Our Investment in the Future

Submitted by Catherine Langlois

Each Tuesday as we gather for interesting lectures, learn more about our community and the world, and challenge our brains to keep working, we are also making an investment in the future. In February 2004, Ron Zigli and Claire Robinson, our CofC representative, met with the Director of Major Gifts at the College for the beginning steps to establish a scholarship. From a portion of our dues, two scholarships were established: $1000 to a student in the School of the Arts majoring in Historic Preservation; $1000 to a student in Sociology interested in Gerontology. Between 2005-2008, nine students received a scholarship award focused upon Historic Preservation.

In 2008, the CCR Board voted to focus the Scholarship to a single award to a student with the demonstrated interest in Gerontology. The amount was also increased to $3000 for May 2016. The award is now known as The Center for Creative Retirement Gerontology Award. In addition to our May luncheon, the recipient is acknowledged at the College Honors Ceremony for the Department of Sociology and Anthropology in April. Our 2015 winner was Chantelle Harrison Tuffigo. The 2016 scholarship award winner is Sarah Bald.

Professor Brenda Sanders at CofC enthusiastically works with the qualified junior majors in Sociology to recommend the annual recipient of our scholarship. Each student must be an undergraduate junior or senior in full time status; maintain a 3.0 GPA; major or minor in sociology, biology or psychology; and show a demonstrated interest in gerontology.

Since 2005, 14 students have received a scholarship award focused upon Gerontology. Prof. Sanders speaks glowingly of the students who have used the scholarship award to pay for books, travel to and from gerontology internships, day-to-day expenses at the College, or payment toward tuition. The students not only study extensively in the field of gerontology, but also intern at respite care programs, with geriatric care managers, or at residences such as Bishop Gadsden. Prof. Sanders firmly believes that this scholarship helps identify those individuals who not only study, but also value, aging in our society.

Prof. Sanders, as well, follows the students as they graduate and is proud of the careers she has seen them pursue - including, working as a Geriatric Care Manager in private nursing home; serving as a Director of Development for a state AHA chapter; completing a Masters of Nursing degree; attending graduate school as a mental health counselor with a focus on aging; working as a therapeutic assistant at MUSC; and practicing as a Physician’s Assistant. Our 2015 scholarship recipient, Chantelle Harrison Tuffigo, graduates this May and is planning to work with seniors and pursue her interest in adult guardianship.

We can all take pride in establishing the FIRST scholarship at College of Charleston designed to encourage that unique student interest in gerontology. And, as of 2011, we can be proud that a SECOND scholarship to support an internship program in gerontology was established by our own scholarship winner of 2005, Kate Tebben Pomplun.

As we all know from our varied life experiences, what we give to others returns in many varied ways to benefit far more than ever expected. Our Scholarship has done just that. “Never believe that a few caring people can’t change the world. For, indeed, that’s all who ever have.” Margaret Mead
Who Is Bronwyn Barron
Submitted by Deirdre Goldbogen

You get an email from her each week with the Coming Attractions for CCR. But who is Bronwyn Barron? Our staff reporter, Deirdre Goldbogen set out to find the answer to that question.

Bronwyn’s official title is Non-credit Registrar, Center for Continuing and Professional Education, College of Charleston, School of Professional Studies. You will find her busy at work in her office at the beautiful new Low Country Graduate Center on Paramount Drive in North Charleston. She plays a very important part in keeping our organization officially registered and properly housed in the new Center. She describes her work as “a combination of a little bit of everything; administrative work, record keeping, recruiting, developing new programs, technology and process implementation. Bronwyn maintains our member database. She says, “From my end, when a new member registers, they are added to our database of members. In the database, I enter as much information as the member provides (contact information, committee interests, etc.). As a result of being entered into this database, they are included in any weekly emails that are sent our (assuming that they provided an email address). I am often the person that potential members contact (via email and phone) for more information about CCR and how to register.” In addition to maintaining our database, Bronwyn schedules meeting times and events, and sees that things run smoothly for CCR.

Along side her life as a professional registrar, Bronwyn is a devoted wife and a busy Mom of three fabulous children. Bronwyn loves spending time with family—a big family with three sisters, three sisters-in-law and twelve nieces and nephews all living close by—so there are lots and lots of family functions to attend!

Do you have a favorite childhood memory?

Every summer, my family (three sisters and parents) would take a two week vacation. We would drive to Arlington, Virginia where my Dad's family lived, and spend a week's visit. We would then head to Long Island, New York where my Mom's family lived to visit family there.

What six words would you choose to describe your life?

Family is the most important thing.

Do you have any hobbies? Are you a big sports fan?

When I have 'free time' I love to do puzzles and read books. Growing up I never watched sports, but I was a cheerleader for eight years and played soccer for four. I am a Clemson Tiger and an Oakland Raider fan by marriage. My husband is a HUGE football fan.

As a busy Mom, you must spend some time in the kitchen, what is the one thing you must have in your refrigerator?

Minced garlic. I put garlic in EVERYTHING that I cook.

What is the most rewarding part of your work for the college and CCR?

My work for the School of Professional Studies and CCR is a little bit chaotic, exciting, and community-driven. A favorite part is meeting new people and being part of a team that creates new programs that benefit the community. I love that the CCR membership has been growing. I think it’s exciting that more people are finding out about the group, joining and attending meetings.

Thank you Bronwyn for being both 'cheerleader' and team player for CCR!
A Special Recital Arranged by the Meaburns
Submitted by Judy Murdoch

This semester, Janet and Malcolm Meaburn arranged our first off site CCR program. It was held at the Cathedral Church of St. Luke and St. Paul. The cathedral, located at 126 Coming Street in Charleston, is known as the “Third Church” of Charleston Episcopalians. Construction was on St. Paul’s church was begun in 1811 and the building consecrated in 1816. In its early years, St. Paul’s primarily served the outlying plantation families and was known by the nickname the “Planters’ Church.” For the most part, today the interior appears very much as it did in 1815, with the exception being the stained-glass windows which were added later. In addition, box pews were replaced in 1872. In 1949, the congregation of St. Luke’s church joined that of St. Paul. The building is renowned for its acoustical properties and is often used for concerts, especially during the Spoleto Festival.

Paul Braxton Thomas, Organist and Choral Ministry director earned his undergraduate degree at Furman and his Master of Music degree in organ performance from the Yale School of Music. His knowledge and warm way of presenting it was evident as he explained the history of the church, the organ, and organ music to our group.

Paul Braxton Thomas has played organ recitals throughout the country. The week of our CCR meeting, Paul had an upcoming solo recital at Saint Thomas Church, Fifth Avenue, New York. He shared the repertoire of the upcoming concert with our CCR members. Explaining and playing the same recital pieces he was to play at Saint Thomas. These included Toccata in D minor, BWV 538 “Dorian” by Bach, Elegy in F by Thalben-Ball, from La Nativite du Seigneur V. Les enfants de Dieu by Messiaen, from Four Biblical Dances IV. The Wedding in Cana by Eben and from Symphony in G III. Passacaglia by Showery. This wide range of styles was appreciated by our attending CCR members. Thank you Janet and Malcolm for arranging such a wonderful experience for us. And thank you Paul Braxton Thomas for so warmly sharing your knowledge and a beautiful recital, enjoyed by all.

Cathedral Church
St. Luke & St. Paul
Charleston, SC
Introducing Our New Reporters for the Newsletter

As you may have noticed, this year we have two talented women who have enriched our newsletters with their reports. We are fortunate to have Catherine Langlois and Deirdre Goldbogen join the newsletter team. I am sure you have enjoyed their contributions. Remember the pictures and names. They may search you out for information for articles next year. So the three of us are now your reporting team and I, Judy, as editor, am the one who tries to put it all together successfully. Suggestions and ideas for articles always welcomed.

I was born and raised in Charlotte, North Carolina but then spent 40 years in New Jersey, raising a family, practicing law and having served 16 years as a trial court judge in Morris county, retiring in 2009. Now remarried, my husband Tom and I live on Kiawah Island from September to May and in Copenhagen, Denmark each summer. We travel extensively, and fit in visits with six children and eight grandchildren.

I once heard someone say that ‘to retire’ in Latin means to disappear. (Experts, please help here!) I like to think of retirement as another life ‘journey’. My journey started in Chicago in 1947. My childhood family traveled the country as a military family. In the sixties I met and married a terrific man who worked in the academic world of computers and science. We had three wonderful children and lived in upstate New York. In between mommy duties I earned a degree from Union College, Schenectady NY in 1991. I truly enjoyed being a homemaker, soccer mom, volunteering and fund raising for local organizations. In 2000, as a widow I moved to Charleston and worked at the College of Charleston’s History Department. Working for historians, learning to maintain a department web site, and hearing the complex history of the South kept me busy until my retirement in 2014. Journeys can take some unexpected twists and turns—but doesn’t that make for an interesting retirement.

Our tours director is still a David but a different one. David Clark after many years of service has retired and David Harris is our new tour person. Dave, from Erie, Pa., has taught theatre for 35 years in the Philadelphia area. He has directed over 100 productions at Council Rock High School and the Delaware Valley College. Dave owns a travel company and ran bus trips for 20 years while in Pa. He moved to Charleston 10 years ago. Here, he has been organizing and facilitating bus trips for various senior organizations in the Charleston area. He is looking forward to providing fun and interesting trips for members of CCR.

Dave wrote, “I want members of CCR to feel free to bend my ear about trips that would interest them.” Please do so. It is through the sharing of ideas from our larger group that many of our most interesting trips have been formed.

And just so you know, Dave and his wife have three grown children and 4 grandchildren. Ask him to show you their pictures.