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CHARLESTON SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY
GRADUATE PROGRAMS

Education • Criminal Justice • Nursing • Business
Obstacles to Opportunities: A Transforming Legacy

John ’72 and Linda Black have a love for the state of South Carolina, and more specifically, they have a passion for young South Carolinians who desire to be the pioneers in their family and earn a college education.

Though John valued his time as a student in the 1970s at Baptist College, he had not stepped foot on campus for many years. Only recently when John and Linda were working on their estate plan did they make the decision to give back to the school that gave him so much. When John first returned to the campus for a visit to explore opportunities to support students, he was impressed with how much the campus had changed physically over the years - and was pleased that its commitment to the vision of the founders had remained the same.

As a result, the Blacks created The John and Linda Black Endowed Scholarship that will help provide the much needed scholarship support to students who have a strong desire to attend college but have significant financial hardships. “My wife and I feel that there are many high school students in South Carolina who are not getting the encouragement and support needed to pursue a college education. While our scholarship won’t provide the encouragement and can’t advocate for the student, it will help eliminate their financial burden,” said John.

John and Linda feel that earning a college degree is about much more than earning a diploma or getting a job, “...college teaches how to learn, how to find answers and how to think for yourself.” Beyond the lessons learned in the classroom, John and Linda also choose to invest in CSU because of its vision. “We believe that the faculty and staff at CSU are sincerely committed to the task of integrating faith in learning, leading and serving - it’s not just a motto. We hope our scholarship facilitates those same efforts.”

The creation of this endowed scholarship will give generations of students the opportunity to earn an education and change the course of their lives. And though John and Linda will not be able to personally offer words of encouragement to young students contemplating college, they will be able to offer something much stronger: opportunity.

For additional information about Office of Planned Giving contact:

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Dear Friends,

In just a few weeks, members of the Class of 2016 will arrive on campus to begin their college journey. The arrival of this class signals the beginning of the University's 48th academic year. The University's vision is to be a Christian university nationally recognized for integrating faith in learning, leading and serving.

The changes we have witnessed over the years have been impressive. Not the least of these is the growth of our excellent graduate programs.

In this issue of the magazine, you will read about students and graduates of the University's four master's programs. Students in our graduate programs span the years from newly graduated bachelor's students to adults who have been in the workforce for years. Their reasons for pursuing a graduate degree are meaningful and inspiring.

Some of our impressive graduates you'll meet inside these pages are:

- Janet McElmurray Foster, a member of the first graduating class in the master of science in nursing program. She earned an associate of nursing from the University in 1974.
- Troy Hall, chief operating officer of S.C. Federal Credit Union, a master of business administration grad and a devoted family man.
- A trio of teachers learning, leading and serving at Flowertown Elementary in Summerville, who earned their master of education in elementary education degrees at the same time.
- Ashleigh Dockery, a master of science in criminal justice student, who is a crime investigator with the Charleston Police Department.

Don’t just take our word for it – come out to the campus October 20 for Homecoming and experience the exciting things taking place at CSU for yourself. God continues to bless our University.

We are grateful for the continued support of our alumni, faithful donors and volunteers.

Sincerely,

Jairy C. Hunter, Jr.  
President
about the cover:

CSU’s graduate programs are accredited, affordable degrees designed to prepare current and future leaders for success in the areas of business, education, nursing and criminal justice.

Pictured are: Dr. Kari Siko, Ashleigh Dockery, Janet Foster and Ashley Thiem
May Commencement
Graduation Highlights
- Excellence in Teaching Award
- Retiring Faculty
CLB update
ATHLETICS
- Athletic Facility Improvements
- Golfers Make Headlines
Rotaract Chartered
Bordas Publishes
Plant Biologists Win Award
Bone - New Brain Book
Alumni Thanks Student Leaders
Brandon Johnston - Meritorious Award
Boeing Engineer Speaks
Class Notes
Keep in Touch
Memorials
Homecoming
Baby Bucs
ALUMNI NEWS
- Graduation Luncheon
- Alum Award Winners
- Baseball @ Carolina
- Alum Bloggers
- Alumni - SKA, TKA
- Board Member Nominations
Shannon Phillips
Charleston to Houston
GIVING BACK
- BOV Cruise
- Hearst Foundation
- Tuition Freedom Day
- Scholarship Luncheon
Charleston to ???, new series kicks off in this issue on page 44. Learn how to feature your town on page 47.
Charleston Southern University’s graduate programs are accredited, affordable degrees designed to prepare current and future leaders for success in the areas of business, education, nursing and criminal justice.

6

MASTER OF EDUCATION

The Master of Education is designed to prepare current educators for leadership roles in the field of education. Three degrees are offered in on-campus, online or blended formats: Master of Education in Elementary Education, Master of Education in Educational Administration in Elementary School and Master of Education in Educational Administration in Secondary Education.

12

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING

The Master of Science in Nursing is designed to prepare nurses to serve in faculty/nurse educator roles within the healthcare setting. Accepted students can complete the program in 16 months in an online format.
MASTER OF SCIENCE IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE

The Master of Science in Criminal Justice provides advanced understanding of the criminal justice system in an online or blended classroom/online setting. The program is designed for professionals seeking managerial and leadership roles, as well as, preparing students seeking to enter law school or complete a doctoral degree.

MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

The Master of Business Administration is designed to prepare business leaders for success with emphases in accounting, finance, leadership, management information systems and general management. Students have the option to earn their degree on-campus, online or in a blended format.

For more information – contact the Graduate Center at 843-863-7057, graduatecenter@csuniv.edu
Teaching and Learning – Together

By Jan Joslin

It was late in the afternoon at the end of the school year when we walked through the halls of Flowertown Elementary in Summerville. As we passed through a group of students in an after-school program, many called to the teachers and waved or reached out trying to touch them or hold a hand.

Despite being the end of the school day, Amber Fortune ’07,’12 Jessica Rushin ’06,’12 and Laura Williams ’08,’12 were energetic, enthusiastic and eager to share their teaching journeys and their road to a master's degree in education.

All three have undergraduate degrees from Charleston Southern, but their paths didn't cross until they were colleagues at Flowertown. One was interested in starting her master's degree at CSU, and almost before they knew what was happening, she had convinced the other two that they needed to start the program with her.

And now, they're glad she did.

Q: What originally drew you into the teaching profession?

A: Amber Fortune:

There is a page in my preschool memory book titled, What I want to be… and listed next to my name is written, teacher. Because I've had such an incredible school experience, I've wanted to be a teacher as long as I can remember. My 7th grade ELA teacher, Ms. Kendall, was the teacher that made the biggest difference in my life. She taught me how to conquer my fear of speaking in front of others, and she guided me into accepting leadership positions, because she too believed in my dream of becoming a teacher.

A: Jessica Rushin:

I had amazing first and second grade teachers, and I attribute my career choice to them. They inspired me and encouraged me to follow my dreams. I still keep in contact with them, and my second grade teacher even came to my high school and college graduations (undergrad) and also my wedding! I wanted to help children be successful, make learning fun, and make children know that if they work hard they can achieve their dreams like I did. Teaching first grade is especially rewarding because the students learn and change so much in a year. I love seeing the light bulb go off when they understand a concept or learn something new and know that I had something to do with that!

A: Laura Williams:

My mother and aunt were both teachers, and my cousin became a teacher when I was younger. It was something that I decided at a young age and never really steered away from. I always looked up to my teachers growing up and admired all they did each day and wanted to make a difference in lives myself.

Q: Why did you pursue a master's degree?

A: Laura Williams:

As most teachers, I believe in lifelong learning. In education, there is always new research, new findings and new practices. After a few years of teaching, numerous trainings and experiences, I felt ready to learn about new practices that may be useful in my teaching career.
A: Jessica Rushin:
In part it was the pay raise! But I also felt like I needed to grow myself professionally. I had been teaching for four years, and since the teaching profession is always changing I knew I would benefit and in turn my students would benefit. The program reenergized me as a teacher – I was excited again! I loved learning new management ideas and creating integrated units and then taking those things to my classroom to see what worked and what didn't.

A: Laura Williams:
I love school and learning, so it was easy to want to go back. The field of education is always changing – there are always new practices, methods and theories. After gaining some real-world experience in my own classroom and getting my feet on the ground, I felt ready to begin finding ways to better myself as a teacher and to better my classroom. The pay raise didn't hurt either!

Q: Was there a benefit to going through the program together?

A: Amber Fortune:
Most definitely! Because we taught together, it was helpful to learn together. If there were group assignments, professors allowed us to work together, because they understood that time is valuable. The fact that we all live in the same town had its perks too … fuel savings!

A: Jessica Rushin:
Going through the program with friends (especially friends who are colleagues) made the program so much easier! It was great to have each other to bounce ideas off of when working on a project. It was also nice to have a colleague at work who was trying to implement the new practices or teaching methods in their current classroom.

A: Laura Williams:
The benefits started even before we were officially in classes. We were all a little unsure about this new journey but were able to jump in knowing we were holding each other's hands wherever we landed. It was comforting to walk in the first day already having connections with classmates. We also had been teaching together, so it was easy to learn together. Mostly, though, I would say the biggest benefits were having a support group through the program, accountability partners at school and friends that last after the classes are over!

Q: Has your professional relationship changed since you pursued your master's together?

A: Laura Williams:
It has helped to strengthen our relationships. Jessica and I teach the same grade level, so we began planning and working on activities and lessons together. We brought in ideas from the graduate program to our classrooms and grade level to begin immediately applying. We are all also comfortable enough with each other to continue working together and supporting each other with new goals and ideas.

Q: You took a blend of traditional and online classes. Which do you prefer?

A: Amber Fortune:
I would choose traditional classes over online classes almost every opportunity. While I believe that online classes have their place, I also believe that a teacher is an irreplaceable part of a student's educational success. Teachers and professors alike are the key to developing connections through questioning. Only traditional classes provide teachers the opportunity to devise questions based on the path of learning that is taking place.

A: Jessica Rushin:
I like the hands-on aspect that a traditional classroom offers and the discussion that often occurs. As a student, you don't always understand what is expected from you, and it was more difficult determining that online as opposed to the traditional classes. Regardless of online or traditional classes, though, the professors were all very helpful and encouraging.

A: Laura Williams:
Online classes are convenient and can be effective with certain topics, but I feel like I get so much more being in a classroom, being an active participant in learning. A teacher is also an irreplaceable part of education that is not easily replaced with an electronic profile. Traditional classes allow relationships and learning to be taken a step further.

Q: How has what you learned in the master's program translated into practical application in your teaching?

A: Amber Fortune:
I found myself integrating science and social studies curriculum into my teaching more often. While I've always integrated these subjects into differentiated instruction, I've found myself looking for such passages during grade level reading, word study and especially writing. Where parent communication is concerned, I found myself more eager to ask parents to be a part of their child's learning on a regular basis, whereas before CSU's master's program, I was unsure of how to incorporate their volunteer offers into my classroom.

A: Jessica Rushin:
Integration was a big topic of discussion in several of our classes, and it is something I am really passionate about because I believe it is what is best for student learning. The students benefit from the connections made through integration, and the information is more relevant to them. Parental involvement was another big topic of discussion in some of our classes, and I feel I have done a better job of including parents in the classroom for volunteering opportunities and as guest readers. Students benefit from having parents in the classroom, and they feel proud and valued.

A: Laura Williams:
My attitude in the classroom has changed. I am much more open to different methods and think about things much more openly. I am more open and willing to include parents as an active participant in the classroom. Before the master's program, which included classes focused on parent involvement, I was not nearly as confident and comfortable with parents, but now see they are an integral part to education and have incorporated them into my classroom.
Q: How has your master’s degree helped you increase the learning environment for your students?

A: Amber Fortune & Laura Williams:
By showing more excitement for science and social studies, our students have grown to appreciate that they too can have more than one favorite subject. The students were able to see the connections between all of their classes, not just base learning on which teacher they were with at that time. We believe that the “ah-ha moments” our students experienced were much more prevalent this year!

A: Jessica Rushin:
The master’s program helped me get excited about planning lessons and integrating subjects, and my excitement was evident to my students. When the teacher is excited, the students are too, so needless to say they were more involved and interested in the lessons.

Q: What are the strengths of the CSU School of Education?

A: Amber Fortune:
While attending, I felt the importance and urgency of National Board Certification. CSU has compelled me to seriously consider pursuing National Board Certification in the near future.

A: Jessica Rushin:
The classes offered in the program are very relevant to everyday teaching. I would often leave classes with new ideas to try in my classroom. I appreciated how relevant the professors made projects so that we were doing assignments, but often those assignments were intended for our own classrooms.

A: Laura Williams:
The professors genuinely care about each of us in their classes and did all they could to support us based on our needs. They respected us and spent time discussing matters that mattered to us. They took the time to know us as teachers and students and helped to develop us into even better teachers and students. They represent the teachers that we are all striving to be.

Q: What are some of your favorite ways to motivate students?

A: Amber Fortune:
My students like to work toward movement breaks! Our school also does PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention and Support), so my children work toward their independent and class goals.

A: Jessica Rushin:
When students are motivated they are engaged in learning. My first graders love games so I use games as big motivators. If it is in game form they will do it even if the game is adding, subtracting or reading sight words! Our school also has positive behavior intervention and support which allows teachers to focus on the good behaviors and reward students either individually or as a class.
A: Laura Williams:
My students enjoy working toward extra privileges, such as sharing chances, class helper, times with other adults, lunches with a friend, etc.

Q: Why is public education still important?

A: Amber Fortune:
Every child has the right to learn. As a public educator, I believe that it is my duty to demonstrate a love of learning and a passion for lifelong learning in each of my students. Public educators provide students the opportunity to become productive citizens.

A: Jessica Rushin:
The young people are our future, and we must do our part to prepare them to lead the future!

A: Laura Williams:
Public education is important because it gives all students the opportunity to learn. Each and every child deserves these opportunities.
Dr. Kari Siko

Dr. Siko grew up in Latrobe, Pennsylvania. Taught high school in Wilmington, North Carolina … taught at college level at UNC-Wilmington and Chapel Hill.

- Undergraduate: Clarion University, Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education in English (1998)
- Graduate: University of North Carolina at Wilmington, Master of Education (2001)
- Doctoral: UNC-Chapel Hill, Culture, Curriculum and Change (2008)
- Began teaching at Charleston Southern University in January 2011
- Extremely organized
- Thoughtful approach to problem-solving

photo by Sherry Atkinson
Dr. Kari Siko, assistant professor of English education, has been named interim dean of the School of Education. The School of Education faculty unanimously recommended her for the position.

**Q:** What attracted you to Charleston Southern University?

**A:** The opportunity to teach at a faith-based institution. I was very intrigued by the faith integration component at Charleston Southern. It’s nice to be in a classroom, and if someone asks you a faith-based question, you are able to answer it. That’s the coolest thing ever. It’s an openness and a freedom to do what I truly believe.

**Q:** As interim dean, what opportunities are you most excited about?

**A:** I am excited where we are as a school – and where we want to go from here. Dr. Norma Harper has taken us a long way in her 10 years here. I would like to keep the cohesiveness of the faculty together, then seeing where we are, where we want to go and how we’re going to get there.

**Q:** We all know how important teachers are, but in your mind, what makes CSU’s program distinctive?

**A:** We’re able to work with students on, not only the knowledge of being able to teach math or English, but our ability to bring faith into their pedagogy and how they will take what that looks like, to be a faithful teacher in a classroom, in a public school setting. The School of Education helps prepare them for the real-world challenges.

**Q:** When did you realize teaching was your calling?

**A:** Early in elementary school I realized I was a horrible speller, so I started getting tracked into lower level classes, so by the time I was in high school I didn’t know what I was going to do. But I knew I needed to go to college. I went to my guidance counselor and said, “I need to take the SAT.” This wonderful older gentleman looked at my grades and said, “I need to take the SAT.” This wonderful older gentleman looked at my grades and said, “but you’re not going to college, you don’t need to take the SAT.” I did take the SAT, and I got into a good quality university, and I started to excel once I got into my masters. That motivated me, and I think that’s made me the teacher that I became. Now I identify really well with students who struggle.

**Q:** We know the small classroom setting, the modest student-to-teacher ratio, is a huge benefit to the student. How does the same setting impact teaching?

**A:** I love the small classroom. I had one student teacher this past year, and we were able to work really closely. I was really able to work with her and help her in the classroom. Now we email daily. The students really become a priority in a smaller class setting, and it puts the student in a position to succeed.

**Q:** The small class setting does not mean fewer resources but greater access to cutting-edge resources – for example, technology, which is a central tool to education today. What technology does the School of Education have to prepare them to work with technology in the classroom?

**A:** The School of Education is set up really well for technology. We use iPads and SMART boards in the classroom. It’s interesting, as faculty members we’re not as comfortable with some of the technology, but give it to the students and they’ve got it. So when they go into a school, they know how to use them and, more importantly, they know how to use them effectively.
Practitioners See Result of CSU-Trained Nurses

Pennie Peralta and Lisa Irvin are members of the CSU School of Nursing Advisory Board. Peralta is vice president of nursing and senior nurse executive for Bon Secours St. Francis, and Irvin is vice president of nursing and senior nurse executive for Roper Hospital. Peralta and Irvin work with the nurses in their hospitals each and every day to provide quality care for all patients.

Q: You employ many of our BSN graduates and encourage them to return to CSU for the MSN. How does employing nurses with advanced degrees impact Bon Secours St. Francis and Roper Hospitals?

A: Peralta: Evidence supports that organizations with a higher percentage of BSN and MSN nurses have improved patient outcomes and overall lower mortality rates. Our goal is to provide an environment where the nurses can grow professionally as well as provide exceptional patient care.

A: Irvin: There is substantial evidence in the literature to substantiate the direct correlation of nursing education and clinical outcomes. Increasing our baccalaureate and master’s prepared nurses will improve outcomes.

Q: In your opinion, what is unique about nurses trained at Charleston Southern?

A: Peralta: CSU graduates have a very holistic approach to patient care and that is a very good fit for our organization’s mission.

Q: What has prompted the national trend of urging nurses to seek higher degrees?

A: Peralta: First: Healthcare is becoming more and more complicated with the advances in technology, treatment options, multiple specialties improving care; people are living longer with chronic conditions, etc. Coordinating or navigating through that care can best be performed by those with higher degrees. Second: Looking at the projections regarding healthcare reform and the demand for healthcare, it seems obvious that there will be continued growth in the need for advanced practice nurses with more independent practice to provide care for many populations. These nurses will be able to provide care in areas of physician shortages as well as in a cost-effective manner. Third: There is a current need and will be a continued need for nurse educators to prepare this workforce of the future.

A: Irvin: I think my answer to the first question is part of it. The second major factor is the growing concern of the shortfall of nurses projected in the next 10 years because of the significant number of nurses who will be retiring in the next year from both faculty roles and practice. We need to be proactive in addressing these future needs to avoid the cyclical crises of nursing shortages that we have seen in the past.

Q: What career opportunities are open to nurses with advanced degrees?

A: Peralta: Nurse Educators, Clinical Nurse Specialists and Nurse Practitioners are the most obvious, but there is a growing field of Nursing Informatics that will require advanced degree preparation.

A: Irvin: We have growing need for advanced practice nurses in the acute and ambulatory settings. We struggle to fill clinical nurse specialist positions in the hospital setting at times. Nurses with higher degrees are needed in areas such as information technology as the electronic medical record and physician order entry become a standard of practice. We also need them in the quality arena to lead initiatives impacting the clinical care.
There is a unique feature in the Charleston Southern graduate catalog under master of science in nursing education: a 2-hour course titled Nursing Education from a Faith Perspective.

“This course really challenges students to look at science, education and everything they do with God as the overarching guide,” said Dr. Tara Hulsey, dean of the Derry Patterson Wingo School of Nursing. “It really encourages them to delve deeper into their own spirituality and Christian faith.”

Throughout the course students are introduced to topics such as defining faith integration, biblical basis for patient care, spirituality as a nursing concept and several others. During the course students participate in online discussions with their classmates. They also keep a self-reflective journal from their reading.

Some students attended a secular school of nursing, and this may be the first time they have ever been in a program that really integrated faith throughout the curriculum. However, nursing itself is holistic – looking at the whole person, the family, the environment and the spiritual.

But even in a situation where someone may not be able to share his/her faith outright, by simply living for Christ, others will take notice.

Before coming to CSU, Hulsey had not been able to share her faith openly in work-related settings. “Christ, to me, is my life, which I can’t live in categories,” she said. “That was one of the reasons I was so excited to come here because I can openly do that.”

Not only does she have the opportunity to share her faith she guides the nursing instructors to be purposeful about integrating faith.

They work together to map out opportunities where they can include Christian worldview in their teaching. That is extremely important considering the master of nursing education degree is a nurse educator program. Nursing instructors are training students to teach others from a spiritual perspective.

Two MSN groups have earned their degrees. Hulsey says they are moving into faculty positions or working in hospital staff development and others are moving into middle management.

The next cohort begins in the fall, and faith will continue to spread as nurses continue to serve.

Nurses Learning to Teach Spiritual Principles

By Sherry Atkinson

While thumbing through a nursing magazine, Mark Vaughn spotted an ad for the online master of nursing degree offered at Charleston Southern and decided to check out the website.

He was already considering a couple of other programs, but after doing his research, decided on Charleston Southern.

Vaughn appreciated the faith-based nursing program. “It was nice to be with a group of your colleagues where you could openly talk about your faith and about how your faith has affected your practice,” he said.

He also shared how the textbook gives examples of modern nursing practices alongside biblical themes. “Christ talked about healing and helping by being there for your fellowman. It was kind of like a light bulb came on for me; I could see the correlation,” he explained.

Vaughn says the faith-based teaching was refreshing.

“I think it says a lot about Charleston Southern that they don’t just put faith in the vision statement; they put it in the curriculum.”

Vaughn began the online 16-month MSN degree program in fall 2010 and graduated December 2011. The Monday after graduation he started his present job as a nurse educator. Vaughn works for a medical company that manufactures EKG monitors, ventilators, anesthesia machines and neonatal intensive care equipment. He travels around the country training medical staff how to use the equipment.
Perseverance Pays Off for Nurse

By Sherry Atkinson

Janet McElmurray heard the nursing program at Baptist College at Charleston, now Charleston Southern University, was extremely demanding, but she was not deterred. Becoming a nurse was the only thing she ever wanted to do and attending another school other than Baptist College was not an option.

When McElmurray graduated high school in 1972 in Aiken, S.C., she packed her bags and headed for Baptist College at Charleston - the school known for its excellent passing rate on Board Examinations.

“It was tough, but I was determined to get through that program,” said Janet McElmurray Foster. “I knew that nursing was what I wanted to do, and I’ve always loved doing it!”

In 1974, she graduated with her associate degree in nursing. After passing the State Board Examination she was ready to take the next step – work on her bachelor’s degree in nursing. She began taking classes at the University of South Carolina Aiken in 1975.

“IT KNEW THAT NURSING WAS WHAT I WANTED TO DO, AND I’VE ALWAYS LOVED DOING IT!”

Then life ramped up, and the children came along – four of them, including a set of twin boys.

But Foster stuck with it. During those years she worked in an OB-GYN office in Aiken and later in the operating room at Aiken Regional Medical Center. Year after year she slowly whittled away at the courses. In 2000, an unbelievable 25 years after earning her associate’s degree, she completed her bachelor of science in nursing with a 3.7 GPA.

But Foster didn’t stop there. While reading through a nursing bulletin, she saw a new online master of science in nursing – nurse educator degree offered at Charleston Southern. Soon after, she ran into a CSU vice president, and they began talking about the new degree. “He encouraged me to seriously consider the new MSN program,” she said, “and I figured that another degree with this economy certainly wouldn’t hurt.”

In the fall of 2009 Foster and 12 others sought to make their mark on CSU history as the first MSN graduating class.

So Foster was, once again, a student, but this time it was different. It had been nine years since she earned her bachelor’s degree, and she definitely had to get used to working online.

However, several pluses in the program eased her mind. Courses are taught in a five-week, online format that allows students to focus on one course at a time. Also, computer help is available as the program also offers 24/7 technical support.

Foster continued working at Lexington Medical Center as an Infection Control Practitioner throughout the 16 months. “I felt like I could do anything for five weeks,” laughed Foster, “It was a tough 16 months, and I did feel like I was married to my computer. But it can be done!”

December 12, 2010, the first MSN class held their pinning ceremony in the Gold Room. Dr. Tara Hulsey, dean of the School of Nursing said, “I am extremely proud of our first graduating MSN class. They all completed the program as full-time students while also working as registered nurses … They will be outstanding nurse educators.”

Foster has been outstanding throughout the years as she has intentionally pursued a lifelong journey in education. Not only did she learn more about nursing itself by completing the MSN, she also saw her employees differently, recognizing the challenges they were facing and has changed her way of relating and supporting them.

Sixteen months. Long nights. Lives changed. “Back in 1974 I did not have a whole lot of self-confidence. The MSN gave me more confidence to do my profession,” Foster said. “I think getting my MSN degree has given me an appreciation all the way around, and I have embraced my career even more.”
Ashleigh Dockery's braided ponytail hangs off her left shoulder. You can tell by her youthful green eyes, soft-spoken tone and petite, peaceful manner, she was born and raised in the South. But don't let her Southern charm fool you; she enjoys a challenge, which probably explains her passion for crime. Dockery is the perfect law enforcement foil.

Dressed head-to-toe in black, her hands covered in fingerprint powder, Dockery is using all her attributes as assets, working as a crime scene investigator for the Charleston Police Department, a job she discovered as a teenager reading a profile on a private investigator in _Brio_, a Focus on the Family magazine. “I thought that job was so cool,” said Dockery.

When she told her friends she was considering a career as a law enforcement investigator, they laughed. They told Dockery she would never make it; being a crime scene investigator (CSI) is not like the television show. The work is bloody and gross. Investigators work long hours, sometimes all night. They get sweaty, dirty and – wait for it – she would definitely break a fingernail. No way. Not Ashleigh. She was too much of a girly girl.

Dockery shrugged off her critics. She taped the story on her bedroom mirror and tucked away the idea in her mind anyway. For most teenagers future plans change – early and often – but the idea of being an investigator never lost its coolness in Dockery’s mind. In fact, her intentions were confirmed when a leader in her church youth group passed her a handwritten note that read:

“Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.” – Romans 12:1-2 (NIV)

Dockery remembers this verse because it changed the trajectory of her life. Sacrifice. Conformity. Transformation. She prayed, asking for God’s blessing in her life. After high school, one by one her friends departed Fort Mill, South Carolina, enrolling in colleges across the state. Dockery stuck to her plan and enrolled at Charleston Southern University. Her freshman year she took an elective course in Techniques in Crime Scene Investigation.

“Dr. Jackie Fish started explaining the job, and using her on-the-job examples, telling stories, and I am thinking, ‘This is the most amazing job I’ve ever heard of. How can I do this?’” said Dockery. “The fact that she did it for 10 years and has all this experience, she is able to relate the material to real experience … I mean she wrote the textbook we use. That was by far my favorite class. That was the one that made me realize, ‘I could do this.’ I just need the opportunity.”

Dockery completed the program in three-and-one-half years, earning her undergraduate degree in criminal justice from CSU in December 2010. Within days of earning her degree she interviewed for a job as a crime scene technician at the Charleston Police Department. “In the waiting room there were more than 200 applicants for this position,” she said. “The guy before me was working on his PhD. The person on the other side of me had just completed his master’s and had years of experience in law enforcement … and they picked me?”

While visiting her Dad in Kennesaw, Georgia, on his birthday Dockery got the call – and the job. Since then, she’s married and is back at Charleston Southern, enrolled in the master of science in criminal justice program.
According to Dockery, the classroom experience at Charleston Southern has had a major impact on her work. Just as Fish’s early elective course provided clarity, criminal justice professor, Lin Pitts, challenged her.

“He made me think more in-depth,” said Dockery. “Not just give the answer in the textbook, but dive in and ask, ‘Why is it this way? What is the causation of this?’ You had to step it up. You had to be on your game.”

Dockery credits her professors with using their shared experiences to go beyond the textbook and integrate challenging, engaging, relevant content in the classroom. Personal experience is a critical learning tool. She said Pitts’ experience in the field as a law enforcement officer changed “the dynamics” of the course.

“He’s (Professor Pitts) the reason why, on a crime scene, I step back and I look at everything before I take action,” she said. “Because everything you do on a crime scene you’re going to be held accountable for. In the courtroom, to your supervisor, to the victim, to the offender … why are you doing the things you’re doing? You’re going to have to explain it. That came from Pitts’ class.”

Charleston Southern’s criminal justice department regularly opens the classroom to active local and federal law enforcement personnel, providing students with a variety of experienced voices. Dockery said she learned from Homeland Security, Department of Defense, U.S. Marshals and local law enforcement personnel as an undergraduate student.

“At CSU I learned how to learn,” said Dockery. “The actual techniques of the job you can’t teach in the classroom. CSU mentally prepared me for the job.”

Nothing prepares you more for a law enforcement job than experience. Dockery admits she has sponged up her experience on the job.

“Because of my work I am able to take my experiences back into the classroom in CSU’s master’s program and put them to work,” she said. “This is what the text says, but this is what I see on the scene. It gives me a little extra (knowledge).”

Still, nothing prepares one in law enforcement for that first real call. Dockery recalls the adrenaline rush that comes with the experience.

“I remember the very first call where I rode by myself; I thought I was going to have a heart attack,” she said. “I had to find the place, talk on the radio and use the correct reporting number. When I got to the scene I took a huge breath and said, ‘OK, it’s all me. Let’s do this.’”

Dockery’s “all me” attitude is a cliché. She confesses one of the great joys of her work comes when she can step in and give a voice to the victim of a crime, assisting in the process of seeing justice served.

“I see a lot of victims,” said Dockery. “I see a lot of people who have lost – sometimes everything. In homicides, the victim can’t speak for himself, so the most rewarding thing is when I can lift that fingerprint, or I’m able to swab that Coke bottle for DNA and match it to whoever did it and that leads to an arrest.

“When I see that a detective made an arrest, I’m like, ‘Yes!’” she adds, pumping her fist and smiling.

Now who’s the girly girl?”

By John Strubel

Ashleigh Dockery
Terrell Pinckney
Influencing At-Risk Juveniles

By John Strubel

Q: Why CSU?
A: I was at the crossroads asking do I want to pursue a master’s degree in counseling. I was asking myself, what do I really want to do in life? I was passing by the campus, and I decided to come on campus and find out more about the master’s in criminal justice program. When I drove on to campus I could actually feel that I was in the right place, it was that internal feeling that told me I was in the right place.

Q: What role do you think faith plays?
A: Crime is a selfish act. When you commit a crime you’re not thinking about the people that you hurt. You’re not thinking about the people that you impact. You’re only thinking about yourself when you commit a crime. At-risk juveniles are wandering spirits. Faith can guide you in a righteous direction. Blessings come when you least expect it. God is never too busy to help you find a way to help you make good decisions. I pray with kids and families all the time.

Q: What’s next?
A: I plan to pursue my PhD in criminology. This master’s program has given me motivation to not stop, to look at my vision and put mission to my vision. Mission One is to earn my master’s degree. Mission Two is to earn a doctoral degree from the University of South Carolina. Mission Three is to serve at-risk juveniles in Charleston County in hopes that they can improve the decision they’re making in their lives so that we can have a better and more productive society.
Terrell Pinckney

Undergraduate: South Carolina State (1995)

Graduate: Charleston Southern University (current)

Current Position: Administrator of Behavioral Programs and Student/Family Services for the Charleston County School District

photo by Sherry Atkinson
Q: What years did you attend CSU?
January 2008 to August 2011

Q: You have an established career as the Chief Operations Officer at South Carolina Federal Credit Union. What motivated you to return to school … and why?
A: For four years I managed a four-generation household all living under the same roof. My ailing parents live on the first floor, my son and his two children on the third, with Vickie and me in the middle. A friend of mine once asked me, “With all the commotion going on in your house, exactly what room do you call your own?” Using my quick wit I told him, The Hallway!

From that conversation came the inspiration to write a book about Life in the Hallway. I feel strongly that God has called me to tell a specific story about honoring your parents and letting others know that there is no shame or harm in families supporting each other in times of need. But, something wasn’t complete. So, we move onto the part of the story I call God tricking me. You just never know the plans He has for you, but He sure does. (Of course, I mean tricking in a good way. He knows exactly how to motivate me.)

One day in the fall of 2007, my daughter approached me with the idea of us getting our MBAs together. It took a moment or two to sink in, and I romanticized that it would be a perfect Kodak moment - father and daughter walking the aisles and stage together to accept their diplomas. Well, one marriage and two babies later, dad has finished his MBA and daughter has only completed two classes. As God has continued to unfold his plan for me, I understand that my next course of business is to obtain a PhD that will provide grounded research for the book. In order for me to pursue a PhD, I needed to obtain an MBA. I did not know that was the end result, but God did.

Q: You were named Outstanding MBA Student of the Year for 2011-2012. What does that honor mean to you?
A: I graciously accept this acknowledgement and thank God for all the gifts He has given me. I am keenly aware that to whom much is given, much is expected.
Q: What impact does the education at CSU have on your current work?

Being in senior management with specific leadership responsibilities already part of my daily routine, I was able to immediately transfer what I was learning into the workplace. The material we covered in the courses for Transformational Leadership, Organizational Behavior, Marketing, Business Ethics and Strategic Planning have become part of my nomenclature and the basis for several leadership and development courses I now teach to staff.

Q: CSU’s vision is to integrate faith in learning, leading and serving. How did professors share their faith in the classroom?

A: Many of the instructors opened the class in prayer, solicited prayer concerns, offered stories of personal faith journeys, integrated Bible verses and encouraged an open dialog for practical faith-based leadership direct application to every day experiences.

Q: You learned in the classroom; you are a leader in your organization, and you serve in the community on the Board of Directors at Lowcountry Orphan Relief. How did you get involved?

A: My wife and I believe it is important to give back to your community. We are a grassroots kind of folk. Our passion is supporting children’s causes. We have taught Sunday School for kindergartners to second grade for many years.

At a credit union function, I had the privilege to hear Lynn Young, founder and director of Lowcountry Orphan Relief, speak. She told us about the abused and neglected children that are here in this lovely, tourist-bound destination. I was shocked. It would have made more sense to me that people abused children in larger cities like New York, Los Angeles or Chicago, but here in our hometown? I listened as she passionately expressed her vision to ensure that all children are cared for in a meaningful way. It really touched my heart.

So, we began volunteering at the center, at Back to School collection drives, yard sales and candlelight vigils. After a couple of years, Lynn approached me, and it seemed the right thing to do at the right time.
WHEN ASHLEY THEM, '04 MBA, WAS A YOUNG BOY, HE WANTED TO BE A DOCTOR. "IT JUST SOUNDED COOL AND SEEMED LIKE A GREAT JOB," HE SAYS. "AND I LIKE WORKING WITH KIDS SO I HAD PLANNED ON BEING A PEDIATRICIAN." BUT FATE HAD OTHER PLANS FOR HIM.

Before he was born, the framework was already being laid for Ashley's future. After his military service, Ashley's father, David (also a CSU alum), spent years working his way up the ladder from a bookkeeper at an accounting firm in Texas to a CPA and partner of a well-known Charleston firm, eventually branching off to start his own.

For every CPA, April 15 is the biggest day of the year - TAX DAY, and in 1980, Tax Day was doubly important: the Thiems welcomed their second son, Ashley. From the very beginning, Ashley's name was conjoined with the word tax.

However, as the years went on, Ashley seemed determined to pursue his dream of becoming a doctor. He enrolled at the University of Georgia (his mother's alma mater), listing premed as his first choice major and accounting (toying with the notion of following in the footsteps of his father) as his second. UGA, not having a premed major, automatically put him in the accounting program.

Not entirely against the notion, Ashley decided to wait it out and see where it took him. After taking his first accounting class his sophomore year, Ashley knew it was the right fit for him and was grateful for the seemingly accidental blessing. After graduating from UGA with a BMA, Ashley went to work at his father's firm, where he stood out as a bright, young accountant.

Needing 30 more hours to meet the 150-hour state licensure education requirement before he could take the CPA exam, Ashley figured he might as well spend those hours earning his master's degree. Thus, he enrolled at CSU in the MBA program. He says he chose CSU because the program's design - mainly consisting of adult, working students - enabled him to earn his degree while still giving him the flexibility to continue working.

In the spring of 2006, Ashley, having met the educational and work experience requirements, passed the state exam and became a State of S.C. licensed CPA. He credits CSU instructors with rigorously preparing him - many of them bringing their work experience as CPAs, financial managers, sales manager and business owners into the classroom. "They're more hands-on and able to teach real-world experiences."

Over the next several years, Ashley worked hard to prove himself worthy of a partnership in his father's firm, hoping to someday earn it the way his father had all those years ago. But, as fate would have it, bigger plans were in store for Ashley's future. "The opportunity presented itself for me, my father and Ben McCutcheon to start our own firm, so we went for it."

And go for it they did. Opening a quaint office on Broad Street, they gained their footing relatively quickly, built a robust clientele, and made a name for themselves as one of downtown Charleston's prominent accounting firms.

However, Ashley did not stop there. While a successful business, beautiful wife and new baby would have fulfilled most, Ashley had one bit of business still undone: his desire to serve his community and work with children. He, along with friends, started a nonprofit organization, The Birthday Presence Foundation in 2009. The foundation gives birthday packages (each package including a gift, educational item, decorations and voucher for a cake) to impoverished children in the Lowcountry. He serves as the organization's treasurer.

Since then, he has become involved in various philanthropic efforts. He is serving as a board member for Smiles for a Lifetime, a nonprofit providing free orthodontic services to underserved children. He recently served as the missions coordinator for The Gate at St. Michael's Church, a Christian networking group promoting community awareness and involvement through initiatives aimed at serving those in need. And, he is currently a trustee for the St. Michael's Foundation.

His message: "Always work hard. If you want to do something, then do it. Don't ever let someone tell you, you can't." He says that one of his favorite sayings comes from the movie The Pursuit of Happyness: "If someone ever tells you, you can't do something it's because they can't do it themselves." In other words, he wants youth to believe in themselves. "Don't ever let anyone tell you can't fulfill your dreams," he says.

Ashley also belongs to several professional associations, including the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the South Carolina Association of Certified Public Accountants, where he serves as president of the Young CPAs Leadership Cabinet.

As president, one of his goals has been to encourage young CPAs to get involved in the community. He feels that CPAs bring a specialized skill set important to any organization, and because they possess a high standard of ethics, CPAs are an important component to maintaining integrity within an organization. He becomes visibly disgusted, with his usually gleaming smile turning to a frown, as he expresses aggravation at hearing about yet-another-nonprofit misusing funds or falling victim to embezzlement.

Because of his strong message, hard work ethic, commitment to high standards, and dedication to his community, SCAPA recently named him The Young CPA of the Year. Having just turned 33 and accomplishing so much in such a short period of time, it's no wonder they picked him, and it certainly wasn't by accident.
The University awarded 412 undergraduate degrees and 166 graduate degrees May 5 at North Charleston Coliseum.

U.S. Congressman Tim Scott was awarded an honorary doctorate of public service. Scott told graduates there were three things he wished he had known when he graduated. He said, “Sometimes life is going to get you on the blind side. You have to learn to fail forward.” He urged them to make the most of unexpected challenges.

“Second, to stand out in life you have to stand up for someone who can’t stand up for themselves,” said Scott. “And third, you have the choice to see yourself as a dreamer or as a grasshopper.”

Cox credits his CSU professors with pushing him and helping him become a better speaker and writer. Dr. Jackie Fish, chair of the criminal justice department, said Cox was an inspiration to all the MSCJ students and faculty.

Cox’s inspiration wasn’t limited to the classroom. He traveled to Israel in June with Earl Cox, (no relation) a Good Will Ambassador from Israel to Jews and Christians around the world, and a group of ministers. “Being here at CSU was God’s purpose for me, and I feel I am to preach the gospel.”

Student awards presented during the service included:

- The Myrtle E. Hamrick Award: Brittany Elizabeth Hughes
- The John A. Barry Scholar Award: Devon Marie Kemble
- The Hunter Cup: John Charles McCready
- Carolyn Killen Hunter Outstanding Christian Teacher Endowed Scholarship and Award: Hilary G. Griffin
Bryant receives Excellence in Teaching honor

Dr. Michael Bryant, assistant professor of religion, has received the 2012 Excellence in Teaching Award from the South Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities. “This year’s award recipients demonstrated a remarkable blend of scholarship, passion, commitment and the ability to motivate students to new heights,” said Henri Baskins, chair of the SCICU Board of Trustees.

“Dr. Bryant motivates his students to learn through his passion for teaching and his commitment to developing personal character,” said Dr. Skip Martin, former vice president for academic affairs.

Bryant, a 1993 alumnus of Charleston Southern, has served in the religion department at CSU since 2008. He has taught Christian Ethics, Christian Worship, Homiletics, World Religions and various Bible book studies. Bryant has also taught abroad in Moldova (2002), Cameroon (2004) and Uganda (2006, 2008). Bryant is also a leader on campus, serving on the University’s Christian Leadership Council and played a central role in organizing the spring 2012 Staley Lecture series.


“Because I experienced Charleston Southern University as a student years ago, I have a real kinship with my students,” said Bryant in a recent interview for SCICU. “Though the school is not exactly the same today as it was when I attended, I do share a similar experience with those I teach.”

Before returning to his alma mater Bryant served as a pastor near Edenton, North Carolina, for eight years. He told SCICU one of the reasons he returned to CSU to teach was the opportunity to share the gospel with students. “The gospel gives real meaning to life now and real hope for the life to come,” he said. “As appropriate and with respect, I strive to make it known to my students.”

Jones retires after 45 years

Dolores Jones was teaching at Charleston Southern University before it was Charleston Southern University. She taught at the Baptist College for 23 years, then, continued to teach 22 more years after the college changed its name to Charleston Southern University.

Over 45 years she’s seen a lot – almost the entire college’s history; she’s heard a lot, and she’s certainly taught a lot of students. Jones’ impact on the college and its students is breathtaking and, unlike the generation she taught over five decades, they are now able to share their memories instantly through social media.

When the news was posted on CSU’s Facebook page, well-wishes began pouring in from faculty, staff and former students.

“I care about what becomes of my students,” Jones said.

Jones, a Gastonia, North Carolina, native, earned her undergraduate degree in English from Duke University and then attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where she completed her master’s degree in communication with a major in radio, television and motion pictures and a minor in theatre.

In 1993, Jones was awarded the excellence in teaching honor for her work. At commencement, Jones, an assistant professor of communication, was named professor emerita of communication.
Construction on the Christian Leadership Building continues, with completion scheduled for 2013. The building will house the Christian Leadership Center and will make resources available to provide students with a comprehensive education based on a Christian worldview.
Earlier this year the Board of Trustees approved a 10-year development project designed to enhance key areas at the University, including the addition of new athletic buildings as well as improvements to current facilities on campus.

“The enhancements to the athletic facilities underscore the university’s commitment to providing a competitive NCAA Division I athletic environment for our student-athletes,” said Dr. Rick Brewer, vice president of student affairs and athletics.

“The immediate additions of the softball building and the athletic center will benefit all of our athletes, and the future convocation center will show recruits that the University strongly supports our efforts in the Big South Conference and in Division I,” said Director of Athletics Hank Small.

The new athletic center, consisting of locker rooms for the football and men’s and women’s track and field programs, is currently under construction and is expected to be complete in August. Renovations to current locker rooms in the Field House as well as a press box facility for the softball program are expected to be completed in August as well.

Head Softball Coach Shane Winkler said, “The addition of our new press box and putting a plan in place to add lights is going to help improve our program in all areas. We already have a great playing surface, and these upgrades will give us one of the top facilities in the Big South.”

Phase two of the plan for athletics includes an 8,000-square-foot space for football meeting rooms and offices for the football coaching staff, while phase three will consist of a 3,000-square-foot weight room. The University will also make renovations to the current Whitfield Stadium Center to include a student-athlete success room. Another part of the strategic plan includes lighting for the baseball, softball and football fields.

The University is also in discussion to build a 3,500-seat convocation center, which will include a basketball arena, to be started in 2016 and completed in 2018. The facility would serve as a multipurpose center with student recreation and wellness facilities and is expected to be the site for concerts, graduation and other campus-sponsored events.

Golfers Making Headlines

By Sports Information

Head men’s golf coach, Michael Wilson ’99, was named 2012 Big South Men’s Golf Coach of the Year by his peers and led his squad to a third-place finish at the Big South Golf Tournament in mid-April. Ross Thomson joined David Denlinger and Jacobo Pastor in receiving conference honors. Thomson was named to the 2012 Big South All-Conference team for his finish at the event, joining Pastor on the team. Denlinger had previously been named to the 2012 All-Academic team.

“I’m really proud of the way the guys competed,” said Wilson. “This is the best scoring year in CSU history, so I’m very pleased with the adjustments they’ve made and the work they’ve put in. I’m both honored and thankful to be named the Coach of the Year, because I know there are a lot of great coaches in our league.”

Junior Amanda D’Ostroph took home top academic honors at the 2012 Big South Women’s Golf Championship banquet, earning the league’s 2012 Women’s Golf Scholar-Athlete of the Year award.

D’Ostroph boasts a 4.0 as a biology major. She is a member of numerous honor organizations and helped to start CSU’s Prepharmacy Association. She is the first Buc since Patricia Martinson to win the award after Martinson won it for three consecutive seasons from 1999-2001.

Winning their first golf tournament since 2008, the Lady Bucs beat Boston College to win the Spider Spring Break Invite in Southport, N.C. Ernie Rose is the head coach of the women’s golf team.

Improvements to Athletic Facilities Started

by Sports Information, Photos by Kara Butler
CSU Rotaract Club Launches

Fourteen students were inducted into the first Rotaract Club of CSU in April, and the club received its charter from Rotary International. District Rotary Governor, Paula Matthews ’82, was guest speaker. The Rotaract Club is active with the local Habitat for Humanity and other charities. Rotaract Club Advisors are Lili Gresham Hiser ’02 and Don Nye ’69, and Rotary Club of Summerville is the sponsor.

Music Professor Writes Classical Column

Ricard Bordas, assistant professor of music, is a columnist for Revista Musical Catalana, a classical music magazine published in Spain six times a year. Bordas’s column views the classical music world in the U.S. through the eyes of a Catalan musician who was educated in Barcelona and London.
New book targets literacy and neural development

Brain Verse: Poems and Activities That Build Literacy and Neural Connectivity is a new resource book for teachers and parents of young children that offers a language-rich, sensory-driven set of experiences through which they can teach basic academic skills.

Brain Verse, by Dr. Linda Karges-Bone, professor of education, encourages the use of rhymes to teach reason. A collection of 12 rhyming story-poems has been designed to be read aloud to young children and followed with activities and lessons to build neural connections, especially those tied to the five components of literacy: phonics, phonemic awareness, fluency, vocabulary and text comprehension.

Brain Verse is available for sale online at www.LorenzEducationalPress.com or by calling 1-800-444-1144.

Biology Students Win Award

Caleb Kirkpatrick, Kala Peek and Cody Mullins, students of Dr. Charlotte Song, assistant professor of biology, captured the Aubrey Naylor prize for best undergraduate poster presentation at the Southern Section of the American Society of Plant Biologists. The CSU team’s presentation was: “Genetic Mapping of a Novel MicroRNA Translational Regulation Mutant in Plants.” Presenting the award is Dr. Jay Shockey of the Agricultural Research Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Photo provided.
I wanted to take a moment to thank you for all you do at Charleston Southern University to raise up outstanding Christian leaders. This past weekend, we had the pleasure of serving alongside 10 of your students: Amy Funderburk, Marcus Davis, Ethan Templeton, Rachael Breazeale, Taylor Bass, Jessica Marques, Jordan Rudd, Cody Vick, Maddie Michaud and Briana Haro. These students gave up their weekend to join us in Conway, S.C., to help with our Disciple Now event.

Not only were these 10 students a huge help in the supervision of the over 50 middle and high school students in attendance but they provided an excellent example to everyone present of what it means to love and serve Jesus Christ. They participated wholeheartedly in leading our students in discussion groups, working on mission projects all over the county and building relationships that will have an eternal impact. Our students may not remember the points from the sermons preached, but they will always remember the example that was set before them to be like Christ.

I also wanted to thank Tam Odom and Campus Ministries for organizing and mobilizing these students. Without their efforts to recruit these students, our DNOW would not have been the same. We appreciate their service that went above and beyond to make our request a reality.

As Bobby Vann ’06, Peter Copeland ’04, Melissa Peduzzi ’06 and I, four alumni, met together to plan this DNOW weekend, we knew that the presence of CSU students would enhance this event. We underestimated how powerful their presence for Christ would be and are so thankful for a school that raises up young women and men after God’s heart. We are deeply appreciative for how this was instilled in us as students, and now, how these students have shared their love of Christ with our students.

In His love,

Ryan Peduzzi ’04
Minister of Students
Juniper Bay Baptist Church
Trial by Fire: CJ Senior Receives Meritorious Award

Story and photo by Mike Woodard

Last October, a vehicle crashed into a tree in the neighborhood of criminal justice senior Brandon Johnston. The car held four people, no older than 23 according to Johnston. A fire engulfed the vehicle with the four passengers trapped inside. Johnston’s wife saw the scene first and then got her husband’s attention. Johnston got in his car and rushed down the street to the accident and attempted to rescue the four passengers, who were in too much danger to wait for the fire department to arrive. Three out of the four survived due to his quick thinking. Johnston was given the Meritorious Award by the South Carolina Firefighters Association and was awarded for bravery from the Goose Creek Rural Fire Department.

Johnston served in the United States Marine Corps in Iraq and is now finishing his bachelor’s degree while working as a fireman. He says that he didn’t think twice when he sprang into action to try to save the four passengers.

Boeing Engineer Speaks to Engineering Students

Josh Petrino, an engineer serving as a liaison between manufacturing and quality at the flightline and delivery center at Boeing South Carolina, spoke to engineering dual-degree students in the spring. He stressed the importance of studying composites and alternatives to fuel. CSU offers a dual-degree program in engineering in cooperation with Clemson, University of South Carolina and The Citadel.
Class notes

1974
Craig Chamberlin, president and CEO of Marine Federal Credit Union, headquartered in Jacksonville, N.C., has been awarded the Order of The Long Leaf Pine by the state of North Carolina. He has 42 years experience in the credit union industry and has two children and three grandchildren.

1975
Jan Erickson Stanley was recently featured in the Hendersonville Times-News on the 40th anniversary of Title IX. Now retired, she spent 35 years coaching volleyball, basketball, tennis, softball and track and field and was inducted into the N.C. High School Athletic Association Hall of Fame and has won numerous state and national coaching awards.

1976
Richard Summey is pastor of Folly Beach Baptist Church in Folly Beach.

1983
Tony Fountain, president and CEO of Westminster Towers in Rock Hill, recently received the 2012 South Carolina Institute on Aging’s Award of Honor, the organization’s most esteemed recognition for making a unique and/or exceptional contribution to seniors through influencing the field of aging services. Tony is the board chair of LeadingAge South Carolina, on the Hospice and Community Care and Palmetto Volunteers in Medicine for York County, is an appointed national member of the Commission on Ethics in Aging Services in Washington, D.C., and is an international on-site accreditation surveyor through the CARF-CCAC Accreditation Commission for Aging Services. He has served in the senior living industry for 24 years and is a frequent speaker and presenter at state and national conferences. He is a member of the CSU Board of Visitors.

1985
Wayne Studemeyer is the founder and director of Living for His Glory Ministries in Summerville. Studemeyer writes, “I am pleased to announce that Living for His Glory Ministries has acquired property at 312 North Cedar Street, Summerville, as its location in serving our community as a ‘Purpose-Driven Community Outreach.’”

1986
Russ Shumard led a four-person interdenominational mission team to Ometepe Island, Nicaragua, to assist missionaries Mike and Joan Vilasi at the Helping Hands with Hearts for Christ Learning Center, a school for hearing-impaired kids and their families. The team assisted with building maintenance, interaction with the kids and family members as well as visiting, praying for, evangelizing and distributing food to the island’s poor. Russ has spent 19 years at the City of Forest Acres Police Department and is currently a shift supervisor/sergeant.

1991
Scott Turner was promoted to chief financial officer with Palmetto Primary Care Physicians in October 2011. He is married to Melinda Turner, and they have three children: Emily, Maddison and Ben. They live in Summerville.

1996
Catherine Culp, MEd, has been named Teacher of the Year for Gregg Middle School in Summerville.
1999

Edna Edwards Williams was honored as an Outstanding Alum by Webster University for her service to the community. Williams is a banker with Wells Fargo.

2001

Major David Gray is currently serving a nine-month tour in Afghanistan as an Air Liaison Officer in support of the 4th Infantry Division, 4th Brigade out of Fort Carson. His wife, Heather ’02, is a certified birth Doula and natural childbirth educator in Colorado Springs where the couple live with their three children.

Angel Johnson Tucker was named Teacher of the Year for Givhans Alternative Program of Dorchester School District Two.

2002

Robin Spinney Lewis and Mark Allen Lewis and their children, Hadayasah, Asher and Lydia, live in Matthews, N.C.

Laura and Robert Tyree announce the birth of their son, Noah Robert Tyree, born Dec. 5, 2011. He was 8 lbs. 5 oz. and 21 inches long. Robert and Laura were married May 6, 2006, and currently live in South Florida. They plan to move to Charlotte, N.C., this summer.

2004

Tiffany Langston and Matt Midkiff were married Jan. 21 at Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church with a reception at Alhambra Hall. Tiffany is an elementary school Montessori teacher for Charleston County Schools and received her master of arts in early childhood education from the College of Charleston in 2011. Matt is a real estate appraiser.

Kelley Wanish, MEd, was named Teacher of the Year for Beech Hill Elementary School in Summerville.

2005

Amanda Michelle Ekberg and Dan Clinton were married April 23, 2011. Amanda stays at home with their baby boy, Jack, who was born Feb. 10, 2012. Dan graduated from Rockford College and is the marketing director at Clinton Electronics. They live in Loves Park, Ill.

2006

Rebecca and Brett Bowdren announce the birth of a daughter, Hadley Reese Bowdren, born Nov. 7, 2011, at Fort Benning, Ga. Brett is an officer in the U.S. Army.

Jennifer Leigh Minor and Raymond Patrick Dunham were married May 5 in Clemson. Jennifer works at Palmetto Pediatrics of Charleston, and they live in Ladson.

2007

Michael P. Brodie was inducted into the National History Honor Society, Phi Alpha Theta, at The Citadel April 17, where he is a master’s degree candidate in history. He writes, “I am grateful and thankful for my history and political science professors at CSU who worked very hard to support me and who inspired me.”

Tradd J. Brodie was inducted April 17 into the National History Honor Society, Phi Alpha Theta, at The Citadel.

Haley Summers Kizer and Jason Thomas Hodge were married March 24 in Cameron. He works for Home Builders Supply of Orangeburg.

Erin Pettit and Stephen Wofford were married April 27 in Cowpens. She works for Spartanburg County Parks Department, and they live in Chesnee.

2009

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2012

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KEEP IN TOUCH

We want to hear from you — send us information about job changes, family additions and memories from your time at CSU.

Deadline for the fall issue of CSU Magazine is September 7. Photos should be jpeg at least 1MB in size. (If you send a professional photograph, please include permission to print from the photographer.)

Send Class Notes to: jjoslin@csuniv.edu

or mail to:
CSU University Relations
PO Box 18087
Charleston, SC 29423-8087

Send address changes to:
advancement@csuniv.edu

Name change on your permanent record: registrar@csuniv.edu
Erinica Dawn Rains and Robert Karl Merting were married Dec. 17, 2011. They live in Boiling Springs. Erica teaches at Gaffney Middle School, and Robert is General Counsel and CCO for Jankel Tactical Systems.

Stefan Rogenmoser is a writer and photographer with the Summerville Journal Scene, Goose Creek Gazette and Berkeley Independent. He received seven awards from the South Carolina Press Association at their annual awards ceremony.

- First place - News Feature Writing, weekly 2/3x division – “9/11 Then and Now”
- First place - Personality Photograph or Portrait, weekly 2/3x division – “Helen Lester plays kazoo”
- Second place - Personality Photograph or Portrait, weekly 2/3x division – “Superintendent of the Year Joe Pye” (Pye is a 1969 CSU alum.)
- Third place - Pictorial, all weekly division (all S.C. newspapers) – “Flaming Lips”
- Third place - Spot News Photo, weekly 2/3x division – “Beer truck crash”
- Third place - General News Photo, weekly 2/3x division – “Spelling Bee”

Stefan writes, “My band Sans Jose (formerly Go For Launch) released a five-song EP in February called Sans Jose/Go For Launch. We received very little or no fanfare for its release, but we’re all very proud of it because we made it entirely by ourselves. We play a mixture of surf rock and garage rock with strong pop sensibilities. A few of our songs can be heard at www.reverbnation.com/sansjose.”

2008

Josephine G. Collier was named Teacher of the Year for Joseph R. Pye Elementary School in Summerville.

Kelly Hiers, MBA, and Bryan Hiers ’02 and their son, Grayson, live in Midlothian, Va., outside Richmond, and report they love it but miss Charleston. Kelly is the plan manager for the Virginia Retirement Systems defined contribution plans through ING. Bryan is a sales executive for Reads Moving Systems, an agent for Atlas Van Lines.

Ellen James Peek was named Teacher of the Year for Spann Elementary in Summerville.

Michael A. Whitsitt works for Sanders Law Firm LLC and is a graduate of Charleston School of Law.

2011

Jordan Pace is an agent with Prudential Southern Coast Real Estate.

Memorials

Josephine G. Collier, age 88, died May 18 in North Charleston. She retired from CSU in 1981 as the registrar.

Jack Raymond Holladay ‘72, age 73, died Feb. 9 in Newberry. He was a retired civil Naval auditor and a veteran of the U.S. Air Force.

Noel Perry Rogers Jr. ’11, age 45, died May 19 in North Charleston. He was an electronics technician and worked at SPAWAR.

Rev. Stanley “Stan” Warren Stone ’75, age 58, died March 7 in Mount Pleasant. He served as a minister at First Baptist Church, Mount Pleasant, and was interim pastor at Sullivan’s Island Baptist Church. He was instrumental in helping CSU establish its youth ministry program.

William “Bill” Malcolm Wood ’74, age 70, died Feb. 23 in Louisville, Colo. He was a retired Lt. Colonel in the U.S. Army and was a real estate broker.
Homecoming 2012 Schedule:

Thursday, Oct. 18
Soccer vs. High Point @ 3:30 p.m.
5K Fun Run/Walk
5th Annual Fall Fest

Friday, Oct. 19
Bonfire

Saturday, Oct. 20
Alumni Association annual meeting
Parade
Alumni Tailgate Lunch
Soccer vs. Campbell @ 11 a.m.
Football vs. Presbyterian @ 1:30 p.m.

For more information, visit www.charlestonsouthern.edu/alumni
1. Spencer Perkins, son of Elena Perkins ’09 and Darrell Perkins, assistant football coach (’04, ’05, ’07)
2. Noah Robert Tyree, son of Laura Tyree ’02 and Robert Tyree ’02
3. Mary Joanne Sipe, granddaughter of James R. Sipe ’88 and Twila Sipe
4. Heather Hix, daughter of Angela Martin Hix ’97 and Kevin Hix
Calling All Baby Bucs!

SUBMITTING A PHOTO
Send a picture of your Baby Buc wearing the shirt to alumni@csuniv.edu. Pictures should be 1 MB in size or larger and in jpg format.

ORDERING A SHIRT
CSU graduates – if you have a child under the age of 2 or are expecting a child, let us know at alumni@csuniv.edu, and we will send a CSU creeper for your Baby Buc. The shirt is free of charge – all we ask in return is a photo of your Baby Buc for the magazine.

5. Hadley Reese Bowdren, daughter of Brett John Bowdren ’06 and Rebecca Bowdren
6. Grayson James Hiers, son of Kelly Hiers ’08 MBA and Bryan Hiers ’02
7. Isaac Watson, son of Amy Watson ’04 and Thom Watson ’03
8. Matthew David Edney, son of Rebecca Edney ’07 and Jonathan Edney ’06
The Alumni Association honored three women as 2012 award winners. Teresa Kendle ’74 was named Outstanding Alumnus of the Year. She is the volleyball coach at Summerville High School and has also coached basketball. She is the only coach in South Carolina, male or female, to obtain more than 500 wins in two sports. She was inducted into the S.C. Coaches Hall of Fame in 2010.

Ellen Senter ’68 received the Alumnus Service Award. A member of the founding class, she is currently a member of the CSU Board of Visitors and was instrumental in helping launch an annual event in the Columbia area for alumni.

Tam Odom ’03, ’08 received the University Mission Award. She is currently the director of women’s ministry and creative arts at CSU and serves as the chaplain for the volleyball, softball, and soccer teams. She leads three Bible studies a week and mentors individual students. She has been named Staff Member of the Year at CSU.

Rev. Chip Reeves ’92, pastor of First Baptist Church, Evans, Ga., was the speaker at the annual graduation luncheon sponsored by the Alumni Association. Reeves addressed his fellow Buccaneers and said, “Being a Buccaneer is about boldness, being different and challenging the status quo.” He told the graduates, “Invest in the people around you, and you’ll discover treasure.”

He also advised the graduates to seek the treasure of faith mentioned in Matthew 7: 7-8. “The greatest thing about seeking this treasure is that when we do it, the treasure finds us,” he said.

The Alumni Association sponsored tailgating at the March CSU vs. Carolina baseball game in Columbia.
ALUM BLOGGER COMMUNITY

We’ve added some more alumni to our list of bloggers:

Charles Westbrook ’75
http://www.westbrookwindows.blogspot.com

Jeffery Hickman ’94
http://jefferyhickman.wordpress.com

Stacie Cloud Wood ’03
http://www.staciewood.com

Kendall Brown Hibiske ’03
http://kendallhibiske.wordpress.com

Maribeth Kellenbenz Scott ’07
http://www.ourscottlandyard.blogspot.com

If you are a CSU alumnus and we missed your blog, let us know, (jjoslin@csuniv.edu) and we’ll add you to our list!

ALUMNI BOARD MEMBER NOMINATIONS SOUGHT

The Alumni Association is taking nominations for alumni board members. Board members will be voted on during the annual alumni meeting during Homecoming weekend.

To nominate a graduate for the alumni board, email alumni@csuniv.edu with the alumnus’s name, year of graduation and why you think he or she would be a good candidate.

Board members Scot Carnell ’91, Hope Harrison ’88 and Daniel Cross ’90 will rotate off the board.

Remaining on the board until October 2013 are:

Anne Turner ’88, ’89, President
Rex Divine ’85, Vice President
Lecius Moorer ’00, Secretary
David Weiss ’03, Treasurer
Aaron Dunn ’82, Immediate Past President
Mary Palmer Hutto ’90, ’94
Brandon McCoy ’11
Lori McFadden ’84
Wayne Dasher ’81
Ron Jaicks ’83

PHOTOS PROVIDED

A PUBLICATION OF CHARLESTON SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

KNIGHTS OF ACHILLES AND SISTERS OF THE KNIGHTS OF ACHILLES

About 50 alums from the late 60s through the mid 70s who were members of the Knights of Achilles and the Sisters of the Knights of Achilles gathered for a reunion. Rod Weader ’71, Don Robbins ’71, Bubba High ’70 and Carl Beckmann Jr. ’71 planned the reunion. Carl says they think the group last got together in 1975 and figured it was about time for another reunion.

Photos provided
GIVING BACK

THE REALITY OF THE FANTASY

Story and photos by Lili Gresham Hiser

Board of Visitors get the cruise experience with an exclusive tour and dining experience on Charleston’s Carnival Fantasy.

It is not every day that you get to board a cruise ship, take a personal tour, dine on a five-star meal and then leisurely walk off the ship to continue the rest of your workday; however, this was the unique experience recently for 70 of CSU’s Board of Visitors and friends.

Joanie Field, Carnival Cruise Line business development director of South Carolina, has worked with the company for 30 years and hosted this exclusive tour. In early 2010, the Charleston Port become home for The Carnival Fantasy - the first cruise line to offer year-round sailings out of Charleston. The Board of Visitors had the opportunity to visit several dining areas, the pools and water park and multiple entertainment venues.

The Board of Visitors Scholarship Program is a vital group of business leaders, alumni and individuals who believe in the mission of the University and financially support students in scholarship need. They meet several times a year at CSU for events and to learn more about issues important to the University and the greater Lowcountry.

HEARST FOUNDATION EXPANDS NURSING SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT

By Jan Joslin

The William Randolph Hearst Foundation recently added a third grant of $100,000 to the William Randolph Hearst Endowed Scholarship Fund bringing the Foundation’s total endowment to $300,000.

The Hearst Foundation funds mark one of the first major gifts of Charleston Southern’s Transform capital campaign, designed to grow the University and benefit every field of academic study, every student and faculty member. Specifically, Hearst’s Endowed Scholarship Fund enables CSU’s School of Nursing to compete for, attract and retain nursing students of the highest caliber who will become Christian leaders in our changing world.

President Jairy C. Hunter, Jr., said, “The Hearst Foundation has generously provided a significant number of scholarships for worthy college students over the years.”

“The scholarship support from the Hearst Foundation is vital to our nursing students,” said Dr. Tara Hulsey, dean of the Derry Patterson Wingo School of Nursing. “Charleston Southern students would not be able to achieve their dream of becoming a nurse without the gracious support from the Hearst Foundation.”

Sophomore Kiara Ware of Anderson is a Hearst Endowed Scholarship recipient. “The Hearst Endowed Scholarship enables me to pursue my goal of graduating from college with a bachelor’s degree in nursing. I am very thankful,” said Ware.

The Hearst Endowed Scholarship Fund provides a CSU scholarship for first generation, minority undergraduate students majoring in nursing. Students must demonstrate financial need, be South Carolina residents, maintain a 3.0 GPA and be enrolled full-time to be eligible.
THE MONEY TREE: CELEBRATING TUITION FREEDOM DAY

More than 300 students celebrated Tuition Freedom Day—a day that the campus expresses thanks to supporters who help make tuition more affordable. In 2011-2012 CSU received more than $14.4 million dollars in scholarship support. This total is a combination of contributions from alumni, individuals, the South Carolina Baptist Convention, corporations and state and federal grants.

To celebrate Tuition Freedom Day, students wrote thank-you notes on fake cash that was then placed on a live oak to simulate a money tree. Notes on the tree ranged from “Thank you for all the opportunities that you have provided to us” to “You have helped change my life.”

Tuition Freedom Day came to a conclusion with hundreds of students voicing their thankfulness for those who have invested in their pursuit of a quality higher education. On a lighter note, it was also a reminder that though we may wish, money still does not grow on trees.

THANKING THE DONORS

Bethany Douglas, a sophomore psychology major from Lexington, and a recipient of the W. Norris Lightsey Scholarship, meets Margaret Lightsey Payne at the 15th Annual Scholarship Luncheon.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF TECHNOLOGY, SHANNON PHILLIPS, HAS A RICH, LONG HISTORY WITH CSU

By Nicole Thomas

Earning his bachelor’s degree at CSU in 1995, he has spent the last 22 years as a student and/or employee and now has secured his footing at CSU for possibly another 22. With a self-proclaimed “Peter Pan syndrome,” Phillips says that working with students keeps him youthful. The irony in it is that he is only 39 years old.

His journey began in the fall of 1990; he moved in on Labor Day weekend for his freshman year and never left.

He kicked off his career with a work-study position in the post office. Before his graduation, he landed a job as an admissions counselor. Later, he was named full-time manager of the computer lab - a newly created position. He went on to earn his master’s degree at Webster University. One thing led to another and now he is - Executive Director of Technology, having worked his way up the ladder the old-fashioned way.

He still finds it odd walking into his office and writing policy or working with the vice president of business affairs. He takes his new responsibilities seriously, though, and has a distinct vision for CSU technology-wise. We sat down to discuss the past, present and future of CSU:
From then until now, (there obviously was no Internet, no Google, no email) what has that evolution been like for you?

It’s been pretty exciting for me. As a student, my first and only undergraduate computer class was on an Apple IIe. I passed by the skin of my teeth because I had never used an Apple before, I had never really used a computer before. The class was taught by Dr. S.M. Mayo, the head of the religion department, so it was very odd to have that class. We had one computer lab on campus at the time, or two. There was one in the library upstairs and the second one was in Norris. And, when you printed we had the print switch boxes. So, you had one printer plugged into a box that had four or five computers plugged into it, and you actually turned the knob to switch to your computer to print. So that was the extent of computers on campus back when we were Baptist College.

What are the benefits or drawbacks of students having the access to the Internet and the computers like we do versus when you were in college?

It’s very interesting because there’s a whole debate in the technology world between the haves and the have-nots. The ‘digital divide’ is what they call it. From my perspective, it’s good. I mean, it does cause some problem-solving skills because students don’t have those as well as they did from my generation, which sounds odd because I’m only 39. But, then the other side of it is that they have access to the entire world. You have everything at your fingertips without leaving your dorm room or your chair or your bed.

What are your specific responsibilities as the new Executive Director of Technology?

Policy writing. Pointing the school in the right direction for technology in the future. There is all this stuff on the horizon, technology-wise. We are keeping an eye out for new technology. In our department, we like to say, ‘We’re not the bleeding edge; we’re the cutting edge.’ The bleeding edge is a little dangerous and can get you in trouble. But, we’re always looking for new ways to further the campus technology-wise to make things easier and better for the campus.

What ideas do you have for where you want to see the school go technology-wise?

We’re actually in kind of a nice position, being a private school, where we can test and try new things. We’ll continue to provide wireless to students throughout the campus. I’d like to see that expanded; making sure that whatever building we have will have wireless for the students. Being able to provide more labs for students. Have them have better, faster access. Students are always saying they need faster access. We continually add to the network speeds, so they can get faster downloads and more access and be able to handle more students. So I think we do a pretty good job. In the future just being able to look at new technologies, try out new technology. There are always new things coming out. iPads are the big thing now. Everybody wants an iPad. Education, COINS and biology are actually using iPads in their classes and in teaching because that’s what kids are using in elementary and high schools. The COINS department is trying to get a grant so that they can do app development.

Is there an app associated with CSU?

There is a CSU app. It’s for iPhone and Android.

Do you think at some point iPads will replace textbooks?

At the last developer’s convention, that’s what Apple wants to do. They’re making a big push with textbook publishers to have all their textbooks available in e-format for Apple, for the iPad. If that’s going to be a buy-in, I don’t know. We’ve tried it before here at CSU a few years ago when the e-books were just kind of starting to run and there wasn’t a big buy-in. But at that point, tablets and stuff were still new. They weren’t even tablets; they were just e-readers. They were still expensive. We’re a completely different generation of students now, so that may possibly be where things are going.

What is the one piece of technology you are really wanting on campus?

Academic-wise, our new graphic design program and app development I think are going to be a big thing for our students. That’s where the industry is leading. Look at all the people who have become instant millionaires because they wrote a cool app. Campus-wide, online education is huge. Not just in the CAPS program but in every aspect of the University. Because you have students now who may work at the Gap, and they’re paying their way through college, so they want to have that traditional experience but can’t take a full load on campus. We really want to keep traditional students on campus, but we want to give traditional students more options.

With a move toward technology and online learning, why is it an important part of CSU to keep traditional students on campus?

It’s that college experience. We want to be able to promote our vision and keep students on campus so we can expand our vision. It’s that personal relationship, making those bonds.

From a workforce perspective, do you feel like an online degree is just as valuable as a traditional degree? Does it matter how/where you get your degree?

If you go somewhere that’s unaccredited, then you’re going to have problems. But, I think they’re [online degrees] just as valuable. The curriculum for online classes, if done correctly (like we’re doing here at CSU), is up to par with your face-to-face. Online education isn’t easy. It’s just as difficult as going to class every day. You still have the same amount of work to do.
Charleston to Houston

Tara Megan Walsh Dodds ’08 and Vincent P. Dodds live in Baytown, Texas. Tara teaches 5th grade at Baytown Christian Academy.

As a young girl, I dreamed of living in my Southern city by the sea; a city enchanted with the sound of carriages, water gently crashing against the battery wall, and cobblestone streets that made you feel as though you were walking into another time. Finally, the time for college came. My opportunity to live in my dream city was near. God brought CSU to the front of my college search. The professors became practically adopted parents to a Georgia native. Dorm life was an amazing experience. I made friends for life. When graduation came and I started work at Steinberg Law Firm on Broad Street, never in my wildest dreams did I think I would end up in Houston, Texas.

God has a way of taking you places that you never would have imagined. In 2009 my husband got a great job offer here in Houston. Alas, after a few good cries we knew that heading West was God’s plan. Upon arrival in Houston, we found the area so very different from South Carolina. Dr. David Naylor (Behavioral Sciences) had always joked with me that when anyone arrives in Texas who is not native to that state, a passport is needed. Dr. Naylor was right! Life here is very different from the Southeast. However, my husband, two dogs, and I have found some places that we enjoy. It might not live up to walking down Meeting Street and being handed free hush puppies from Hyman’s, but these places are quite nice.

Texans and South Carolinians have a lot in common, actually. They both have a great amount of state pride. I always thought Carolinians loved to decorate everything with the Palmetto and Moon, but Texans take that to a whole other level. (Just check out the barn in our family picture)

When in Texas, one must visit San Antonio: The Alamo, Spanish Missions and float down the Guadalupe River. A stop in the Dallas/Fort Worth area is also a must with the Stockyards. Be sure to stop at the many boot stores while in Fort Worth, such craftsmanship! You will definitely get an original pair of cowboy boots there. Of course, visiting the State Capital of Austin should be on the list. Without further adieu, let me give you my list of favorite places here in our new home of Houston, Texas.
ALUMNI PROFILE
Tara Megan Walsh Dodds
SCHOOL TIES

Places to Visit:

1. The Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo
   An annual event, usually in March, you will be dazzled with the cowboys, cowgirls, bull riding, barrel racing, an FFA calf scramble, fair food and big name concerts such as Blake Shelton, Miranda Lambert, Reba, Alabama, John Legend, The Black Eyed Peas, etc. Do not forget to wear your boots and hat or else you will look severely out of place and fall victim to many tourist comments.

2. San Jacinto Battleground and Monument
   Many people know of the story of The Alamo. After The Alamo fell to Mexican control during Texas’ War for Independence, General Sam Houston brought his men to Buffalo Bayou, near what is now Baytown, Texas. On this site in April 1836, Texas won its independence from Mexico. Texas governed itself until 1845 when the state joined the Union. At this site, one is able to learn and appreciate Texas history. Once Texas history is understood, one truly gets a better grasp on the very independent state of mind that exists here. Any person from the Southeast is familiar with re-enactments. They have one at San Jacinto every year in April. Also, if you have time, you can walk across the street and see The Battleship Texas. This ship is the last and oldest battleship still afloat that served in WWI and WWII.

3. Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge

4. Space Center Houston

Places to Eat:

1. Ricky’s Thick and Juicy Burgers
   - Baytown, Texas
   You could stop by Ricky’s after you have worked up an appetite at the San Jacinto Monument

2. Mark’s American Cuisine - Houston
   This is a great place to eat if you are looking for a special atmosphere and amazing food. The menu changes daily. The prices are a little high but worth every penny.

3. Ruggles Green
   Ruggles Green is part of the Green Restaurant Association. Everything is organic and fresh. The prices are very reasonable for the type of food you get.

4. Rudy’s BBQ
   There are several Rudy’s BBQs in the Houston area and throughout Texas. Texas BBQ is very different from the BBQ of the Carolinas, no vinegar or mustard based debates here. You will not find much pork, but the beef is great. My favorite part of Texas BBQ is how they cook and slice their sausage. This restaurant is worth the visit.
ALUMNI: WE WANT TO VISIT YOUR TOWN!

It’s easy - just contact Beth Myers, alumni director, at alumni@csuniv.edu and let her know you would like your town featured. We’ll need a photo of you and your family, a few photos of things to see and do in your area and a list of the places to go and places to eat that make your town unique. Reserve your space in the Charleston to ??? feature now!

A special thanks to Tara Dodds ’08 of Houston for helping us kick off this series!
CSU Lyric Theatre and CSU Players present the musical

INTO THE WOODS

Music & Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim, Book by James Lapine
Thursday - Saturday, November 15-17, 2012, at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, November 18 at 3 p.m.

CSU Players present the play

PETER PAN

by J.M. Barrie
Friday and Saturday, March 1 and 2, 2013, at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, March 3 at 3 p.m.

ALL SHOWS IN LIGHTSEY CHAPEL
BUY a BRICK

Personalizing a brick is a great way to celebrate your time at Charleston Southern, to commemorate friendships and memories made, to honor your favorite faculty or staff member or to memorialize a loved one.

Please join us in building a tradition! The cost of $100 per brick includes engraving, plus a gift to the Charleston Southern Fund to support student scholarships.

The annual Charleston Southern Fund provides unrestricted scholarship support for students. Every gift to the Fund goes directly to help students.

Providing access for students to attend CSU and become the next generation of Christian leaders has always been the University’s top priority, and your support for the Charleston Southern Fund helps make that experience possible.

Order your brick or make your gift to support our students by using the envelope in the magazine, go to charlestonsouthern.edu/brick or contact the alumni office at 843-863-7516.

www.charlestonsouthern.edu/brick