

PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

Dr. Dondi Costin began serving as president of Charleston Southern University on July 1. He is joined by his wife, Vickey. Most recently, Dr. Costin served at the Pentagon as U.S. Air Force Chief of Chaplains. In this role, he was the senior pastor for more than 664,000 active-duty, Guard, Reserve and civilian forces serving in the U.S. and overseas. He also led 2,000 chaplains and chaplain assistants from the Air Force Chaplain Corps. A native of Wilmington, North Carolina, Dr. Costin graduated from the United States Air Force Academy in 1986. He holds five master's degrees, a Doctor of Ministry and a PhD in Organizational Leadership. In a previous assignment, he taught courses in leadership, management, political science and military history as Assistant Professor of Aerospace Studies at Texas Christian University. His military decorations include the Legion of Merit and the Bronze Star Medal. Dr. Costin has deployed in support of numerous contingency and humanitarian relief operations around the world.

Dr. Jairy C. Hunter Jr. transitioned to President Emeritus on May 31. He will teach at the university in the College of Business, as well as provide consultation and fundraising assistance as needed. His commitment to excellence resulted in a period of great stability and expansion for the institution. Charleston Southern operated for 32 years in the black and experienced incredible growth in regard to academic programs and buildings.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

College of Science and Mathematics

Detachment 772 was voted the South Carolina Air Force Association's ROTC unit of the year (ahead of the AFROTC detachments at USC, Clemson and The Citadel).

New programs added:

- Master of Science in Biology
- Bachelor of Technology in Medical Laboratory Science
- Bachelor of Science in Biology: Emphasis in Medical Laboratory Science
- Bachelor of Science in Cybersecurity

Dr. Amy Albrecht and her research student received an SCICU grant to study Hydrogel Delivery of Essential Oil to Breast Cancer Cells.

Kevin Jones serves as the CSU Herbarium Museum curator. He conducted research on a unique mutation of *Pinus taeda* found on campus.

Dr. Melissa O'Connor conducted research on the effect of clove oil on the cell proliferation of cancerous versus normal breast cell lines. She collaborated on a grant with MUSC's Department of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics.

College of Education

Recruiting is underway for CSU's first doctoral program, the Doctor of Education with an emphasis in Leadership. CSU will begin offering the degree in January 2019.

The Berkeley County School District and the College of Education will offer a Master of Education, Supervision and Administration exclusively for future administrators in Berkeley County schools. Classes begin this fall.

Ninety-three candidates will complete their clinical practice in 2018-2019. This is the largest number of student teachers in CSU history.

College of Business

The International Accreditation Council for Business Education reaccredited the College of Business in April.

Fifteen students from a variety of majors and classes served on the first year of the Student Advisory Council.

College of Christian Studies

The College of Christian Studies hosted the Southeast Regional Meeting of the Evangelical Theological Society.

Drs. Michael Bryant and Ed Gravely wrote the study notes for selected New Testament writings in the *CSB Worldview Study Bible*, ed. David Dockery (Holman Bible Publishers, 2018).

The College of Christian Studies maintains the website ChurchandGospel.com, which includes articles and podcasts from full-time Christian Studies faculty as well as adjunct faculty, alumni and others.

The College of Christian Studies hosted their second ENDURE Apologetics Conference for high school students. The conference theme was “The Reliability of Scripture.”

The College of Christian Studies hosted four quarterly EPIC Bible teacher training Saturday events. These training sessions equip Bible teachers with a big-picture overview of books of the Bible, enabling them to teach the Scriptures better.

Drs. Peter Beck and Michael Bryant participated in a panel discussion on South Carolina Baptist history, “Reflections on Missions and Education,” at First Baptist Church Columbia.

Dr. Ross Parker was a session speaker at the 2018 DEFEND Apologetics Conference at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

College of Health Sciences

The Athletic Training Program completed the first year of the new Master of Athletic Training degree.

In April, the Athletic Training Program was granted the 10-year maximum CAATE continuing accreditation.

Dr. Kate Thomas received three grants: \$2.9 million from the Bristol Myers Squibb/America’s Warrior Partnership/UA to investigate suicide causation among military veterans in the United States, \$60,000 from the Boeing Corporation to design tailored curriculum and deliver two adaptive sea kayak retreats with follow-on support continuum for military veterans of all eras and \$4,000 from Trident United Way to offer a one-day training and education retreat for women veterans.

The Accreditation Review Commission of Education for the Physician Assistant granted the Physician Assistant Program Accreditation-Provisional in September. The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges also approved the program. The first 25-student cohort began in January.

College of Humanities & Social Sciences

Professor Glorimar Blanco, assistant professor of foreign languages, was selected as the 2018 Excellence in Teaching award winner.

The Psi Chi/Psychology Club won Academic Club of the Year for the 11th time.

Dr. Jill Lewis coordinated the first Musician’s Health and Safety seminar, collaborating with Health Sciences faculty and other guest presenters.

The Wind Ensemble traveled to Washington, D.C., and New York City. While in NYC, they performed at Carnegie Hall.

The largest number of voice students competed at the Mid-Atlantic Regional NATS audition, resulting in one regional winner and four students advancing to the national round.

Lyric Theatre, sponsored by the Horton School of Music and the theatre program, presented *Seussical* to 800 school children and teachers in addition to their three performances for the public.

CSU is currently enrolling students for the Master of Science in Counseling Psychology. Classes begin this fall.

College of Nursing

Recruiting has begun for the Accelerated BSN program which will start in August 2019. This program will allow students to earn a BSN in 16 months. This fast-track program, which is primarily online, is designed for adult students who have already earned a bachelor's degree in another field or have completed 58-60 credit hours toward a bachelor's degree.

The College of Nursing faculty began a local chapter of the Nurses Christian Fellowship.

Dr. Wanda Taylor passed the certification exam for Hospice and Palliative Nurses (CHPN).

CSU Online and Adult Programs

Faculty and staff coordinated the conversion of 120 courses from the Pearson E-Learning platform to Blackboard.

With funding provided by the Title 3 grant, CSU now has a full-time instructional designer, a program development manager and a software technician to assist with online course development. The One-Button faculty studio was built to record video segments for online courses or to assist with student FAQs which can be posted to the CSU website.

CSU's online programs are growing. Two entirely online programs have been added for fall:

- Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice
- Master of Education

International Studies and Global Education

CSU is working to add two international partner universities for dual-degree programs in business and chemistry.

Charleston Southern will send 59 students and eight faculty members on four short-term Global Education teams to Germany, Austria, Switzerland and France during the summer.

ATHLETICS

Jeff Barber began duties as the university's new Director of Athletics on June 1.

Roger Nielsen, a 1974 graduate of Charleston Southern (then Baptist College), along with his wife, Joyce, committed \$500,000 to the baseball program. The university will name the playing surface Nielsen Field in honor of the generosity of the Nielsen family. The donation will be used for baseball recruiting, training and player instruction. Nielsen, a successful businessman, currently resides outside Philadelphia.

Anthony Ellis, a senior defensive lineman on the football team, finished his career as one of the most decorated male athletes in CSU history. He rewrote the Buccaneers' defensive record book on his way to receiving CSU's Senior Male Student-Athlete of the Year.

Sophie Cloessner, a senior on the women's tennis team, received CSU's Senior Female Student-Athlete of the Year. She was a three-time All-Conference singles recipient and two-time All-Conference doubles selection and was key to the team advancing to the NCAA Tournament in 2015. Cloessner also excelled in the classroom with a 3.944 GPA while majoring in management and minoring in psychology.

The men's cross country team continued its resurgence as the Buccaneers placed third at the Big South Conference Championship. The Buccaneers finished with a team score of 86 and an average time of 26:29 over the eight-kilometer course to record the highest

finish since the 1994 season. Freshman Fearghal Curtin and sophomore Jeryck Wilson both finished in the top 10 and received All-Conference recognition. They helped propel the Buccaneers to the NCAA Southeast Regional Championship.

Two athletes earned Big South Scholar-Athlete of the Year honors in their respective sports: women's tennis star Sophie Cloessner and baseball centerfielder Josh Litchfield. Litchfield, a junior management major, carried a perfect 4.00 GPA and was recognized on the 2018 CoSIDA Academic All-District team.

Arlon Harper, a 2015 graduate of Charleston Southern, has returned to the university to serve as an assistant coach for men's basketball.

Athletics opened the Athletic Performance Center, the Singleton Baseball Complex, and unveiled new signage at the Bagwell-Settle Track. The Athletic Performance Center is an 8,000-square-foot facility that includes a 5,000-square-foot strength and conditioning center to help enhance student-athlete wellness and the competitive experience. The Singleton Baseball Complex includes a 3,500-square-foot building housing a locker room, training room and the Sharonda Coleman-Singleton Enrichment Center, as well as a memorial plaza for the victims of the Emanuel AME shooting and a stadium courtyard. The signage at the Bagwell-Settle Track recognizes the accomplishments of former coaches and CSU Hall of Famers Howard Bagwell Sr. and James C. Settle.

BUSINESS AFFAIRS

Finance

The 2017-2018 fiscal year was completed with a positive bottom line, making this 32 out of the last 33 years. The university's budget totals \$63.4 million (an increase of \$3.2 million from the prior year). Ninety-four percent of the university's revenue comes from students in the form of tuition, fees, room and board. The university receives an additional \$1.5 million from the S.C. Baptist Convention and \$1 million from unrestricted gifts.

Capital Projects

The expansion of the existing Health Science Building with the addition of a Physical Therapy Building is currently under design. The 13,104-square-foot building will accommodate a future class cohort size of 56 students. It is currently estimated at \$5,948,000 total cost. Trident Construction is the contractor for this project. The building is scheduled for completion in December 2019.

The expansion of the Science Building is currently under design. The 15,641-square-foot building is currently estimated at \$7,434,000 total cost. Trident Construction is the contractor for this project. This building is scheduled for completion in the first quarter of 2020.

Phase II of the renovation of Russell East and West Residence Halls is underway.

The new Residence Hall is a 204-bed, 52,000-square-foot project at a total cost of \$15.3 million. The building is currently under construction and scheduled to be completed in December 2018.

Current projects include: the Library elevator, the softball outfield renovation and light installation project, the Thurmond Annex roof replacement and the Thurmond Center parking lot expansion. Projects designed and pending include: the East Side Drainage Project (Buc Club Boulevard) and the renovation of the old weight room into football coach offices.

DEVELOPMENT

Increased Giving

CSU accomplished one of its top strategic goals, surpassing the \$1 million mark for unrestricted scholarship. This is a 15.6 percent increase over last year. An important part of reaching this milestone was the Whitfield Family Scholarship Challenge. The \$100,000 Challenge was launched in January 2018 and matched new and increased gifts to student scholarship.

Transform Campaign

The current Transform Campaign total is \$52,917,434. The second phase of the campaign represents approximately \$60 million for completed capital projects, including the Health Science Building, the Singleton Baseball Complex and the Athletic Performance Center.

Board of Visitors

The university welcomed 60 new members to the Board of Visitors Scholarship Program. Board membership currently consists of more than 553 members, including alumni, friends and businesses.

Alumni Affairs

The Buy a Brick program sold 275 new bricks (149 seniors purchased bricks). Proceeds support student scholarships. Hundreds of alumni converged on the campus for the annual homecoming game in October. The Alumni Office hosted four events, one in Charleston, two in Columbia and one in the Greenville area.

Annual Fundraising Events & Campaigns

The 30th Annual President's Golf Tournament raised more than \$7,000 for student scholarships.

The 2018 CSU Sporting Clays Fun Shoot for Scholarships raised nearly \$7,500 for student scholarships.

In February, nearly 300 pledges totaling \$22,000 were received in the annual Phonathon Campaign.

CSU Giving Day took place on April 20. Hundreds of alumni and friends gave more than \$125,000 for student scholarships. As part of this special day of support, the Whitfield family generously committed an additional \$25,000 to the Whitfield Scholarship Challenge, bringing the total Challenge to \$100,000.

Women's Council

The CSU Women's Council raised more than \$45,000 in scholarship funds at the 2017 fall auction. Over the past nine years, these dedicated women have established three endowed scholarship funds: the Mattie Leigh Frances Endowed Scholarship, the Charlene Kirk Endowed Scholarship and the CSU Women's Council Endowed Scholarship.

Legacy Society

The Legacy Society, individuals who have recognized CSU in their estate plans, has 83 members.

ENROLLMENT SERVICES

Enrollment Services created the CSU One Day experience for prospective high school students.

- The November One Day included lectures from Dr. Ed Gravely (Christian Studies), Professor Thomas Keating (Theatre) and Dr. Valerie Sessions (Computer Science).
- The February One Day included lectures from Dr. Kari Siko (Education), Professor Ed Speyers (Graphic Design) and Dr. Jonathan Sirey (English).

Enrollment Services is increasing its presence among college-bound Christian students by partnering with churches and private Christian high schools, as well as participating in national Christian college fairs and Christian youth events.

Admissions sponsored the Lowcountry Homeschool Convention for the fourth consecutive year and hosted the event for the third year.

Enrollment Counselors Amanda Richmond and Walter Brigman attended the Youth Pastor Summits hosted by Student Leadership University in Orlando, Florida, and Dallas, Texas.

CSU launched a dual enrollment program, CSU Scholars. High school juniors and seniors may enroll in courses at a reduced rate while still in high school. Courses are offered online or on campus.

CSU has been designated as a Military Friendly School by GI Jobs Magazine for eight consecutive years and is the college of choice for 400 students who are utilizing VA benefits.

MARKETING & COMMUNICATION

University Relations was renamed Marketing and Communication. Staff restructuring includes a new Director of Integrated Marketing and Assistant Director of Integrated Marketing. New systems and reporting tools have increased data reporting and efficiency within the team.

A new comprehensive marketing plan was established which includes digital advertising targeting the next generation of students. For online and master's programs, advertisements are targeted to match potential students' demographics. Advertisements now run on a year-round cycle instead of at certain times of the year.

The Marketing and Communication team created a new social media account registration, policy and website reference page to help strengthen CSU's brand in regard to various social media platforms. Guidelines were established for faculty and staff to maintain the accounts properly.

Charleston Southern continues to be recognized nationally on such lists as: U.S. News & World Report Best Online Program, America's Best Christian Colleges, Colleges of Distinction, America's 100 Best College Buys, Military Friendly Schools and VA Yellow Ribbon Program.

STUDENT SERVICES

Staff

Newly filled or created positions included: Assistant Dean for Residence Life, Assistant Dean for Student Organizations, Director of Counseling Services, Assistant Dean for the Career Center and Associate Dean for the Whitfield Center for Christian Leadership.

Residence Life

Residence Life housed 1,294 students in the residence halls during the fall semester and 1,114 in the spring semester. New décor and furniture were added to several student lounges. Residence Life added 82 newer washing machines and dryers in the residence halls.

Student Activities

Student Activities currently sponsors 48 clubs and organizations on campus. The service organizations must perform four service projects each semester – two on campus and two off campus.

Miss Abby Keller will represent CSU at the Miss South Carolina Competition in late June.

Student Activities hosted its annual Buc Fever Fair with carnival rides and food trucks. More than a thousand people attended.

The Student Government Formal took place at the S.C. Aquarium in April. Approximately 400 students attended this memory-making event.

Student Activities partnered with six major charities this year. The two largest service projects included the 1,758 boxes collected for Operation Christmas Child and the \$8,667 raised at the Walk for Water Missions.

Homecoming activities included a parade, homecoming court, outdoor concert, fun run, tailgating and many other exciting activities.

Counseling Services

Counseling Services served a record number of students. In the fall semester alone, 164 clients were seen, and 420 appointments were scheduled. Ninety-five percent of the students who completed the counseling services survey said that they had a positive experience with the department and that it had helped them remain enrolled in the university.

Counseling Services offered the following programs: Stress Busters, Body Image Week and Suicide Prevention Week. Arrive Alive, a simulation program that teaches students about the dangers of distracted driving, was offered in the fall.

CSU hosted the Suicide Prevention Town Hall with local television affiliate, ABC 4, in October. Counseling Services also partnered with the Veterans Association to offer V.I.T.A.L. – Veterans Integration to Academic Leadership Initiative.

Campus Security

Security added new gates to help secure the campus at night. A new mobile guard building was also placed next to the football stadium at the entrance of the campus.

CSU entered a new security contract with the largest private security company in the world that specializes in protecting college campuses.

Campus Security enhanced the emergency notification system by adding panic buttons in several offices and 18 new blue light emergency poles.

All CSU security officers were armed.

A new security SUV was purchased, and several more security cameras were placed at strategic locations.

Security radios were converted from analog to digital thus allowing officers to communicate directly with local emergency personnel.

Campus Recreation

More than 1,200 participated in intramural sports. Sports offered included basketball, softball, flag football, soccer and sand volleyball.

Approximately 150 students attended the Polar Bear Plunge in January.

New fitness equipment, more than \$30,000 worth, was placed in the fitness center, and fitness classes offered the following activities: indoor cycling, kickboxing, Abdomination, POP Pilates, Zumba and circuit training.

Campus Recreation also purchased a new mobile application called *Buc Nation*. This application contains timely information about upcoming events and can even send push notifications.

The Career Center

The department offered a fashion show to help students learn how to dress for success.

The Career Center helped with resume writing, soft skills training, personality assessments and career coaching.

The *Buc Career Network* was retooled to be more effective in connecting alumni with businesses.

The Career Center offered a volunteer fair in the fall semester and a career fair in the fall and spring semesters. More than 100 businesses and organizations participated in these fairs.

Diversity

The Office of Diversity established the Diversity Council, comprised of faculty, staff and students.

The council hosted the inaugural CSU Women in History Luncheon in March as well as a Diversity Forum called Speak Up to engage with the student body.

Campus Ministries

Campus Ministries began the year with *The Movement*, a three night spiritual renewal event with a high attendance of 625.

CSU was blessed with more than 100 professions of faith in the fall semester alone. Campus Ministries documented 112 professions of faith for the entire school year.

Chapel was well attended, with a high attendance on October 25 of 1,740 students.

The weekly worship service, *Elevate*, had a high attendance of more than 400 students. More than 220 students participated in small group Bible studies on and off campus.

Two teams served during Spring Break. Twenty-three students served in Puerto Rico and seven ministered in Erwin, Tennessee.

Many CSU students are serving the Lord and others this summer in local churches as pastoral interns, student/children ministers and worship leaders. Others are ministering at camps taking place on campus (e.g., MFuge), at SummerSalt (South Carolina) and at Kanakuk (Missouri). Still others are serving through GenSend (North American Mission Board) in various cities or internationally in places such as Brazil, England, Kenya and Nigeria.

International Programming

International Programming focused on the country of India at Culturefest with well over 1,000 students in attendance. The campus was treated to cuisine, cultural dances and musical performances celebrating the people and culture of India.

At the International Dinner, CSU recognized graduating seniors and celebrated their countries and cultures.

The university enrolled students from 27 different countries.

WHITFIELD CENTER FOR CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP (WCCL)

Events

In the spring of 2018, the WCCL hosted the Southeast Regional Evangelical Theological Society, the Upward Call Christian Professional Business Conference, the South Carolina Christian Chamber of Commerce monthly meetings, the Charleston Regional Development Alliance Executive Committee and Faith and Science in the Classroom sessions.

The Center also hosted and participated in S.A.L.L.T (Salt and Light Leadership Training) to explore opening a chapter in Charleston.

Monthly Faith Integration meetings for CSU staff and coaches also took place in the facility.

Partnerships

The WCCL leadership has developed several partnerships within the community: the South Carolina Christian Chamber of Commerce, Lifeworks Charleston, the Charleston Leadership Foundation and God in the Workplace.

The Director of Academic Technology and Grants, the Associate Dean of the WCCL and the College of Christian Studies applied for a grant from the Lilly Foundation. The proposal, if approved, will create the Thriving in Ministry Institute for Bivocational Pastors.

CSU is one of the largest MFuge sites in the country with more than 3,500 students staying on campus and serving the community through missions during June and July.

The university sponsors Student Leadership University, one of the top leadership programs for young people in the world.

Initiatives

The Student Leadership Academy is a semester-long program coordinated by the WCCL. The program exists to teach students the essentials of Christian leadership for their future vocation.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- First Day of Classes – August 20
- Prayer First Chapel – August 22
- President’s Chapel – August 29
- First Football Game (CSU vs. Florida) – September 1 (7:30 p.m.)
- President’s Golf Tournament – September 18
- CSU One Day (High School Students, contact Enrollment Services) – September 20
- First Home Football Game (Elon vs. CSU) – September 22 (6 p.m.)
- ENDURE Apologetics Conference (High School Students, contact Dr. Ross Parker, dparker@csuniv.edu) – September 28
- First Look – October 20 (www.charlestonsouthern.edu/firstlook)
- Homecoming – October 20
- CSU Women’s Council Auction – November 3