A WELCOME CHANGE

FIRST IMPRESSIONS ONLY COME ONCE - BUT, AT THE College, that’s really all it takes. With the splendor of Randolph Hall, the mystique of the live oaks and the allure of the Cistern Yard, the campus has a way of charming its visitors. Of course, even the College can’t always get by on looks alone, and – with the new admissions hub making getting to know campus (and the College itself) easier and more straightforward than ever – it’s doing everything it can to make that first impression last.

“Our campus sells itself,” says Jimmie Foster, director of freshman admissions, “and having a one-stop shop for prospective students and their families makes it that much easier – not just for them, but for us.”

That’s because, after more than 20 years of being spread across campus, the Office of Admissions and Adult Student Services is finally under one roof – operating as a cohesive unit in the renovated space on the first floor of Craig Hall.

Previously divided between Towell Library, Randolph Hall and the BellSouth Building, freshman admissions, adult student services and admissions operations relocated to the newly repurposed space in March, and the visitor information center will move from the Robert Scott Small Building this month.

“We’re most grateful that our staff has been centralized in one area,” says Suzette Stille, director of admissions. “It’s extremely helpful to have one space from which all of our functional areas are managed.”

Darin Junck, director of technical and systems analysis, couldn’t agree more.

“The new space allows us to combine all of our data processing, imaging and mail operations into one central location,” he says. “This will help us streamline our current business processes and use the staff we have to its fullest potential.”

The admissions staff – including over 30 employees and some 20 students – certainly stands to benefit from coming together as one.

“It will greatly increase our efficiency, workflow process and collegiality,” says Dorinda Harmon, director of transfer and adult admissions, adding that the positive effects of the new space were apparent within days of relocating. “Staff immediately started reporting increases in accomplished tasks.”

Built for productivity, the new space features four distinct pods – one for the admissions directors, one for the counseling staff, one for the phone staff and one for technical operations.

“Everyone has their own space, but we’re more connected than before,” says Foster, noting that just sharing the same roof – and the break area, boardroom and multi-purpose conference room under it – will help unite the admissions team. “I think it’s going to do a lot for community spirit.”

And, of course, that sense of unity will make an impression – especially on prospective students and their families. With an inviting courtyard and an information center featuring a gallery space, computer stations and flat-screen TVs showing images and information about the College, the new center provides its visitors with a comfortable yet state-of-the-art welcome center that reflects both the College’s historic traditions and its focus on the future.

“It retains that wonderful blend of the old and the new that is so characteristic of Charleston and our campus,” says Don Burkard, associate vice president of enrollment planning. “It is a welcoming area that uses technology to further enhance the College’s enchanting beauty.”

This is especially true of the presentation room, which opens this month.

“That space will be the most impressive element,” says Stille. Located in what was once Craig Cafeteria’s main dining area, the presentation room’s north-facing glass wall overlooks George Street. “After their information sessions, visitors will really be wowed when, with a simple touch of a button, panels will raise to reveal the beautiful and historic Porters Lodge with the stunning Cistern Yard behind it.”

Making a big impression has never been so easy.
YOU’VE SEEN THEM ALL OVER campus. Maybe you’ve stopped to greet one or two somewhere along the line – or perhaps you’ve sat among a group of them without even realizing it. But even if you don’t always notice them, you know they’re out there. And – considering how many are at the College alone – it’s never too hard to track one down.

They’re the staff and faculty members who make up the Campus Cat Coalition, and they’re in force – united in their concern for the well-being of the cats on campus, as well as in their sense of responsibility to help these felines live healthy, comfortable lives.

“Our care for the campus cats is an effort of cooperative teamwork among many volunteers from across campus,” says Cathy Evans, media coordinator in the Addlestone Library, who founded the CCC in 2002 in an attempt to coordinate the feeding, vaccinating, trapping and neutering that various staff and faculty members were tackling independently. “We decided that, to make the biggest difference, we needed to make a concerted effort, focusing on reducing populations and improving life for the campus cats.”

And that’s exactly what they’ve done. Thanks to a vigorous TNR (trap/neuter/return) program, they’ve made a significant impact on the College’s outdoor cat population: Today, there are only 14 cats residing on campus, whereas on any given night in the 1990s, it wasn’t uncommon to find 25–30 cats lounging around in the Stern Center Garden alone.

“Now we have just half that on the entire campus!” says Evans. “And the ones we do have are tamer, happier and healthier – some are downright chubby!”

With a total of 14 volunteer feeders (including morning and evening feeders seven days a week, as well as substitutes and holiday feeders), some of whom have “kitty partners” to help supply the food, the campus cats are definitely eating well. Feeders are also responsible for applying monthly flea treatments, and there are other volunteers available for trapping, transporting and fostering the cats as needed.

“It’s just a do-what-you-can kind of community,” says Evans. “We all share the responsibility, and there’s always a point person to take some of the burden off so it’s not too overwhelming.”

And, with everyone chipping in, volunteering is that much more enjoyable.

“It really doesn’t take a tremendous amount of time, and it is very rewarding,” says Lynn Cherry, associate professor and associate chair of the communication department and longtime feeder, adding that teamwork is what has made the coalition successful. “Any group that has a common interest or cause can accomplish a lot if they work together. The coalition is a fairly loosely structured group, yet we are able to do quite a bit to take care of the cats.”

That’s in large part due to the extensive network of volunteers, community members, veterinarians, humane societies and other resources – most of which are included on an e-mail distribution list, and some of which provide the CCC with assistance and discounts – that Evans has built over the years. Still, it’s right here at the College that the CCC finds most of its support – whether in the form of volunteer efforts, monetary donations or encouraging words.

“The campus has been tremendous in its support,” says Brenda Bubage, budget manager in budgeting and payroll services, who was once approached in the restroom by a faculty member who first asked about the CCC and then donated funds to it right then and there. “I think because people see the cats and get to know them, they feel more connected.”

Whatever the reason, says Evans, “a wonderful sense of shared community has evolved from this humane cause, and I know I’m not alone when I say I’ve made many good friends within the community – friends that otherwise I may never have met.”

It’s true: Without the CCC, all these compassionate cat lovers may have gone completely unnoticed.

For more information or to volunteer or donate to the Campus Cat Coalition, contact Cathy Evans at evansc@cofc.edu.
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Still, DuMars is always careful not to overstep

his boundaries. After all, he’s been out on the

water enough to learn a little consideration.

“I see something I’ve never seen before pretty

much every time I come out here,” says DuMars,

who uses an iPhone to track dolphin, and will

soon be getting a hydrophone, which will allow

him to identify the voice of an individual dolphin

and “follow him wherever he goes.”

Still, DuMars is always careful not to overstep

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“You have to respect the natural world and

your own limitations,” he says. “Being among

animals in their natural habitat makes me realize

that we – all animals – need community, but we

also need our own space.”

And DuMars has certainly found his.

“This is my little domain,” he says, waving

his hand out at the river before him. “Out here,

I feel pretty good – I’m confident in myself and

what I know about my surroundings.”

But, of course, he also knows there’s plenty

more to learn. 

For more information, visit tidelinefairs.com or contact
Anton DuMars at dumarsa@cofc.edu or 813-2497.

OFFSHORE EDUCATION
Anton DuMars Takes the Helm

FROM THE PAINED CALLS OF THE
black skimmers and the compelling behavior of
the tidal currents to the sweeping throw of the
cast net and the exact route of the Confederate
troops: You can learn a lot out on the Lowcountry
waters – just take it from Anton DuMars.

“There’s always more to learn,” says the
adjunct geology professor, who has been
exploring the salt marshes around Folly and
Morris islands for 30 years, picking up some rich
lessons along the way. “If there’s one thing you’ll
learn out here, it’s that everything changes –
there’s always something new.”

It’s with that lesson in mind that DuMars
decided to try something new himself: In 2008
the Coast Guard–certified captain and former
Navy submariner opened Tideline Tours,
providing professional tours to private groups of
up to 11 passengers on his 23’ Carolina skiff.

Now in its third season, the company has
been making waves among locals and tourists
alike, steadily stirring up business through good
press and word of mouth. And, with returning
customers ranging from the 54th Massachusetts
Regiment to the 3-year-olds at the N.E. Miles
Early Childhood Development Center – it’s safe
to say just about anyone can appreciate a ride on
the Tideline.

“I adjust the tours to the group,” says
DuMars, adding that he always gives passengers
the chance to interact with their surroundings.
“We get out and explore – see what we can see.”

Although children as young as 18 months can
enjoy the sights and sounds of the excursions,
the most hands-on ecological expeditions –
the Coastal Classroom tours – are designed
specifically for older kids (middle schoolers
and up) interested in the inner-workings of the
coastal processes, the barrier islands and the
creatures living there. Regardless of the specific
tour, however, everyone comes away with a
better understanding of the marshland ecology.

“People come to realize that the marsh is
a living, breathing entity. You can’t see this
from a rolled-up car window while crossing the
causeway,” says DuMars, urging: “Come play in
the marsh! You’d be surprised what you’ll see
once you’re out here – I know I am.”

And – to hear him tell stories of dolphin
jumping out of the water in perfect five-figure
formation and even tail-walking across the
water’s surface – it’s easy to see why.

“I see something I’ve never seen before pretty
much every time I come out here,” says DuMars,
who uses an iPhone to track dolphin, and will
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GARDENER’S
PICK

WAKAEBISU SATSUKI HYBRID AZALEA

AKA: Wakaebisu azalea, Rhododendron hybrid.

ON CAMPUS: Found on the north side of Randolph Hall.

DESCRIPTION: As a cultivar of the Satsuki (meaning “fifth month”) group of
hybrid azaleas, this dense, heavy-blooming evergreen produces salmon-
pink flowers in early-to-mid May – typically just in time for Mother’s Day.
Its compact, low-growing form spreads slowly, making it perfect in smaller
gardens and along flower-bed borders.

TIPS: Plant in well-drained soil and filtered sun – ideally beneath tall trees or on
the east or north sides of structures and fences. Plant shallow, with the top of
the root ball slightly above soil level, and cover root zone with mulch. Prune
immediately after flowering, and – for compact plants with maximum flower
production – continue to tip-pinch until late July.
YOU DON’T HAVE TO BE PARTICULARLY tuned in to the local arts scene to know who he is. His name – now synonymous with dance for most Charlestonians – is so prevalent in our creative community, it’s hard to imagine a cultural events calendar without it. Indeed, when it comes to the creative arts, Robert Ivey has made his mark on Charleston – though not before Charleston had made its mark on him.

“I fell in love the day I arrived, and I fell more and more in love the more I got to know the community, the culture and the landscape and climate,” says the professor emeritus of dance, who – upon the invitation of Gian Carlo Menotti, founder of Spoleto Festival USA and its Italian sister, Festival dei Due Mondi – first came to Charleston in 1977 to choreograph and dance in Spoleto USA’s first opera. “I guess I’m just like everyone else who comes to Charleston and falls in love – I didn’t want to leave.”

And so he didn’t. Instead, he stuck around – establishing a dance company, Robert Ivey Ballet, as well as a dance program at the College of Charleston.

“It’s hard to believe, but when I came to the College, there was no School of the Arts, no Simons Center and, of course, no Cato Center – and yet somehow it all seems like yesterday,” says Ivey. “We’ve come a long way.”

And it shows.

“We’re making a name for ourselves. We’ve always appealed to dancers because of our involvement in Spoleto, but our reputation is attracting more and more students interested specifically in dance,” says Ivey, explaining that serious dance students from all over the Southeast are starting to take notice of the College’s dance program. “The word is out, and the quality of students just keeps getting better and better – I’m constantly impressed with the training and technique they already have when they get here.”

Even more impressive: the students’ dedication. “I think our dance students have got to be some of the most serious students at the College,” says Ivey. “Other students put in their class time and their study time, but dance students are at it 24/7. Taking care of their bodies is part of their assignment. They can’t stay up all night or pig out on pizza. They have to sacrifice the typical college experience. I admire them for that. They’re giving a lot up for dance.”

That’s why Ivey does his best to make it worth their while.

“I think performing is very gratifying for them,” he says, noting that the students put on at least one production a semester. It gives students a reason to work through it – to master their parts. It can be very rewarding.”

And not just for the dancers.

“When there’s a section of dance that a particular dancer is having problems with, and you just keep pushing them – and then, at a performance, you see them get through it – that’s the part that feels so good,” smiles Ivey. “At the end of the day, that’s what I do this for. That’s what I want to take home with me: the satisfaction that I’ve given my students everything I have to offer, and that that’s given them the confidence to keep dancing.”

Of course, Ivey isn’t the only one with something to offer.

“The students give me energy,” he says. “Their enthusiasm is contagious. I’ve been at this a long time, and I’m still excited every day – and I owe that all to the students. They’ve had a huge impact on my life.”

In other words, Ivey isn’t the only one making a mark.

IN STEP: Robert Ivey Makes All the Right Moves

TECHNOBYTES

It’s been a “Banner” year for the College – especially for the BATTERY Project team, which has been rolling out the College’s new suite of administrative software applications, known as Banner, with such success that all the main modules are now operational. “While the changes are groundbreaking, a great deal of work is still to be done,” says Priscilla Burbage, vice president for fiscal services. “The rest of the year will be devoted to fine-tuning the base modules and implementing new software.” Still to be launched, for example, are the software programs for purchasing/procurement (July 1), student bill paying/cashiering (July), student housing (August) and academic advising/degree audits (late summer).

For more information, visit batteriesproject.cofc.edu, or contact Priscilla Burbage at 3.5578 or burbagep@cofc.edu.

UNDER CONSTRUCTION

- Previously occupied by the Office of Admissions, the space on the first floor of Randolph Hall will be reconfigured to accommodate the Office of Institutional Research and the space on the second floor of the Robert Scott Small Building will be renovated into an 80-seat classroom, scheduled to be available for the fall 2010 semester.
- HVAC systems testing, balancing and commissioning for the LEED certification of Craig Hall continues; the facility is on target to receive a LEED Silver rating. Exterior signage, brick walkways and landscaping are scheduled to be finished this summer.
- Repairs to Randolph Hall continue, with enough of the south side completed last month to remove the scaffolding facing the Cistern Yard. Repairs to the Porters Lodge stucco will continue as the Cistern Yard’s busy schedule allows, and structural repairs for Towell Library will soon be in full swing.
LIGHTEN YOUR LOAD SALES
Pick up secondhand clothes, accessories, houseware and much more at residence life’s annual sales.
When: Wed., May 5, 4:30-6:30 p.m. and Fri., May 7, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
Where: Liberty Street Residence Hall, first- and second-floor activity rooms
Fee: None
Contact: Melantha Ardrey, 3.3257, ardreyjm@cofc.edu

SPOLETO SNEAK PEAK
Get the inside scoop on the must-see performances of the 2010 Spoleto USA and Piccolo Spoleto festivals.
When: Mon., May 10, 6-7:30 p.m.
Where: Simons Center Recital Hall
Fee: None
Contact: Jenny Fowler, 3.6526, fowlerj@cofc.edu

WORKSITE HEALTH SCREENING
State Health Plan, BlueChoice and Cigna subscribers are all eligible for this preventive health screening. For more information, visit eip.sc.gov/publications/Guide_complete.pdf.
When: Tues., May 25, 7:40-11:50 a.m.
Where: Lightsey Center, room B36
Fee: $15, payable to Carolina Occupational Health Screening Group
Contact: Register by May 14 with Margie Gamble, 3.5513, gamblem@cofc.edu

There may only be 80 square feet in Barbara Duval’s office, but there's plenty to take in. During her 27 years in the space, the printmaking professor has packed in a lot – and yet somehow managed to keep an air of artistic order. Her workspace is tidy, with everything seeming to have its place (her “pens of the world” even have their own stand!), and the red-and-black motif – established largely by the neatly labeled binders on her shelves – creates a centralizing backdrop for the chaos of the snow globes and the crowd of characters loitering about: demure Disney princesses mingling with the likes of Hulk Hogan, RoboCop, Transformers and the X-Men. “How bizarre is it that people make soap bottles to look like people – and so many of them!” marvels Duval. “Why? Why do we want to get our soap out of something with a face?”

Duval’s sense of the bizarre and sense of humor are accented by her artistic perspective in every corner of the room: hand creams juxtaposing foot bones, toy wrestlers jiving with art manikins, bologna-flavored bubblegum hanging with “Understand Modern Art Instantly” breath spray. “This is pure kitsch,” says Duval. “I love kitsch, but it’s better to express it in my office than let it seep into my art. I get it all out in here.” That’s not to say that all refinement gets checked at the door. There is, after all, a chandelier hanging above Duval’s desk. “I think chandeliers get it all out in here.” That’s not to say that all refinement gets checked at the door. There is, after all, a chandelier hanging above Duval’s desk. “I think chandeliers get it all out in here.”

Duval’s office is a wondrous place, and not just for its artistry, but also for the stories it tells. “Do you know what it is? The first person to walk in here will get it all out in here.”

NEWS BRIEFS: News You Can Use

- MeadWestvaco has given $25,000 to the College to develop a collection of environmental sciences materials over the next three years.
- Crazyhorse literary journal was awarded a $7,500 Access to Artistic Excellence grant from National Endowment for the Arts.
- Leigh Moscowitz, assistant professor of communication, was named a 2010 grant recipient in the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication Scholars Program.
- Women’s basketball coach Nancy Wilson received the 2010 Fellowship of Christian Athletes Kay Yow Heart of a Coach Award.
- The deadline for employee parking applications for next year is June 4. For more information, visit parkingservices.cofc.edu/parking/employees.php or contact parking services at parkingservices@cofc.edu or 3.7834.
- Employees’ children (ages 13 and up) are eligible for $50 off one or $100 off both seven-week Charleston Strength and Conditioning Camp sessions beginning at the College on June 14 and July 7 (MWF, 8-9:30 a.m). For more information, contact Steve Bamel, 3.3603 or bamels@cofc.edu.
Thanks to everyone who participated in the last photo quiz, and congratulations Rebecca Kavage Adams, adjunct professor of geology and environmental geosciences, who was the first to guess that the object in question was Saturn, depicted in stained glass on the door to room 116 in the Rita Liddy Hollings Science Center. The window, which also portrays a comet as well as Jupiter, Mars and Earth and its moon, was made and installed by Mike Moeller ’95 (M.S. ’98) for the opening of the Santee Cooper Geographic Information Systems Laboratory (now located in the School of Sciences and Mathematics Building) in 1997. “What a busy year that was, setting up that new lab,” says Cass Runyon, associate professor of geology and environmental geosciences and then-manager of the College’s new GIS lab. “Why the planets, you might ask? I’m a planetary geologist.”

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 Friday, May 14, 2010. The contest is open to all College faculty and staff. One submission per person, please.

What will you miss the most when the students leave for the summer?

Takara Chatman
Assistant Director of Fiscal and Administrative Services for Public Safety

“Traffic, parking and pedestrian congestion – just joshing! I will miss seeing my student workers, both past and present, as they drop by my office when they ace their tests, reach major personal goals or when they just want to check up on me.”

Davin Wise
Cougar Club Assistant Director

“I will miss hearing all their hilarious stories!”

Constance Nelson
Administrative Specialist in Student Affairs

“I’m looking forward to the quietness, but I’ll miss their liveliness and energy.”