Tightening Your Budget in a Tight Economy

Let’s face it: Times are tight – and the holidays aren’t exactly helping. Fortunately, the College makes it easy to scale back your spending. Just follow these six tips, and there’s no telling how much you’ll save.

GET AROUND. With free, unlimited access to the CARTA bus system, College employees can go just about anywhere without spending a dime. Whether you’re taking one of the regular routes to spend a Saturday downtown or a Park-and-Go Express route to get to work, all you need is a bus pass from the Office of Cougar Card Services, and you’re good to go. And, remember, even if you were one of the nearly 3,000 people who used a bus pass in the fall, you’ll need to pick up your new pass for the spring 2009 semester before the December break.

Biking is another option for getting around town for next to nothing, and – with bike registrations jumping from 350 in 2007 to over 637 in 2008 – it’s one that seems to be growing in popularity. So, go ahead and get your free air from the pump in front of the John Rivers Communication Museum on George Street and your $5 bike registration from public safety, and you’ll be ready to pedal your way to savings.

PARK IT. The increased bike and CARTA riderships have translated into around 150 fewer parking permits being sold, which means that bikers and CARTA riders aren’t just saving on gas – they’re saving the $400–$700/year they’d be spending on parking permits if they were driving to work every day. And, even when they do need to drive to campus, they can use Cougar Cash to park in the St. Philip Street and Wentworth Street garages at a discounted rate that won’t exceed $5/visit.

EAT UP. College employees have exclusive access to some of the best lunch deals in town. You can get all-you-can-eat soup, salad bar, dessert and beverage for $5 in the Faculty/Staff Dining Room, or you can sign up with Dining Services for the Faculty/Staff Block Meal Plan, which gets you 20 full all-you-can-eat meals at Liberty Fresh Food Company for only $120. Both are deals that are hard to pass up – just ask any of the 111 employees currently on the block meal plan or the approximately 50 employees using the faculty/staff special every day.

STAY FIT. Between College employees’ free access to the Willard A. Silcox Physical Education and Health Center’s indoor running track, the Stern Center Pool and the Stern Center Fitness Room, who needs a gym membership? As your all-access pass to fitness and health, your Cougar Card will get you in the door – the rest is up to you.

HAVE FUN. With the F. Mitchell Johnson Physical Education Center’s basketball, volleyball and badminton courts – not to mention the racquetball courts, which will be re-opening in the near future – there’s a lot of fun to be had at the College. Employees are welcomed to join the non-competitive Campus Recreation Services sports clubs (e.g., aikido, karate, running) and activities (e.g., yoga, volleyball and badminton net nights).

And, if your idea of entertainment is more low-key, use your Cougar Card at the Addleston Library and spend the weekend curled up with a good book or a classic movie. Or you can always pack up the entire family for a visit to the John Rivers Communication Museum or the Halsey Gallery for a little (free) cultural fun.

SPEND TO SAVE. College employees are eligible for discounted gym memberships, spa services, mobile phone services, hotels, car rentals and retail shopping at a variety of local and national establishments. Whether you want to get 19 percent off of your monthly Verizon Wireless bill, 10 percent off of your next J. Crew purchase, 10 percent off of a new Apple computer or 25 percent off of your next treatment at The Spa at Charleston Place, you can’t afford not to take advantage of these savings. For a more complete list of employee discounts and how to access them, visit www.cofc.edu/theportico/features.html.
It may have been a difficult role, but it was one that she mastered. The critics ate it up, and so did the local acting community. “I couldn’t fit a hat on my head for months,” laughed Hallatt, who typically performs in five to six community- and professional-theater productions a season. And, while Hallatt doesn’t always bring down the house (she’s the first to admit to her share of “off” nights), the reviews have been overwhelmingly positive. Not that she gives any of them – positive or negative – too much weight.

“I always remember that it’s one person’s opinion. That person might be fighting with her husband or his wife, or maybe he has hemorrhoids and doesn’t like the seat he’s in,” she says. “You never know where someone is coming from, so I don’t take it too seriously.”

To Hallatt, it’s the audience’s reaction that matters most. “I love the applause at the end – I can’t get enough of that. And I love hearing the people laugh – although I tend to milk it too much: Once I get one laugh, I think I need six,” she says. “I also think it’s just so meaningful when someone recognizes me or remembers a performance I did years ago. That’s how I know I made an impression.”

All told, Hallatt’s acting career has been laidback, fun and successful – and it’s a success that’s all her own. She never had any formal training, but instead studied her fellow actors.

“I pay a lot of attention to character and physical communication. I think I have better physical control of myself than I once did,” says Hallatt, whose first “real” performance was in 1983, when she played Ida in See How They Run. “That’s a very special role to me because, when I did it again in 1990, that’s when I met my husband.”

The two have been performing together ever since. They received high acclaim for their 2006 performances in A Christmas Carol – Hallatt as the Ghost of Christmas Past and her husband as the Ghost of Christmas Present – roles that they will play again this year. “Being closer to the classroom experience is glad they did.

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Candace Jaruszewicz and her son stood in the middle of the Cistern Yard. They’d just arrived from Erie, Pa., to investigate some family history and shed some light on her Charleston-born grandmother’s wild stories. The drive had been smooth and relatively painless, but they’d lost their bearings as soon as they’d set out on foot in this unfamiliar city. Ultimately, Jaruszewicz is glad they did.

“It was night, the lights were on in the trees. It was so beautiful, and I thought, ‘I could work here,’” she recalls. “Of course, I never dreamed I’d actually end up working here.”

Within a year of unwittingly stumbling onto campus, however, Jaruszewicz had joined the College as assistant professor and director of the master of education program in early childhood education. Four years later, in 2005, she assumed directresponsibility of E.C.D.C. Early Childhood Development Center, the College’s demonstration and laboratory preschool – which, incidentally, is located only three buildings away from the Wentworth Street Garage.

“It turns out my grandmother’s house was where the parking garage is now,” Jaruszewicz says. “Isn’t that weird? It’s like it was meant to be.”

It may have been fate, but not just because of ECDC’s location. Jaruszewicz’s academic and professional backgrounds were perfectly in line with the mission of ECDC, a childcare and educational program that collaborates across campus to provide observation, employment and research opportunities.

“It’s a really good fit for me,” says Jaruszewicz, who continues to teach one graduate class a year. “Being closer to the classroom experience on a daily basis gives me more credibility and authenticity in the classes I teach. Plus, I enjoy hanging out with the kids and seeing them learn and grow and interact.”

Truth be told, however, Jaruszewicz spends a good chunk of her time in a more administrative role – budgeting, monitoring licensing standards, coordinating hundreds of observers, supporting the lead teachers and hiring and supervising graduate assistants and student workers.

“I’m basically running a small business on campus,” she says, adding networking to her job description. “We depend on the support of every department on campus, so it’s important for me to have a relationship with all the different offices. In that way, I’m the ambassador of goodwill for ECDC.”

And she certainly seems to be doing her job. “We’re fortunate to have access to tremendous tangible and intangible resources, partly because of the great affection that the community has for us,” says Jaruszewicz, who also works in the local, state and national communities – serving on a number of boards and committees and regularly attending and speaking at conferences, seminars and workshops. “We have a really good reputation and a long history, and we see that as a reflection of the quality of the School of Education, Health, and Human Performance and of the College as a whole.”

But, she adds, ECDC isn’t just a reflection of the quality of the College. It’s a reflection of the people of the College.

“It’s one of the few places on campus where people from all different departments cross paths on a daily basis,” says Jaruszewicz, explaining that nearly all of ECDC’s current students are children of faculty and staff. “So it’s a great place to get to know people you otherwise might never bump into.”

Then again, you never know what you might chance upon when you’re wandering around Charleston. Jaruszewicz is living proof of that.
In all of the 250 productions she's actors, but I've played plenty of serious and stage, you never know what you'll find. But, when the curtains rise and she's on place, for the challenge.”

And it was so hard to get into her head … “Bananas was nuts (hence the name),” she says. “I also think it’s just so get enough of that. And I love hearing the too seriously.”

“I always remember that it’s one person’s much weight. – Hallatt as the Ghost of Christmas Past

All told, Hallatt’s acting career has been success that’s all her own. She never had any formal training, but instead studied her educational program that collaborates across Human Performance and of the College as of the quality of the School of Education, Health, and Human Performance and of the College. Jaruszewicz, who also works in the local, is glad they did. “It’s one of the few places on campus where

... The coring is mounted in Dustan’s lab beside a timeline of the last century’s major world conflicts. While tanks, machine guns and fighter planes shook battlefields across the globe, the tree silently expanded up and out. Its single wartime sacrifice seems to be the forfeiture of its holiday lights during World War II, when blackouts were required across the country.

The tree may have been unscathed by catastrophic manmade events, but it was acutely susceptible to natural events like Hurricane Hugo (which caused a growth spurt) and various atmospheric and geological fluctuations. In other words, its rings contain the details of Mother Nature’s not-so-obvious story.

This is precisely why – upon hearing whispers of plans to remove the less-than-robust Sottile tree – Dustan and other members of the campus community presented the Faculty Senate with a petition to save this “outstanding, unique member of our campus arboretum.”

The motion to protect the Sottile tree passed unanimously in April 2003, thus upholding the tradition that started in 1921, when the Sottile family hung oversized lights and a carol-playing speaker in the tree, drawing throngs of spectators to get a peek at what was Charleston’s first electrically lighted outdoor holiday tree.

“Cedar Lebanons have that traditional fir-tree shape when they’re young, so it probably looked more like a Christmas tree back then,” says John Davis, campus arborist and grounds supervisor. “But as these trees grow old, they end up with bare trunks and big lopsided heads on them.”

That didn’t bother the grandchildren of J.C. and Alberta Sottile Long, who turned the tree’s lights on once again in 1986 – 45 years after they’d been extinguished in World War II – in what was to become the College’s inaugural tree lighting ceremony.

“The annual tree lighting debuts the holiday season at the College,” says former President Ted Stern (1968–1979). “It’s supposed to lift up the spirits.”

And, as the favorite ugly duckling on campus, the Sottile holiday tree has been doing exactly that for years: bringing people together to eat, sing and be merry.

“Even though it’s strangely shaped and weird, it’s part of the College,” Dustan says. “Besides, if you were 100 years old and stood out in the weather all the time, you’d look beat up, too.”

All the more reason to get a little dolled up every once in a while.}

**ON THE MOVE**

The athletics ticket office has moved to the Carolina First Arena, where it will be joined in late December/ early January by most of the athletics staff currently housed at 284 King Street and in the Silcox and Johnson Centers.

The strength and conditioning staff and the sailing team coaches will remain at their current locations until further notice. All contact information will remain the same.

**UNDER CONSTRUCTION**

- Construction documents for the conversion of Craig Cafeteria to an admissions hub continued to be developed in November. The project is scheduled to be bid out in January.
- Interior demolition of the old John Kresse Arena occurred in November. Steel work for the racquetball courts will begin in January.
- Electricity will be provided to the Cato Center in December, with window installation beginning in late December/ early January.
- Moisture-resistant drywall was installed in some areas of the new science center, and concrete grade beams and electrical tie-ins were also completed. All other utilities tie-ins should be complete in early December, and slab work and direct-burial piping is scheduled for completion in December. Roofing has begun and may be complete by the end of January, which is also when flood walls are expected to be installed.
Save the Date

Origami Ornaments
Make an origami shrimp ornament to give as a gift or keep for yourself.

When: Tuesday, December 9, 12–1 p.m.
Where: Human Resources conference room, Lightsey Center basement
Fee: None
Contact: Linda Mc clenaghan, 953.8238, mcclenagha ni@cofc.edu

Faculty and Staff Holiday Party
Eat, drink and be merry at this annual celebration.

When: Friday, December 12, 6–10 p.m.
Where: Silcox Center
Fee: None, tickets required for admittance
Contact: Alexa Thacker, 953.6673, thacker a@cofc.edu

Homecoming Tailgate and Games
Cheer on the women’s basketball team as they play Western Carolina and keep your Cougar pride going strong when the men’s basketball team plays Elon. Or, just hang out, tailgate and listen to live musical performances.

When: Saturday, January 31, tailgating 12–4 p.m.; women’s game 1 p.m.; men’s game 4 p.m.
Where: Carolina First Arena & George Street/Cistern Yard
Fee: women’s game, $5; men’s game, $15; tailgating, free
Contact: Bethany LaPlante, 953.8122, l apl ante b@cofc.edu

All information is subject to change. Please verify times, places and registration requirements with listed addresses.

Some things are just too good to be true. That’s what was going through Fire Marshal Rick Krantz’s mind when he first heard that the City of North Charleston was retiring their fleet of “mini-pumpers” and was considering donating one of the small fire trucks to the College. “These vehicles are worth around $175,000, so I kept thinking there’s no way we can get this thing for free,” says Krantz, who worked for months to help the College acquire its new 1999 Ford F450. “In the end, we got a lot more than we’d ever bargained for.” The vehicle, which the College has owned since October, came complete with hoses (some donated by York County and the City of Charleston), axes, floodlights, ladders, a generator and a smoke ejector – about $13,000 worth of equipment in all. “It has all the bells and whistles,” says Krantz, unlocking the truck’s side panels to reveal compartments full of neatly labeled tools. “It carries everything we need – all we have to do is jump in and go. It’s easier for us to respond – which means the entire campus is a safer place.” And, really, it doesn’t get any better than that.


News Briefs: News You Can Use

President P. George Benson has been named to the Manufacturing Institute’s Education Council.

Michael Haskins, executive vice president for external relations, was named the South Carolina Marketer of the Year by the Charleston American Marketing Association.

Lou Burnett, biology professor and director of the Grice Marine Laboratory, appeared on NBC’s The Today Show to talk about his “shrimp on a treadmill” experiment and YouTube video.

Roxane Delaurell, assistant professor of accounting and legal studies; David Desplaces, associate professor of entrepreneurship; Hao-Chen Liu, assistant professor of economics and finance; Jim Mueller, associate professor of management and entrepreneurship; and Henry Xie, assistant professor of marketing and supply chain management, earned the Certified Global Business Professional designation from NASBITE International.

The Charleston Regional Business Journal has named English professor Caroline Hunt a Health Care Hero for her volunteer work directing the pet therapy program at Roper St. Francis Healthcare.
Look high and low!

Thanks to everyone who participated in the last photo quiz, and congratulations to Michelle Foreman, coordinator for housing assignments for residence life and housing, who was the first to guess that the object in question was the clay face that's mounted on the lamppost outside of the Honors College at 10 Green Way. The face—which, according to campus arborist John Davis, first appeared some time last year—is made from modeling clay, a material that isn't often used in the sculpture or studio-art studios. “Anyone could have done it,” says Jarod Charzewski, visiting professor of sculpture. “I think of the piece as an abstract form of graffiti that is not permanent or destructive—just cool!”

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, January 16, 2009. The contest is open to all College faculty and staff. One submission per person, please.

Adrian Fox
Assistant Professor of Communication
2008 Resolution: Enjoy the Lowcountry’s culture and food.

“This year I’ve enjoyed my travels and (too much) food, ranging from stuffed pizza in Chicago to Cajun food in Louisiana. Let’s face it, not too many people make New Year’s resolutions based on more food consumption!”