lease the old Millennium Music building on Marion Square and convert it to a workout facility for students and a campus nightclub. We need a safe and secure way for our students to have fun (and yes, drink controlled amounts of beer, etc., if they are legal) without hitting the bars on King St. … An additional benefit would be the visibility to the public that having a CofC facility on Marion Square would bring.

Big Idea

We’re full of great ideas at the College of Charleston. That’s why it came as no surprise that - when we asked you to submit your big idea for making the College of Charleston an even better place than it already is – the suggestions that flooded in were inspired, thoughtful and creative. Below are just a few of your responses, with more to come in the next issue. Got a big idea of your own? Send it to theportico@cofc.edu.
At my old school, the last Friday of every month was designated as school spirit day. Faculty and staff were allowed to wear jeans and the school gave us school T-shirts (both short and long sleeve for variable seasons). … I think it would be good for morale and school spirit if we could implement that here. Jeans and a CofC polo or departmental polo on the last Friday of every month.

Call at least one person by name every time you walk on campus. Promoting community distinguishes the College of Charleston, and it’s just fun!

Paint a bike lane down (and up) St. Philip street. Lobby City of Charleston to remove on-street parking on St. Philip.

I would like to propose a faculty-staff wellness program that includes exercise classes of various kinds that are scheduled at the noon hour or immediately after work, consultations on diet and fitness, workshops, etc. We have some of this in place, but not particularly well organized or publicized.

About every day I dream of the campus being closed to traffic. … The campus would be much more of a destination, much more humane, much more beautiful.
CONGRATULATIONS TO AMANDA WEINGARTEN, assistant director of parent giving programs, who correctly guessed that the object in question was one of the two 15’ x 27’ murals discovered during acoustical upgrades at the Sottile Theatre last year. First unveiled at the theatre’s 1927 grand opening, the paintings had been hidden behind heavy curtains and paneling for decades; they are now being restored.

IF YOU THINK YOU KNOW WHAT THE OBJECT in the above photo is and where it can be found, send your guess to theportico@cofc.edu by Friday, June 1, 2012. The names of those who submit the correct answer will be entered into a drawing for a free T-shirt from the College of Charleston Bookstore. The contest is open to all College faculty and staff.