THE PARTY’S ONLY JUST BEGUN

THERE’S A LOT TO CELEBRATE WHEN YOU’RE A COUGAR …

especially in 2010! Not only does this year mark the 220th anniversary of the College’s first classes and the 110th anniversary of its first bachelor of science–degree program – it’s also the College’s 40th year of being a state institution, not to mention being “the Cougars.” Of course, while the birth of the cougar mascot in 1970 was certainly a significant moment, Chide isn’t the only one with cause for celebration.

This year, the School of the Arts, the Honors College, the Yechiv/Arnold Jewish Studies Program and Crazyhorse literary magazine are all observing anniversaries – each of them commemorating not just their founding year, but their continuing resilience, hard work and accomplishments, as well. It’s a time to look back at how far they’ve come and to look forward to how far they’ll go – and to have fun doing it.

To recognize its 50 years, Crazyhorse is publishing a “best of the best” anniversary issue in addition to its usual two issues. And, although it wasn’t until 2001 that the award-winning journal came to the College, it has evolved into a national-level publication since it got here.

“Almost mainstream now (as mainstream as literary journals get, anyway), Crazyhorse started out as a very obscure, counter-culture journal,” says the journal’s editor, Garrett Doherty. “It is now much more known and sought out by creative writers and students than then. It’s come a long way, and has helped to bring literary writing to more and more people.”

Also engaging more and more people since its founding is the Honors College, which began observing its 30th anniversary last fall with an alumni speaker series and will be holding other celebrations throughout the year, including one in conjunction with April’s A Charleston Affair. The program has gone from 67 applicants its first year over 900 applicants last year, from 26 students its first year to 650 students this year and from a graduating class of 4 to over 120.

“We will graduate by far our largest graduating class this year, and this class will have the highest four-year graduation rate from honors of any class in history,” says Dean John Newell. “Today the Honors College has the most students, the strongest students, the most courses and most activities than it has had in its 30-year history. We still have a lot to do, but it feels great to have made the accomplishments that we have.”

One of the biggest achievements for any school, program or publication, of course, is sheer survival. And, having celebrated 25 years of not just staying power, but continued growth and success, it’s safe to say that the Jewish studies program is here to stay.

“Twenty-five years is a long time, and it gives Jewish studies an important history at the College,” says Martin Perlmutter, director of the Yechiv/Arnold Jewish Studies Program, which celebrated last fall with a big gala and a weekend of lectures, film screenings, tours and comedy. “Jewish studies now has a solid base to build on in Jewish studies courses, in student life and in community outreach. Every year the program grows, so each year is better than the preceding year.”

It’s that same kind of continuous improvement that the School of the Arts, now in its 20th year, is celebrating with festivities that will culminate in a gala in October.

“The School of the Arts gets better every year,” says Michael Haga, associate dean, adding that the school has “more students, more faculty and staff, more friends in the community and more programs” than ever before. “The faculty, staff, students and alumni can be proud of what we have accomplished over the past two decades.”

And – when it comes to celebrating the College and its many accomplishments – a little Cougar pride is all you really need.
REACHING OUT: Amanda Weingarten Answers the Call of Duty

AMANDA WEINGARTEN DIDN’T set out to be a hero. She wasn’t planning on changing lives. She certainly hadn’t anticipated hundreds of people looking to her for guidance. At least not that particular day.

But, when a call from the S.C. Department of Social Services was forwarded to the School of Languages, Cultures, and World Affairs’ dean’s offices late that Friday afternoon, she seemed destined to make a difference.

“There just happened to be a big rainstorm coming, so when DSS called the French department, no one was there, and it went to the dean’s office,” recalls the school’s development officer. “I just happened to be right there when the receptionist got the call asking for French speakers to translate for the Haitian families flying into Charleston that night – and I just happened to have no plans.”

It had been just over three weeks since the catastrophic earthquake in Haiti, and the Charleston International Airport had been designated a repatriation site for Haitian-American evacuees and relief workers.

“I knew that having someone to help with communication would put them at ease a little and make things a little less scary,” says Weingarten, who started speaking French as a toddler and spent two years studying in France. “Being able to express your needs and your emotions in your own language is so important, especially when you’ve been through the kind of devastation they’ve been through.”

And so she quickly joined the efforts, working 5- to 12-hour shifts between 10 p.m. and 10 a.m. throughout the month of February, when the airport received between two and five flights – each with 50-75 passengers – a night.

“It’s heartbreaking to see so many people suffering,” says Weingarten, who also collected sweatshirts for the evacuees. “I noticed they were coming off the planes in their sundresses and shorts, and they were freezing.”

Once in the airport, each family went through immigration and customs and got optional medical evaluations and psychological assistance before transportation to their destination was arranged and any other needs were addressed.

“I try to stay with the family through the entire process,” says Weingarten, adding that the process typically took about three hours. “It’s pretty grueling for them. I’m just there to make it easier. They’ve already been through enough hell.”

Indeed, many of the evacuees had lost not only everything they had, but everyone they knew – including their families. Such was the case of a 6-year-old boy whose parents had been killed in the earthquake.

“He started off very grumpy, violent. His spirit was just very temperamental. But, by the end, he was all hugs and kisses,” says Weingarten, who worked with the boy for nearly eight hours before he boarded a plane for Ft. Lauderdale, where he would live with his aunt. Two days later, Weingarten got a call from the boy’s aunt, thanking her for everything she’d done. “Knowing that I’d helped make this nightmare a little better for someone – it motivated me and reminded me why I was there. It made it all worth it.”

Still, the despair the families have experienced – and will continue to experience – is a lot to absorb.

“I’m not really thinking about what I’m hearing and seeing. I’m scared that if I talk about the stories I hear and the heartbreak I see, I won’t be able to function – I don’t know that I’d be able to go in and get the job done,” she says. “I think I’m going to have to process it once it’s over.”

She has, however, begun to grasp the magnitude of this experience in both her own life and in the lives of countless others.

“It’s monumental,” says Weingarten.

“This is probably the biggest impact I’ll have on the course of history.”
FLYING HIGH
Andrew Bergstrom
Rules the Skies

IT DIPS. IT FLIPS. IT SPIRALs, THEN FALTERS.
It swerves, then tumbles. It halts. It veers.
And then, from 75 feet, it just nosedives – a plummeting arch of red and yellow against the blue sky.

Luckily, Andrew Bergstrom holds sway over this kite – and, within five feet of the ground, it stalls, hovering for a few seconds before climbing back into the sky.

“It’s all about balancing – feeling exactly when to let up a little and when it needs a little more tension,” says the director of web strategies in IT, who started flying stunt kites as a student at the College in the early 1990s. “You have to know when to let the wind do its thing and when its time to do your thing.”

Bergstrom, by the way, has several “things,” including soccer and disc golf, besides flying stunt kites. But if the weather is nice and the winds are right, the 1994 alumnus will be flying high.

“It’s a great distraction from everything. I don’t wonder what’s going on at work or about what I have to do later on. Instead, I wonder, Where is the wind going? Where’s the edge of the wind? Do I need to go higher? Do I need to go lower?” he says. “You’re so focused on the connection between the wind and the kite and yourself – you get into it in your mind. I kind of forget where I am – and that there are people watching me.”

And, yes, people do watch.

“Oh, it always draws a crowd,” Bergstrom smiles. “First they hear the noise (the fabric makes this buzzing sound when the wind cuts through it) and then they get drawn into this kite that’s behaving differently than other kites: it’s moving around in the sky, and it’s dipping down close to the ground, but it doesn’t fall like a regular kite would. It’s moving around like it means to. Its movements look intentional, like the kite has the control.”

But, of course, it’s Bergstrom who’s in control – and that’s just the way he wants it.

“I like the feeling of control – controlling something so far away from you. It’s up there in the sky, and you’re controlling it from all the way down on the ground,” he says. “You actually use the kite to harness the wind so you can ride on it. It’s almost like you’re controlling the wind.”

Almost. But not quite. Bergstrom, of course, depends on the wind. Without it, there is no kite flying. Fortunately, he has disc golf to fall back on.

“I end up playing disc golf more often just because I don’t have to wait for a certain kind of day. It’s not a thing where one is preferred over the other,” he says. “Actually, they’re a lot alike – there’s no hurrying, they’re not at all intense, they’re both relaxing.”

Still, there’s something that seems extra peaceful about watching a bright, colorful kite sail through the sky – which is precisely why Bergstrom doesn’t pass it up when the right conditions come along.

“It’s pretty cool when you’ve got a nice wind and the kites just go streaking across the sky. When there’s a good wind, the kite practically flies itself,” he says, then adds, “But the trick is never to lose control.”

After all, when you’re in charge, the sky’s the limit.
NEW SCHOOL: Getting to Know George Hynd

THE COLLEGE HAS A WAY OF FEELING like home. And it’s been no different for George Hynd, the new provost and executive vice president for academic affairs, who arrived on campus in January. Still in the midst of what’s been “a wonderfully busy transition” from Arizona State University, where he was the senior vice provost for education and innovation and the dean and director of the Mary Lou Fulton Institute and Graduate School of Education, Hynd sits down to tell us a bit about himself, his background and his outlook for the College’s future.

Q: Where did you grow up, and how do you feel about your new home of Charleston, S.C.?
A: I grew up in the military, as my father was an officer in the Air Force, so we lived in Italy, California and Hawaii. Having lived in the Southeast for much of my professional life (Hynd served in several academic capacities at the University of Georgia from 1979 to 2003), I am thrilled to be back in the historic gem of the South, Charleston.

Q: What’s something that everyone should know about you?
A: I’m curious, so I want to learn why people are engaged in their jobs, what excites them and what they see in their future.

Q: Why did you want the job as the provost at the College of Charleston?
A: I was attracted to this position because I see the College as being positioned to truly move to a new level of excellence. President Benson has assembled an excellent leadership team; we have some outstanding deans and some of the best faculty in the country.

More specifically, I was attracted to the College because of its rich history and the exciting new strategic plan, which will increase the already high level of respect this institution has regionally, nationally and, increasingly, globally. I wanted to be part of this exciting transition and contribute to its success.

Q: So far, how does the job compare to your previous job at Arizona State?
A: What I find most different from my previous position is that the faculty here have had a great opportunity to be an important part of the effort to craft a strategic vision and plan that will collectively allow us to develop the College in new and creative ways.

Q: How would you describe your leadership approach?
A: Fundamentally, I believe in people and I trust that they truly want to contribute to the greater good. I believe we should work hard to put the right people in positions that match their passion and expertise, support them and appreciate their accomplishments and help them when they experience challenges.

Q: What’s your favorite thing about the College so far?
A: The thing that has struck me the most is the juxtaposition of the old historic buildings and the wonderfully new, state-of-the-art facilities such as the library, Science Building and the arena. My favorite thing is the College’s place in the rich and evolving history of the city of Charleston. The College clearly reflects Charleston’s history but, most importantly, its place in building the future of the city and Lowcountry as it develops in response to new challenges and opportunities.

Q: What are you looking forward to the most about this job?
A: The thing I am looking most forward to as part of this position is the opportunity to get to know our faculty, staff and students. They are the essence of what makes the College of Charleston such a unique place.

ON THE SAFE SIDE

There are now 13 Automatic External Defibrillators (AEDs) available for public access in the following locations:
- Berry Hall - inside main entrance
- Cato Center for the Arts - 1st floor, near elevator; concourse level, northeast end and southwest end
- Grice Marine Lab - 1st floor of new building, inside main entrance
- Hollings Science Center - across from restrooms in center of 1st floor
- Johnson Center - inside George Street entrance, near elevator
- Liberty Street Fresh Food Company - inside main entrance
- Science Building - across from elevators on 1st, 2nd and 3rd floors
- Simons Center - by stage door in center of 1st floor
- Stern Student Center - 2nd floor, beside stairs

To learn how to use an AED and to become CPR certified, visit cofc.edu/ems. For more information, contact Resident Fire Marshal Tim Agee at agee@cofc.edu or 3.5499.

UNDER CONSTRUCTION

- The front stairway is being restored at the Blacklock House, where fire- and health-safety features are also being upgraded and HVAC insufficiencies and water-intrusion problems are being addressed. The project is expected to be completed by the end of March.
- In February, networking and audio/video wiring and equipment were installed in Craig Union, where the Office of Admissions and Adult Student Services is expected to move this month.
- Due to last month’s cold, wet weather, the construction schedule for the exterior repairs to Randolph Hall, Towell Library and Porters Lodge has been accelerated to assure all scaffolding will be removed from the Cistern Yard for May Commencement and Spoleto Festival USA. Structural repairs to Towell Library will begin this month, with as much work as possible being done during spring break, after the admissions offices have moved out.
**SAVE THE DATE**

**WORLD CULTURES FAIR**
Food, music and performances will take you on a trip around the world on this day of international fun.

**When:** Thurs., March 25, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.
**Where:** Stern Center Garden
**Fee:** None
**Contact:** Elizabeth Martinez-Gibson, 3.8066, martineze@cofc.edu

**A SEASON TO CELEBRATE**
Robert Ivey Ballet celebrates its 33rd season in residence at the College with this performance, featuring students’ dancing, costume design and set design.

**When:** Fri., March 26 and Sat., March 27, 8 p.m.; Sun., March 28, 3 p.m.
**Where:** Sottile Theatre
**Fee:** None for staff/faculty
**Contact:** For tickets, contact Sannie Cooke at 556.1343, info@robertiveyballet.com

**MULTICULTURAL ExCEL AWARDS PROGRAM**
Celebrate diversity and honor members of the College community who have enhanced multiculturalism and excellence on campus and beyond.

**When:** Tues., March 30, 4 p.m. (reception) and 5 p.m. (ceremony)
**Where:** Sottile Theatre
**Fee:** None
**Contact:** Teresa Smith, 3.5660, smitht@cofc.edu

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

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**NEWS BRIEFS:** *News You Can Use*

- The Portico readership survey results are available at cofc.edu/therptico/results.
- The College’s YouTube channel was the fifth most-viewed YouTube EDU channel in January.
- Google Inc. has donated 20 desktop computers to the Department of Computer Science’s new software innovations lab.
- Valid on weekdays 2:50 p.m.-7:59 a.m. and any time on weekends through August 23, evening-only parking permits for the St. Philip Street Parking Garage are now available for $100. For more information, contact parking services at 3.7834 or parkingservices@cofc.edu.
- To receive discounted subscription to The New York Times through campus mail Monday through Friday, visit nytimes.com/prof, enter the zip code 29401 and follow the instructions.

Current subscribers changing their home delivery to on-campus delivery must call 800.698.4637. For more information, contact mail services at 3.5534 or mailservices@cofc.edu.
- Employees are eligible for free access (basic admission) to Magnolia Plantation when they present a valid Cougar Card at the ticket booth. For more information, visit magnoliaplantation.com.
Thanks to everyone who participated in the last photo quiz, and congratulations to Sarah Orsborn, administrative specialist in the Department of Studio Art, who was the first to guess that the object in question was the compass painted on the floor of the printmaking studio in the Albert Simons Center for the Arts. “In reality, we painted it for kicks,” says Elizabeth Stephenson ’08, who was a student worker in the studio when she and the printmaking assistant painted the compass in 2005, and who is now serving as the department’s printmaking assistant as well as a grantwriter for the Yachik/Arnold Jewish Studies Program.

“It started out silly – people were always asking where to put this, where to put that,” agrees Printmaking Professor Barbara Duvall, explaining that the compass is there “to help students navigate around the print studio, especially to find where things are and where to put them back: Where does the broom go? It goes in the northeast corner! It’s a big help.”

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 Monday, March 15, 2010. The contest is open to all College faculty and staff. One submission per person, please.

Sharna Williams
Library Technical Assistant, Addlestone Library

“Working in an environment filled with young students is a great privilege to me because they are our future. I am able to share my experiences with them and I, too, have learned a lot from them as well. In fact, I have formed some lasting friendships with many of the students that have worked under my supervision over the years.”

Marke Grimsley
Public Safety Officer

“I like being there to help them feel safe. And they make me feel young.”

Marla Cochran
Student Employment Coordinator, Career Center

“The best thing about working in a place where you’re surrounded by students is that their energy will always keep you in youthful spirits. You’ll always stay up-to-date on all the latest text lingo, too.”