

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Alumnus performs his live art for the Atlanta Falcons in the Cayman Islands, pg. 17
- Student interns for *Charleston + Design* magazine, pg. 7
- Alumna designs websites for churches in South Carolina, Georgia and Michigan, pg. 20



Alec Betts, pg. 27



Matthew Roditis, pg. 9



McKenna Hickman, pg. 11



Jennifer Gilmore, pg. 16

It's Good to be Young



Photo by: Caroline Keating

Written by: Curtis Stacey

Edited by: Andrew Andersen

Capturing the picture-perfect moment in life may sound like a tall task. However, for Ellen Young, it is just another day doing what she loves. Young is a senior graphic design major at Charleston Southern University. She has been across the globe, taking pictures of the beautiful scenery in places like Glacier National Park in Montana, Sydney and Melbourne, Australia, and the Rocky Mountains. Her main focus in photography is on families, newborn children, weddings and many other special moments in people's lives.

STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS

“I love to help clients freeze the moment in time they are in so they may relive it in the future,” Young said. “It is a perfect and special time in a family’s life. I am able to deliver memories they’ll never have again.”

Young’s fascination with the world of photography began as a hobby while being homeschooled.

She said she began with a small Canon DSLR camera, and with the exception of an online photography class through *National Geographic* magazine, is self-taught. Young focuses her landscape photography through different perspectives. She said she uses unique angles to convey an unusual view of the world.

Young credited her passion and success to CSU’s graphic design department.

“The professors here are very unique,” she said. “They go beyond the projects and take interest in my future career.”

Haven Davis, a senior graphic design student at CSU who has known Young since freshman year, said she is very impressed with both Young’s work and her personality.

“She’s super dedicated to learning and making her work even better with every shoot,” Davis said.

While Young said she is proud of how she has grown as a photographer, she considers her faith as her crowning achievement.

“I believe God has given each of us gifts and talents that are unique to each person. Using that talent to show others His light and love is a goal of mine.” Young said. ❖



Using that talent to show others His light and love is a goal of mine.”

Photos by: Ellen Young | All photos taken in Europe

Madi Kirkwood

Written by: Hannah E. Surfus

Edited by: Lindsey Jester



Photo by: Ellen Young

For Madi Kirkwood, some of her earliest memories involve bonding over art with her mother and admiring the design work of her great-grandfather.

“I [was] always the ‘art kid,’” said Kirkwood. “I was always carrying art books under my arm in school. I would spend my lunch working on art projects. Art in general has really helped shape me into the woman I am today.”

A senior graphic design major at Charleston Southern University, Kirkwood has a keen interest in branding and marketing. She makes logos for Mae Creative Graphics, a freelance-based business she launched her freshman year of college. Kirkwood said she sees Mae Creative as a means to market her art by creating logos, business cards and other advertising material for clients. Her entrepreneurial spirit has not gone unnoticed by her peers and classmates.

“Madi is a go-getter,” said fellow graphic design student Hayli Stratton. “If something needs to be done, she gets

it done. Whenever she sets a goal for herself, she works hard to reach that goal.”

Kirkwood has committed herself to getting as much professional experience as possible as a means to prepare for life after college. She has completed four internships in her three years at CSU, working with companies like Obviouslee Marketing, the CSU Marketing and Communication Department and Josh Capeder Design Co. In addition to her internships, Kirkwood is a student volunteer for the American Institute of Graphic Arts, a nationwide professional organization for design. She has gained a lot of recognition for her craft, winning several awards for her artwork and photography in the Coastal Carolina Fair and several other shows throughout the Charleston area.

“I’m amazed by how well Madi balances everything in her life. She is a full-time student who works 30 hours a week. She is constantly picking up extra design projects because

STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS

she loves it. Her spunky personality and work ethic [are] going to take her very far,” said Christi Porter, a graphic design graduate.

Kirkwood attributed much of her collegiate success to the university’s Graphic Design program and said she was led to Charleston Southern by God.

“I could not be happier with the decision I made to attend CSU. I grew up in a Christian home, but never really practiced my religion day-to-day. At CSU, I got saved. I knew, after that, that this was the best decision for me and my career,” said Kirkwood.

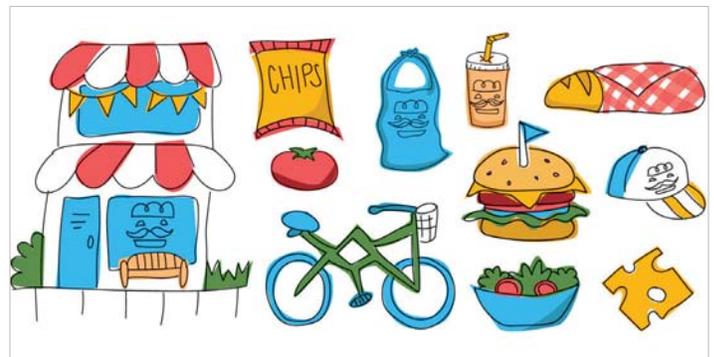
Kirkwood called her CSU experience incredible, citing the personal relationships she has with the faculty.

“My professors are the most amazing people that I’ve met in my entire life,” said Kirkwood. “They make me comfortable enough to confide in them whenever I’m struggling. If I need to cry with my professors, they’ll cry with me. If I want blunt advice about something I’ve worked on, they’ll give it. They are always here for us.”

Kirkwood said she hopes to work at an art agency after graduation and, eventually, own and operate her own business. She added that she lives by the mantra that each day is something to be made great.

“I really fought hard to get to where I am today, and I refuse to give up now,” she said. “I want the very best for myself and my family. I want to work my hardest to do that.”

If you are interested in learning more about Kirkwood’s art, you can find her business on Instagram by searching for @maecreative.graphics. ❖



Graphic design and illustration work by Madi

Lizzy Smith

Written by: Taylor Salinger

Edited by: Liz Williams



Photo by: Ellen Young

Lizzy Smith is authentic.

Smith, a senior graphic design major at Charleston Southern University, has a realness about her that can be seen not only in her photography and design work, but also in her observation of faith.

“I’ve always known God; I just grew up with Him,” she said. She has interned for a nonprofit organization called Modern Day Esthers, a company that raises money for educating the children of Togo, Africa. She photographed products for the organization.

According to her peers at CSU, Smith’s passion for her craft is only matched by her talent.

“As a graphic design major, Lizzy is amazing,” Jenna Bernadyn said. “Her attention to the small details really sets her work apart. She is great at illustration and photography, so she is definitely using her talents in the right career path.”

Smith’s love for art extends well beyond her work with Modern Day Esthers. She said she loves the realism of photography and prefers shooting weddings, family portraits, or senior photos.

Outside of her educational and professional exploits, Smith has spent the last six years serving as a mentor to other young women at Seacoast Church. She said she loves being able to guide these women through situations, support them, give them advice and be their rock. While she is a skilled and talented photographer and designer, it is Smith’s faith that has had a lasting impact on her CSU peers.

“Lizzy is naturally a really positive person, and I think most people can tell that by having just one conversation with her,” Bernadyn said. “In the short time I have known her, she has pushed me to be a better designer. She is an encouraging sister in Christ, and I cannot wait to see the plans that the Lord has in store for her.” ❖

J E R E M I A H 2 9 : 1 1

Lee Willey

Written by: Chris Hock

Edited by: Christian Reid

Lee Willey has combined his love of the outdoors with his artistic endeavors.

Willey, a graphic design student at Charleston Southern University, created a sticker for the university's Outdoor Adventure Club as a means of raising money for the organization. The design features a vector image of a man eating a sandwich with the phrase, "Hungry for Adventure?"

Wiley Jackson, president of the OAC, said the organization made over 100 stickers and has distributed 50 so far, which can be seen adorning laptops and water bottles across campus. Willey said that his efforts served as a means of combining his education with his passions in life.

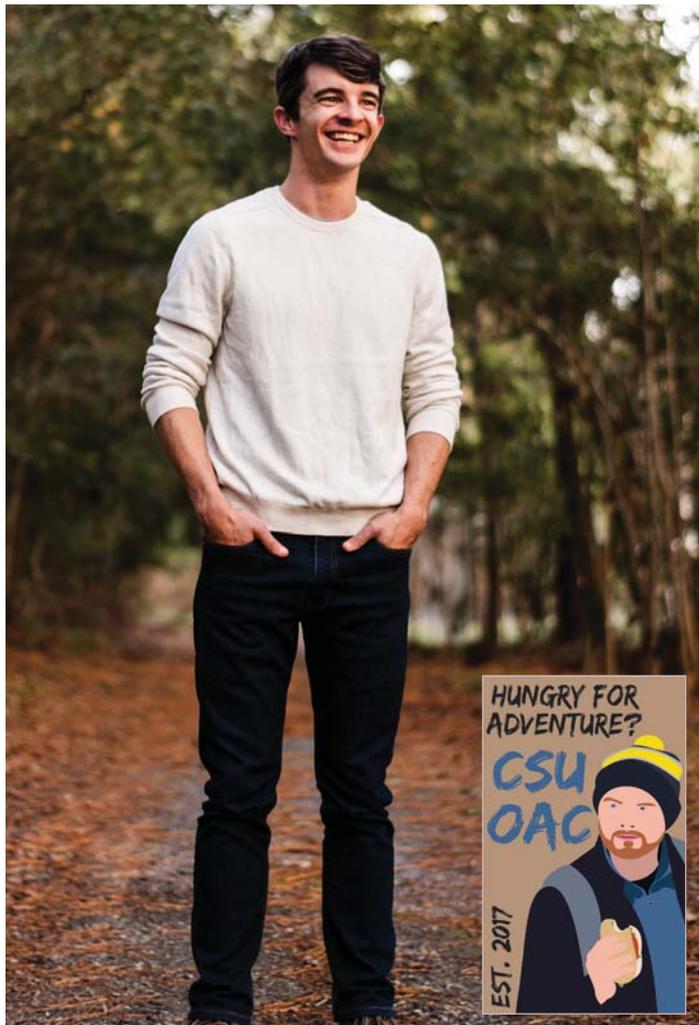


Photo by: Ellen Young

"I thought it was a great opportunity to mix my interests of outdoors and design. I also love supporting things here at CSU and encouraging collaboration as well," said Willey.

Willey explained that his goal was to design an image that embodied the spirit of the organization.

"I knew I wanted to design something that captured the quiriness of the group and not be too serious. I did some exploring through [OAC's] social media and found a lot of inspiration, so then I began creating some mockups in Adobe Illustrator based on some photos I found for inspiration," he said. "I decided on the composition that depicted one of the founding members of the club in a candid moment from one of their hiking trips."

The outdoor enthusiast added that he hopes the CSU community has found joy in his work.

"I was hoping that this concept would be enjoyed by those who recognize him and even the moment captured, as well as people unfamiliar with the club as they enjoy the humor of the design," said Willey.

The OAC was founded in 2017 and provides the student body with opportunities to go camping, hiking, kayaking and skydiving. ❖

From one of my first classes in the Graphic Design program, there was a connection made about how we as creatives are reflecting one of the many attributes of God when we create. He is the ultimate creator, and I have loved learning more of what it looks like to be a creative with the scope of a Christian worldview.

Brittany Priester

Written by: Alyssa Weeks

Edited by: MC McCarthy



Photo by: Ellen Young

No matter the time or place, Brittany Priester is always ready to take the main stage.

Priester, a senior graphic design major at Charleston Southern University, spent the summer of 2019 interning with *Charleston Home + Design* magazine. Under the magazine's art director, Patrick Brickman, she clipped product photos to be used in editorial articles, designed ads for clients, made posters and attended photoshoots around Charleston and Kiawah Island.

"She was very good at taking a job and dissecting it into different ways things could be presented. Her designs were clean and thoughtful," Brickman said of Priester. "She was very quiet, but let her work do the talking."

Priester said her favorite project was designing the admission ticket for the Charleston Fall Home Show that took place in August. She also had the opportunity to meet Liz Martin, a Charleston-based lifestyle blogger who was featured on the cover of the magazine.

Priester said her perception of graphic design has dramatically changed since being at CSU. When Priester was choosing a major, she said she wanted to do something that she would enjoy rather than something that simply pays well. When she saw the graphic design curriculum that the university offered, she instantly knew that she wanted to further her education at CSU.

"I did not know exactly what graphic design entailed until I started taking classes at CSU. I took a beginning design class with Professor [Carla] Marchione and she helped me understand what a graphic designer really is. I have loved every single project I have done, specifically anything that includes typography," Priester said.

Morgan Bowling, Priester's suitemate and CSU dance team co-captain, said that Priester's dedication to graphic design is inspiring.

"It is a passion of hers. She will spend hours on projects making sure they are up to her standards and exceeding her professors' expectations," she said.

Priester also has a love for all things dance. She is a member of the CSU dance team and is a hip-hop instructor at Planet Dance Center for the Arts, located in Summerville. Her parents put her into her first dance class at 3 years old with the hopes that it would help her clumsiness. Over the next few years, she competed all over the country and performed as a dancer for Carnival Cruise Lines. Additionally, Priester was in the Charleston Ballet Theatre's 50th anniversary production of "The Nutcracker" as a mother mouse and Chinese dragon. She served as the 2018 president of the Junior Southern Council of Dance Masters Chapter 44, as well as the vice president the year before.

Bowling described Priester as one who is always willing to do whatever is necessary for her teammates.

"After she joined the team, I saw her starting to connect with the other girls and come out of her comfort zone. She has stepped up as a teammate, helping girls understand the dances and making sure that they are always OK," Bowling said.

As for life after CSU, Priester said she has dreams of opening her own dance studio and going into freelance graphic design.

"I never want to stop dancing and I want to share my passion of dance with others. I want to open a dance studio in the Charleston area that focuses on fitness and health for all ages and abilities," Priester said. ❖

Haven Davis

Written by: Brittany Breslin

Edited by: Jonathan Brummett

Haven Davis continues to pursue unexpected plans from God.

Davis, a senior graphic design major at Charleston Southern University, is the creative director at Radiant Church in Charleston, a position that came on the heels of a Summer 2018 internship in Limerick, Ireland, with Elevate Community.

Davis said her time abroad was a life-changing experience that affirmed God's plans for her and showed her what she wanted out of a church. Upon returning to the Low Country, Davis ventured with a friend to Radiant and found her spiritual home. Soon, Davis was serving and volunteering as a graphic designer. Davis said that through her trust in God, her volunteer efforts became a paid internship during the summer of 2019.

"Everyone was stressed about internships," Davis said, "God already knew that I was going to have this opportunity."

But God had more than just an internship planned for the young graphic designer. Davis was soon offered a raise and the title of creative director at Radiant, but Davis was concerned and harbored doubts about her ability to handle such a position at this point in her budding career. She said she found assurance through the words of famed graphic designer Paula Scher, who has done graphic design work for the likes of CBS and Atlantic Records. Davis was reminded that you may not always be ready for the things you will be the best at.

Armed with a positive mental attitude and the trust of His plan for her, Davis said she stepped into the position head-on. One of her responsibilities as head creative director is giving the final say for all the graphic design efforts of the church.

"Haven runs pretty much every aspect of design and social media for Radiant," said Philip Pinckney, the pastor of Radiant Church. "She also records and edits videos that weekly inspire the church to be on mission and share their faith."

Davis explained that, while each person on staff has a specific role, it is important to know the hearts of each member of her creative team. Each week, they meet as a group to discuss how they have "grown their hearts" through Scripture or by listening to a podcast. Pinckney said that Davis has been a welcomed presence and her love of Christ shows through her work.

"Radiant has been immeasurably blessed by her and her talents," he said.

While Radiant was not where she thought God was leading her, Davis said she is excited to continue to walk the path He has paved for her as she keeps her eyes, ears and heart open to what is ahead. ❖



Photo by: Ellen Young

Matthew Roditis

Written by: Morgan E. Kirby

Edited by: Morgan E. Kirby

The graphic design program at Charleston Southern University has truly been life-changing for Matthew Roditis.

Roditis was born in Santa Monica, Cal., but shortly moved to Mason, Ohio. He spent a great deal of time in Ohio, graduating high school in 2016 with a 3.8 GPA after being homeschooled during his academic career. Roditis had a much different experience when God brought him to Charleston in the fall of 2016.

“What brought me to Charleston Southern was the beautiful campus and the connection with God,” he said. “I had looked at [other colleges] and it wasn’t the same connection and feeling as I got with CSU because the religion was here. That really pushed me to choose CSU.”

Roditis said that it really helped for CSU to have programs that would eventually help him grow in a career he was passionate about. “I became interested in graphic design around my sophomore year. I was torn between computer science and graphic design, but coding wasn’t for me,” he said.

Ultimately, this led Roditis to choosing graphic design. He said his passion followed.

“My interest came from everywhere—the coffee shops we sit in, the library we get books from, the street signs we pass every day—the things that get us through our everyday,” he said. “That kind of impact is what made me want to pursue this degree. As soon as I got immersed in the program, I began to notice it everywhere I went.”

Roditis said his classes are what have inspired him.

“My classes have truly been inspiring and life changing,” he said. “From being taught simple tasks in Illustrator or taking classes like Photography and Photoshop. They showed me the other side of design that I may not be interested in but are still important factors for me going forward.”

He said he believes that the courses he has taken have helped lay a foundation for his future career.

“History of Design and Business of Design were important building blocks to help me understand the world of design,”



Photo by: Ellen Young

he said. “From contracts and billing, to understand the deep past that design has that nobody really thinks about.”

He said that his professors have shaped his academic career.

“I could go on and on about my classes,” he said. “Professors Andrea Glover, Carla Marchione, Ed Speyers and Timothy Banks are wonderful and do a great job at teaching students about design and all the different aspects it entails. They welcomed my brothers and I into the program with open arms.”

Roditis said he believes that graphic design was the most rewarding path he could have taken.

“Graphic design has really allowed me to fine-tune my skills and learn a lot about myself that I didn’t know before — it is such a rewarding program,” he said. “The program has allowed me to begin doing real world things, like making posters to sell, as well as helping brand a start-up company, which allowed me to see the process involved with working with a client.”

STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS

Upon his graduation, Roditis said he hopes to find a full-time design job and eventually, start a business.

“I hope to find a full-time design job to give myself some experience in the field while I work on starting up a business with my brothers, who are also graphic design majors at CSU,” he said. “We want to start something up together because we value the connection and bond we share together.”

Roditis said that along with his brothers, he plans to reach their goal, no matter what it takes.

“It may not happen immediately, but that has and will always be the plan,” he said. “It is just a matter of reaching that goal and that point for us.”

Roditis will graduate in May of 2020. ❖



Graphic design and illustration work by Matthew



McKenna Hickman

Written by: Adam Bridges

Edited by: Shelby Hadden



Photo by: Ellen Young

The work of McKenna Hickman is scattered alongside one of the biggest roads in the city of Charleston.

Hickman, a senior graphic design major at Charleston Southern University, works at TargetMarket, a web design and internet marketing firm in Summerville. On her first day on the job, Hickman was given the responsibility of designing a billboard for the Summerville Family YMCA. Her work now resides by Interstate 26, near Rivers Avenue and Dorchester Road, and it depicts some of the more wholesome aspects of the YMCA.

Hickman said the opportunity to design for TargetMarket came from a chance encounter while working at Starbucks.

“I was just working one day, making coffee, and met this guy who said he knew a job opportunity at a local marketing firm, and I told him I was interested,” said Hickman.

Dan Steffy, a junior graphic design major, said the billboard grabbed his attention.

“She definitely did a professional job. The sign was clean and easy to read, plus it was super cool to see something my friend had made while driving to work on I-26,” he said.

Hickman credited her education in the graphic design program for helping her find her way at TargetMarket.

“Now that I’ve been working for a few months with them, it’s not as overwhelming, but still a very exciting and enjoyable place to work at,” she said. ❖

MCKENNA’S INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCE

How did you find out about TargetMarket?

While I was working as a barista at Starbucks, my current boss at TargetMarket was a regular of ours, so I got to talk to him a lot. He told me he was in the marketing field. One day, I asked him about any advice that he had for someone entering into a similar field. I told him I was a graphic design student at CSU. We set up a meeting to discuss my work and long story short, I became an intern for his company.

What kind of design work do you do for TargetMarket?

I do a lot of website design. A developer will lay out a website. Then, I will add the content to the site as well as lay out graphics and text. I also make some graphics for social media.

I have designed rack cards, billboards, business cards and PDFs for clients.

What is your work routine like when you show up?

I always check my email and Asana (a task managing program) first. Then, I check in with the project manager and she sends me straight to managing client reviews on websites and let’s me know what my next task is for the day.

What are some of the best things you’ve learned to do on the job?

One of the most valuable lessons that I have learned is working with clients and getting a taste of what it is like to be a graphic designer in the business world. It is something that can’t be taught. I have also learned about being part of a team, which has been special for me. I like that I can wear many hats and learn new skills as I go.

Hayli Stratton

Written by: *Emily Crevani*

Edited by: *Zach Pace*



Photo by: *Ellen Young*

Hayli Stratton is using her art to better the community around her.

Stratton, a senior graphic design major at Charleston Southern University, works with Campus Recreation as the department's lead graphic designer. It is a position she's held since her freshman year on the North Charleston campus. It has allowed her to gain ample professional experience designing materials for various causes on campus, the Brewer Center, intramural sports and other various events.

The graphics designed by Stratton can be found on the CSU Campus Recreation Instagram and Facebook pages. She has also created several graphics hanging inside the Brewer Center, such as the quote stickers on the fitness studio mirrors.

Stratton also got a chance to create the poster for the university's Theatre Program's production of "Sweet and Hot" during the 2019 spring semester. Stratton beat out four of her classmates for the opportunity and said it was an experience she thoroughly enjoyed.

"It was a lot of fun to get to design the poster for the school's play," said Stratton. "Winning that was awesome."

Stratton enrolled in the graphic design program at CSU during her first semester on campus and said she has learned real-world practices with long-term benefits.

"The courses I've been taking within my major teach us how you make a contract, how you can have your own freelance business, how to deal with clients, and even finances in these classes," said Stratton, "If other students are thinking about pursuing a career within graphic design, this is going to push you and show you what it's like to do similar work you would see in the real world."

With only two semesters left to graduation, Stratton credited her growth as a graphic designer to her experience at CSU.

"The program itself really sets us up for the future; they treat us students as if we were the actual graphic designers and the professors were our clients, and we are making work for them. I really appreciate this environment and how the professors critique. Throughout these three years that I've been here, the program helped slowly grow and prepare me for the real world," she said.

Stratton, who said she plans to work as a freelance designer postgraduation, has high hopes for her professional future.

"I would love to one day be a design director for a company which is overseeing projects for clients, managing design teams, and develop and supervise design projects," she explained. ❖

GRAPHIC DESIGN WORK BY HAYLI

CHARLESTON SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY PRESENTS



SWEET & HOT

THE SONGS OF HAROLD ARLEN

TUESDAY-SATURDAY
JANUARY 22-26
7:30 P.M.

LIGHTSEY CHAPEL AUDITORIUM
TICKETS: \$20
STUDENTS, SENIORS, & MILITARY: \$15
CSU STUDENTS, FACULTY & STAFF FREE

CHARLESTON SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

Conceived by Julianne Boyd
Based on the works of Harold Arlen
"Sweet and Hot: The Songs of Harold Arlen" is
presented by special arrangement with SAMUEL FRENCH, INC.



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Campus Recreation

DRAFT OPTIONS: AUG. 28 AT 7PM AND 9PM
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CSU
CAMPUS RECREATION

Graphic design work by Hayli

Dan Steffy

Written by: Chris Carroll

Edited by: Jordan Bridges



Photo by: Ellen Young

PHILIPPIANS 4 : 13

Dan Steffy has found a niche in the Charleston Southern University community.

Steffy, a graphic design major from Philadelphia, Pa., has been involved with videography and photography since he was 10 years old. He currently serves as a production assistant for Campus Ministries where he does graphic design work and handles the technological elements for CSU's Thursday night student-led worship service, Elevate.

Steffy is also the chairman of the public relations committee of the Campus Activities Board, which plans campus related functions for the CSU students. Steffy's role is similar to an art director as he delegates responsibility and disseminates information to his team of four. The committee designs and distributes flyers and social media in an effort to promote on-campus events. Steffy's tireless efforts haven't gone unnoticed by his peers.

"Some of Dan's best attributes are his great work ethic and his willingness to help others. He is also very selfless and trustworthy, making him that more awesome to be around," fellow graphic design student, Nathan Strack, said.

Steffy's work also goes beyond the friendly confines of CSU's North Charleston campus. In 2019, Steffy took part on a mission trip with his family to Ukraine, where they helped run a summer camp for a week. Steffy got to use his videography and photography skills to document the week of camp for the children in attendance. The Philadelphia native said the trip was fulfilling as many of the children were from impoverished backgrounds and were not familiar with seeing photos of themselves. He said he had plans on returning to Ukraine for future mission trips. ❖

FUN FACT:

CSU is the only school in the Charleston area that offers a four year design program.

Janelle LeDuc

Written by: Tyrel Smith

Edited by: Melvin Mitchell



Photos by: Ellen Young

Janelle LeDuc has a head start on her professional career.

LeDuc, a proud graduate of Charleston Southern University, worked for HireQuest, Inc., a staffing company and temporary agency that is stationed out of Goose Creek. LeDuc came to the Lowcountry from Boston, Mass., as she found CSU to be an attractive educational option.

“A small school environment in the South and the Christian aspect of Charleston Southern was appealing to me,” she said.

LeDuc has proven to be a jack-of-all-trades with HireQuest. She worked in a full-time capacity prior to graduation; she helped with the company’s social media marketing

by improving the graphics and redesigning the website to improve navigation. It is this versatile skillset that has endeared LeDuc to her peers at HireQuest.

“Janelle has been a great addition to our team. She has shown a willingness and ability to adapt and work with others. She became an integral part of our expansion in social media and graphic design. We are grateful that we have had the opportunity to work with her,” said Rachel Siefert, director of technology at HireQuest.

LeDuc said the company also offered her a level of freedom, allowing her to participate and put her stamp on multiple projects.

“I liked helping them grow, while gaining great experience along the way,” she said of her immediate future. LeDuc said the graphic design program has allowed her to expand her portfolio while also focusing on branding, web design and marketing. She was quick to credit her experience at Charleston Southern for her success with HireQuest.



“CSU prepared me by showing me my worth. My graphic design professors are always telling me to go for greater things and not to take anything less than what we deserve. This really inspired me to get out of retail and try my hand at something in my field, and it worked,” she said. ❖

Jennifer Gilmore

Written by: Adam Butler

Edited by: Adejah Hall



Photo by: Ellen Young

If you attend church in the Charleston area, it is likely that you are familiar with the work of Jennifer Gilmore.

Gilmore, 25, is a senior graphic design major at Charleston Southern University, who is working on various graphics and photography projects for different businesses and organizations like Breakout Charleston, ChuckTowne Axe Throwing and Collide Student Ministries of James Island.

Gilmore has also partnered with different churches in the area and designed logos, social media highlights and various graphics. Some of the churches she has

done freelance work for include First Baptist Church in Charleston, James Island Baptist Church and Alliance Bible Fellowship in Boone, N.C. She said these various freelance opportunities took graphic design from a hobby to a vocation.

Gilmore said she gets most of her inspiration for her art from Scripture. She said that she and her husband, Frankie, make time for family worship, prayer and Bible study, during which time she always keeps a sketchbook nearby.

“In my opinion, what better place to get inspiration from than from the most original person/creator, God? So, half of my notes are text and half are doodles and sketches,” she explained.

Growing up, Gilmore said she felt pressured to be what her parents expected her to be. She said that her decision to pursue art and graphic design changed things for her.

“I felt like I was finally taking a step for myself,” Gilmore said.

Formally a student at the College of Charleston, Gilmore said that the curriculum at Charleston Southern has prepared her for a career after college.

“I have had to extend my talent since I’ve been [at CSU],” she said. It’s been really helpful and has made me feel more confident with postgrad life.”

One of Gilmore’s classmates, Matthew Roditis, said that Gilmore has been a welcomed presence in the classroom.

“She’s always been kind and supportive when it comes to working with her,” he said. “When I need some creative feedback, I can always ask, and she will be honest and give me suggestions as well.” ❖

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

—EPHESIANS 2:10

Christopher Johnson

Written by: Haven Davis

Edited by: Tracie Thaxton

When Christopher Johnson received an email asking if he wanted to work on an art piece for the Atlanta Falcons in the Cayman Islands, he thought it was a joke.

“I laughed because I couldn’t believe it,” said Johnson, also known as CJ.

Johnson, who is a 2017 graduate of Charleston Southern University’s graphic design program, said that after following up with the executive who had emailed him and realizing that this opportunity was genuine, he packed his bags and traveled south with the NFL team. While spending time in the Cayman’s, Johnson painted three different portraits, which included owner of the Falcons and Atlanta United of Major League Soccer, Arthur Blank; Falcons wide receiver, Julio Jones; and United striker, Josef Martinez.

Even though Johnson said he was thankful for the artistic opportunity, his favorite part of the experience was getting to bring his mother along and spend that time with her exploring and relaxing on the islands.

Although Johnson believes it was word of mouth that allowed him to have this opportunity, it wasn’t easy getting to that point. On top of attending grad school at the Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA) in Baltimore, Johnson also does many freelance artistic shows where he will paint a picture in an unusual way, often times adding fire to complete his paintings. His technique has captivated his audience and lately has caught the eyes of a few celebrities, including rappers Big K.R.I.T. and Marlanna Evans, better known as Rapsody.

Johnson is the first to admit that before attending Charleston Southern University in 2013, he wasn’t the most motivated in his studies. As the years went on, he became passionate for not only learning more in the design program but also expanding his knowledge in general.

“I believe that your art won’t be right unless your grades are right. I try to take the time each week to read one book so I can keep expanding my educational knowledge,” he said.

Johnson is completing his master’s degree in community arts at MICA, a program where he was one of eight students to be accepted. When it comes to his degree, he loves to



Photo Provided

GRAD HIGHLIGHTS

learn about the community in the classroom setting, but he has mostly enjoyed getting to step out of his comfort zone by speaking to the community, learning about the understanding of other people and how he can portray that through his artwork.

Johnson said he believes that as an artist, your understanding of art grows when you understand people. When asked about how he knew what to do after graduating CSU, Johnson said that attending MICA was not what he first planned for himself. His first thought was to attend Savannah College of Art and Design, but a week before he was supposed to move to Savannah, Johnson said God told him SCAD was not the place for him. Shortly after, he was introduced to MICA.

Johnson said he is grateful for his time at CSU and that it helped prepare him for MICA and the freelance artwork he does now.

“I thank God for this program,” Johnson said of CSU, “It got me ready for the real world. I’m glad I listened to my teachers, but I’m also glad I sometimes didn’t because, well, if I didn’t jump, I wouldn’t be able to fall and scrape my knee.”

He was quick to credit both the professors and his classmates, whose opinions he trusted and used as motivation.

“CJ is a driven, hardworking, talented young man that keeps God first, and has a passion for art and inspiring others. I know that he will continue to be successful and reach for his goals. The sky is the limit for CJ,” said CSU graphic design professor, Andrea Glover.

Glover said she is looking forward to seeing the many great things he does next in his career and with his artwork. ❖



Photos Provided

Catherine Hurt

Written by: Kaitlyn Paul

Edited by: Sean Price

Like many of her collegiate peers, Catherine Hurt had reached a crossroads in her life. A budding photographer at the time, Hurt was working a full-time job as a real estate photographer and videographer while attending Charleston Southern University as a part-time student. With the dream of doing photography on one shoulder and responsibilities of her life on the other, Hurt said she had an epiphany after completing a wedding shoot for one of her coworkers.

“I quit my job,” she said. “It was my dad who convinced me to quit my job if I’m not happy and to do photography full time. I still question whether or not I’m 100 percent for this, but I know God has a plan for me. I put 100 percent of my trust in Him and He has got my back.”

Hurt is the owner of Catherine Hurt Photography in Charleston and is a 2017 graduate of CSU’s graphic design program. Hurt’s work includes wedding, maternity, senior and family photography.

Hurt’s foray into photography began roughly six years ago as a junior in high school. It wasn’t long before she realized that she had a passion for the art.

“When I first started, it was just a hobby. And it was really easy. But this one stuck,” she said. Two years ago, Hurt officially went full-time with photography. She said that, in the business world, it is quite intimidating for creatives, but she went in knowing what she wanted to do and how she was going to do it.

“The business side isn’t fun, but when you get to see when people are happy at the end of the shoot, the emotions makes it all worth it,” she said. “I got past a lot of that business awkwardness just for the sake of experiencing memorable moments with my clients.”

As Hurt got more comfortable, she said she experimented to find out what kind of style and aesthetic she wanted to portray in her art. She added that she developed a routine that ensured her photos would come out how she wanted.

“I angled my camera and changed the lighting on scene to nail things down instead of having to edit so much,” she explained.



Photos Provided

Carla Marchione, assistant professor of graphic design, said that Hurt’s work is nothing short of excellent.

“She’s a great photographer and was really passionate and always had a good attitude about it,” she said.

For more information on Catherine Hurt’s photography, visit catherinehurtphotography.com. ❖

Brittany Boyd

Written by: Taylor Peake

Edited by: Christian Maggio



Photo by: Ashley Masias

Brittany Boyd was looking for two things in a college: a graphic design program and a Christian atmosphere. However, none of the schools near her hometown of Savannah, Georgia, met both.

“I wanted to go to a Christian school more than anything,” said Boyd.

Although she had prior interest in computers, she said it was not until she took an introductory graphics course in high school that she realized she wanted to go into graphic design. She kept hearing an ad on the radio for the graphic design program at Charleston Southern University.

“I felt that’s where the Lord was calling me,” said Boyd.

Boyd, who graduated from CSU in May 2019, is the project manager for Design.Faith, a start-up company of Ed Speyers, associate professor of graphic design. Design.Faith helps small-to-medium-sized churches and nonprofit organizations redesign their websites. Speyers said he is hoping to grow Design.Faith as an opportunity for other students to gain experience under Boyd.

Most of Design.Faith’s clients are in Georgia, South Carolina, and Michigan. Since most of her work is done remotely, Boyd is not required to travel for work. Design.Faith is currently redesigning the website for Michigan Association of Regular Baptist Churches because of contacts acquired from her Summer 2019 internship with Acton Institute in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Boyd went to the South Carolina Baptist Convention’s annual meeting in November 2019 to represent Design.Faith and network with various pastors, churches and church associations.

Speyers said that Boyd has grown as a designer and that she has become more confident in her sales’ effort as she learns the ins and outs of Design.Faith.

“Design.Faith would not exist in this capacity without her hard work,” said Speyers.

Boyd’s job responsibilities include writing blog posts and creating video tutorials for Design.Faith’s website, web designing for clients, handling sales and phoning clients who are interested in using Design.Faith. She noted that the initial interaction with clients is done over the phone instead of email because Design.Faith wishes to establish a human element for nonlocals.

Speyers admitted that Boyd has surprised him in her willingness to try new things, as well as deal with clients.

“Brittany is very diligent in making sure things get done and done properly,” he said.

Most of Boyd’s work involves switching back and forth between an old church website and her design for their new website. However, Boyd said that she enjoys the monotony of the work. The websites usually contain outdated information or lack user friendly layouts. Although Boyd uses a program template to redesign websites, she said that each website becomes individualized based on the church’s content.

One thing that Boyd said she has learned from working with different churches is discovering how to interact with a

GRAD HIGHLIGHTS

variety of pastors and learning each church’s unique needs. Boyd said her faith has been made stronger by her work with Design.Faith because she has seen how the Lord provides opportunities.

“If you dedicate yourself to the Lord’s Will, that’s what defines success,” said Boyd.

Speyers said that Boyd’s interest in the start-up was natural due to her minor in Christian Studies. Thus, Boyd’s faith has benefited from Design.Faith.

“Design.Faith has expanded her horizons for how she can use her skills for God’s greater glory,” said Speyers.

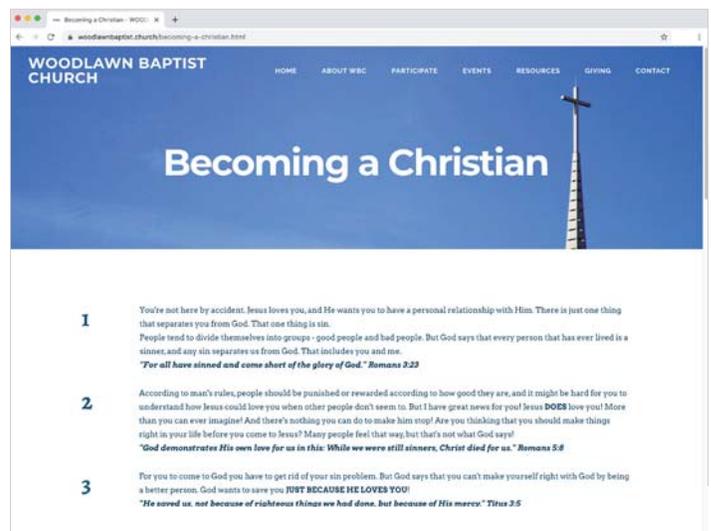
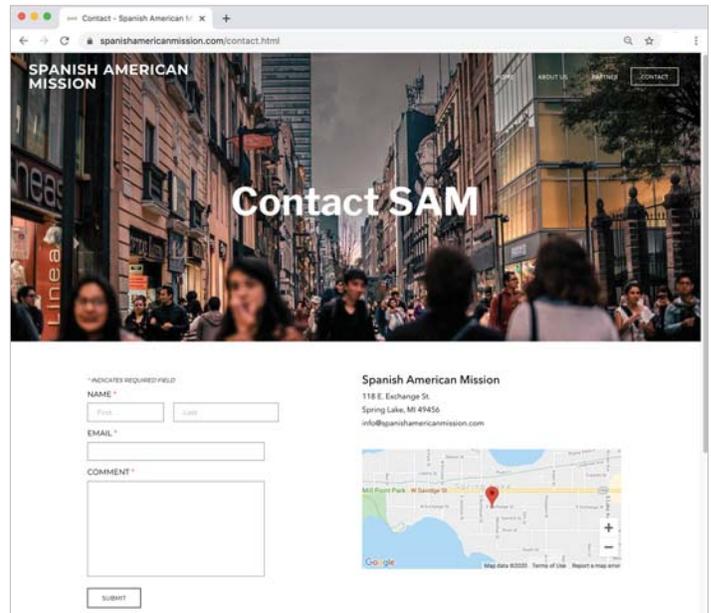
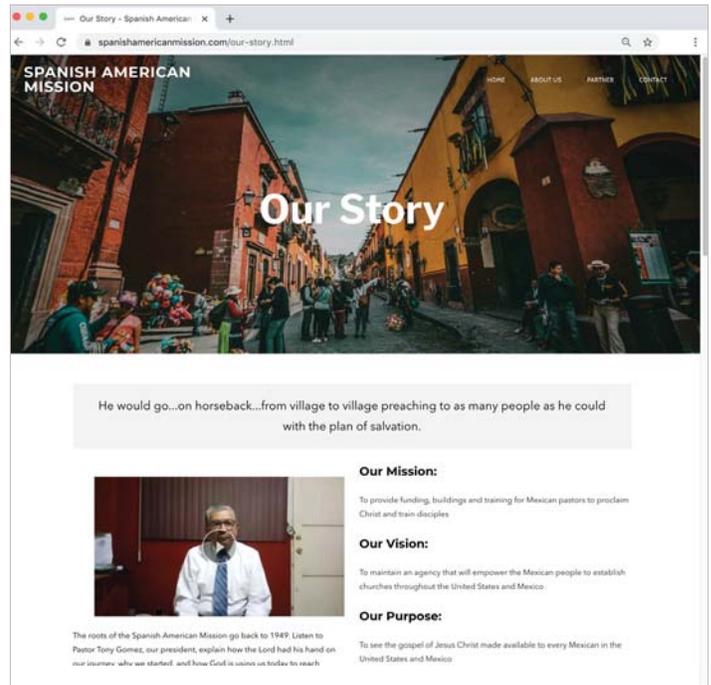
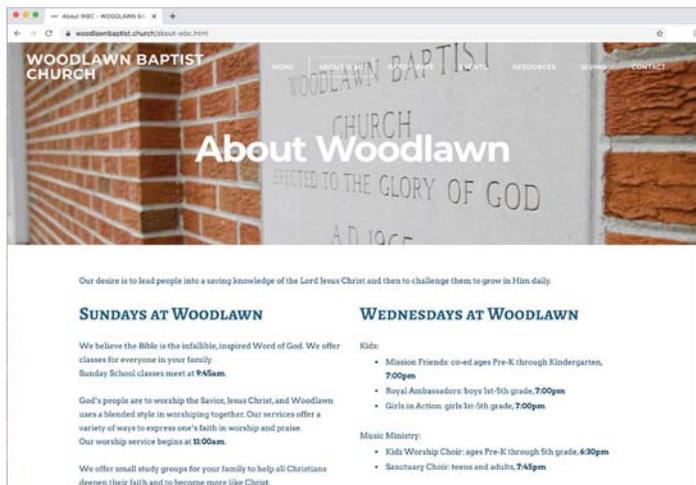
Boyd said her long-term goals include remaining in web design with hopes of making Design.Faith full-time. She said that she has considered going into higher education as a design professor so that she can help upcoming designers with her experience.

Being part of a start-up company has been advantageous to Boyd as she has seen the entire design process, from building a website to designing a logo. However, she prefers designing websites to designing logos, which she feels involve more creativity and drawing.

Boyd began another web design job in November 2019 with Counting Works Pro, a digital marketing company for tax and accounting firms based in California. Counting Works Pro uses a proprietary web editor, a web design builder specifically designed for their company. Boyd said this job opens her up to a unique style.

“I’m learning different aspects of the web design world that I haven’t had before,” she said.

Although no one designer sticks out to Boyd as her main inspiration, she would describe her design inspirations as being modern, simplistic and outside-of-the-box. ❖



Web design work by Brittany for <https://design4faith.com>

Jenna Bernadyn

Written by: Caleb Summers

Edited by: Ashleigh Holweger



Photo by: Ashley Masias

Jenna Bernadyn was never interested in staying on the sidelines.

Bernadyn, a senior graphic design major at Charleston Southern University, has worked with both the South Carolina Stingrays of the East Coast Hockey League and the Philadelphia Flyers of the National Hockey League.

The experience she has was not gained by being idle. Bernadyn said she knew next to nothing about graphic design software when she began attending classes at CSU in 2017. In fact, it was her work as a member of the Charleston-based Stingrays that kick-started her interest in a career in graphic design. While a member of the Stingrays' promotional team, Bernadyn sought the counsel of Ryan Hayden, the team's graphic designer.

"He actually taught me Photoshop before I had a Photoshop class," Bernadyn explained. "So, he really helped me a lot—kind of got my foot in the door."

Hayden said it wasn't long before Bernadyn's thirst for knowledge took over.

"She pretty much taught herself. She probably doesn't give herself enough credit for it," said Hayden. "Being just a freshman and going out there and asking for different things put her way ahead of many people."

Hayden added that the CSU senior has great potential in the field of graphic design.

"Pretty soon everyone will be coming to her for advice... At some point, I totally just see it being her that everybody uses as the example. Everyone's going to want to see what Jenna's producing out there. She'll maybe even re-establish what the trends should be," he said.

During the 2019 spring semester, Bernadyn broadened her educational experience by taking graphic design and international marketing classes in London, England. There, she designed promotional materials of the Isle of Man.

She returned to the states for an internship with the NHL's Philadelphia Flyers. During her time in Pennsylvania, she produced social media templates for the 2019 NHL draft, content for the Flyers' "Wallpaper Wednesdays" on Instagram and Twitter, and promotional material featuring "Gritty," the Flyers' mascot. She explained that her experience with the Flyers helped her expand her skillset to include creating designs for multiple media platforms.

Additionally, as a Pennsylvania native and a fan of the Flyers, Bernadyn said the internship allowed her to live out a lifelong goal.

It's always been kind of like a dream of mine to work there," she said. "I think I would definitely see myself moving back up North and pursuing an NHL career somewhere up there."

Bernadyn has since returned to Charleston and the Stingrays, working with the team's social media presence. She plans on graduating in May 2020. ❖

My favorite thing about CSU's Graphic Design program is the tight-knit community aspect.

Jacob Norman

Written by: Drake Jenkins

Edited by: Drake Jenkins

Jacob Norman stumbled upon his graphic design minor one late night at his house.

“It was spontaneous, I was just messing around, designing, and I loved it. I knew I wanted to know more about it,” said Norman.

Norman grew up in Charleston, S.C., and enrolled at Charleston Southern University in 2015. He chose to major in English with a minor in graphic design. Norman spent his summer as a graphic design intern for New Life Baptist Church in Charleston.

Norman said that his art has helped him come closer to the gospel and the church. He continues to oversee all things related to graphic design for New Life Baptist Church. He said his main goal is to draw people into joining the church, connect with those outside in the community and understand their needs.

Norman’s colleagues from New Life Baptist said they have noticed his drive to be successful in his field and believe that he has a bright future ahead of him.

“I will say his work has brought our church to the next level of professionalism and excellence. Our social media has improved 100 percent, and the ideas he brings to the table for new designs and graphics are awesome,” said David Eudy, New Life Baptist internship director.

Norman said he hopes to continue working with New Life Church while pursuing freelance opportunities helping churches and businesses with design, advertising and social media. ❖

FUN FACT:

Many of our students who major or minor in graphic design, often utilize their creative talent for churches in the area.



Photo by: Ellen Young

Taryn Hicks

Written by: Carisa Collins

Edited by: Trevor Dominy



Photo by: Ellen Young

Taryn Hicks, a student at Charleston Southern University, won \$250 at the Goose Creek Cultural Arts Committee's competition for "Beautifying the Creek" in September 2019.

Hicks, a Goose Creek native majoring in graphic design, entered the city's Cultural Arts Committee's competition for beautifying the city in June. She had one week to enter her submission for decorating the silver electrical boxes at popular intersections in Goose Creek.

"Goose Creek is not like Charleston, so it is hard to think of a landmark that displays the city, so I had to think outside the box," Hicks said.

Hicks said she looked at the road names at traffic signals and decided to draw wisteria after the road of the same name. Her submission featured the purple blooming plants with yellow and orange cream butterflies and fuzzy bumblebees.

She submitted her entry in June and said she forgot about it until she was pleasantly surprised by an email announcing her prize months later. Her friend and classmate, Erin Faile, said she watched Hicks while she created the design and found her work to be inspiring.

"I would describe Taryn's artwork as a whimsical spring scene. It makes you feel very cheerful and nostalgic. It reminds me of how I used to see spring as a child with all the bright colors, beautiful butterflies, and flowers," she said.

Faile likened Hicks's art to that of surrealist Salvador Dali in that it allows you to see the world through another perspective.

Hicks went to Berkeley Center for the Arts, located in Goose Creek High School, before attending Charleston Southern University. ❖

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.

—JOSHUA 1:9

GRAPHIC DESIGN WORK BY TARYN



Beautifying the Creek Project

A traffic box art project to beautify the community brought some creativity to Goose Creek. Taryn designed this beautiful spring wrap. This colorful project was sponsored by the Goose Creek Cultural Arts Commission.

Anissa Mollett

Written by: David Fautley

Edited by: Chloe Thirkettle



Photo Provided

Anissa Mollett is using graphic design to both advance her career and save the environment.

Since graduating from Charleston Southern University in 2017, Mollett has begun her second year of graduate school at Clemson University, where she is pursuing a Master of Science in graphic communications. She is currently working on a project related to eco-friendly ink alternatives and biodegradable paperboard packaging. She will be presenting her research at the Flexographic Technical Association Forum Conference in April 2020.

“I always knew I would incorporate art into any area of study I chose in college. Graphic design was a field where I could use my creativity to impact the world around me through visual communication,” she explained.

Mollett said she had a fulfilling and robust experience during her time at CSU. She completed two internships during her undergraduate education; one with University Relations where she made a variety of signs, posters, programs and invitations for events on campus; and another with Fortibus, a marketing agency in Charleston specializing in the health care industry. There, she designed advertisements and mass emails for local businesses.

Since leaving CSU, Mollett returned to work with Fortibus and has also done a number of freelance social media marketing campaigns. She said that her time at CSU has been beneficial for her graduate studies and credited her postgraduation success to her former professors, specifically Assistant Professor of Graphic Design Andrea Glover.

“[The faculty] insured that each of the students had a solid foundation that covered a variety of areas in graphic design where we could then decide which areas we were interested in as we transitioned in our careers,” she explained.

Glover, Mollett’s former professor and mentor, said she was proud of Mollett.

“Anissa was always doing extra assignments, staying after class, and putting a tremendous amount of effort into her work,” she said. “She was very articulate with her work and always seemed to be competing within herself in order to be the best student she could possibly be.”

Mollett said that Glover always challenged her to improve her skills and look at her designs from multiple perspectives.

“It is important to have professors that genuinely encourage students and show support for their academic and personal success. Professor Glover exemplifies these traits. I still feel that I am able to communicate with her to seek advice either on my career or design projects,” she said. ❖

Written & Edited by: Grace Marshall



Alec Betts

In Summer 2019, graphic design major Alec O. Betts completed an internship for Costa Farms, a plant distribution company located in Miami, Florida. Over the course of her internship, she designed multiple plant tags, banners, and shelf strips advertising the company's products in retail stores such as Lowe's, Home Depot, and Walmart. In addition to this, she also designed a 40+ page Supervisor's Guide for the company's personal use.

At the end of her internship, she had a final presentation with the other interns to show the company's executive board what projects they had completed and to present the projects given to them by supervisors that would help to improve the company. She says that her project was to create three different plant pot themes and designs to sell in retail stores.



Kaitlyn Crews

Kaitlyn Crews is putting her skills as a designer to excellent use. Currently a senior at Charleston Southern University, she began her position there as the Content Coordinator for the Department of Academic Technology and Grants in 2019. Her main focus was designing and creating a financial literacy website for CSU.

Her work consisted of tasks like writing, researching, and critiquing content for the website. She has also done design work for the logo, icons, layout and interface. She is proficient in several design programs such as Wordpress, InDesign, Illustrator, Photoshop, Premiere Pro, and many more. Her design work has resulted in a beautifully designed and easy-to-use website.



Laura Tripp

Laura Tripp, a junior at Charleston Southern University, has a passion for photography and all things national. She recently studied abroad in London, and she said that the opportunity to do so has ignited her love for travel. During her time there, she took a photography class in which she traveled through various parts of London to capture the city.

"I wanted to show the viewer my London," she said. "It was dark most of the day and I found photographing the lights and reflections was a great way to represent the London I lived in."

Her brilliant images evoke a fresh, new outlook on nighttime London, and she said she had the opportunity to meet several wonderful people while she was studying in the city.

Photos by: Ellen Young

PHOTOGRAPHY WORK BY LAURA

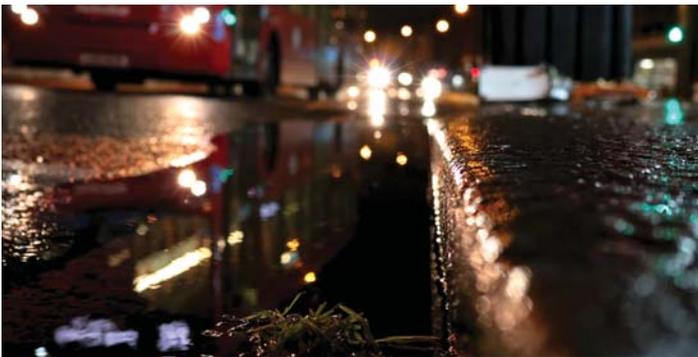
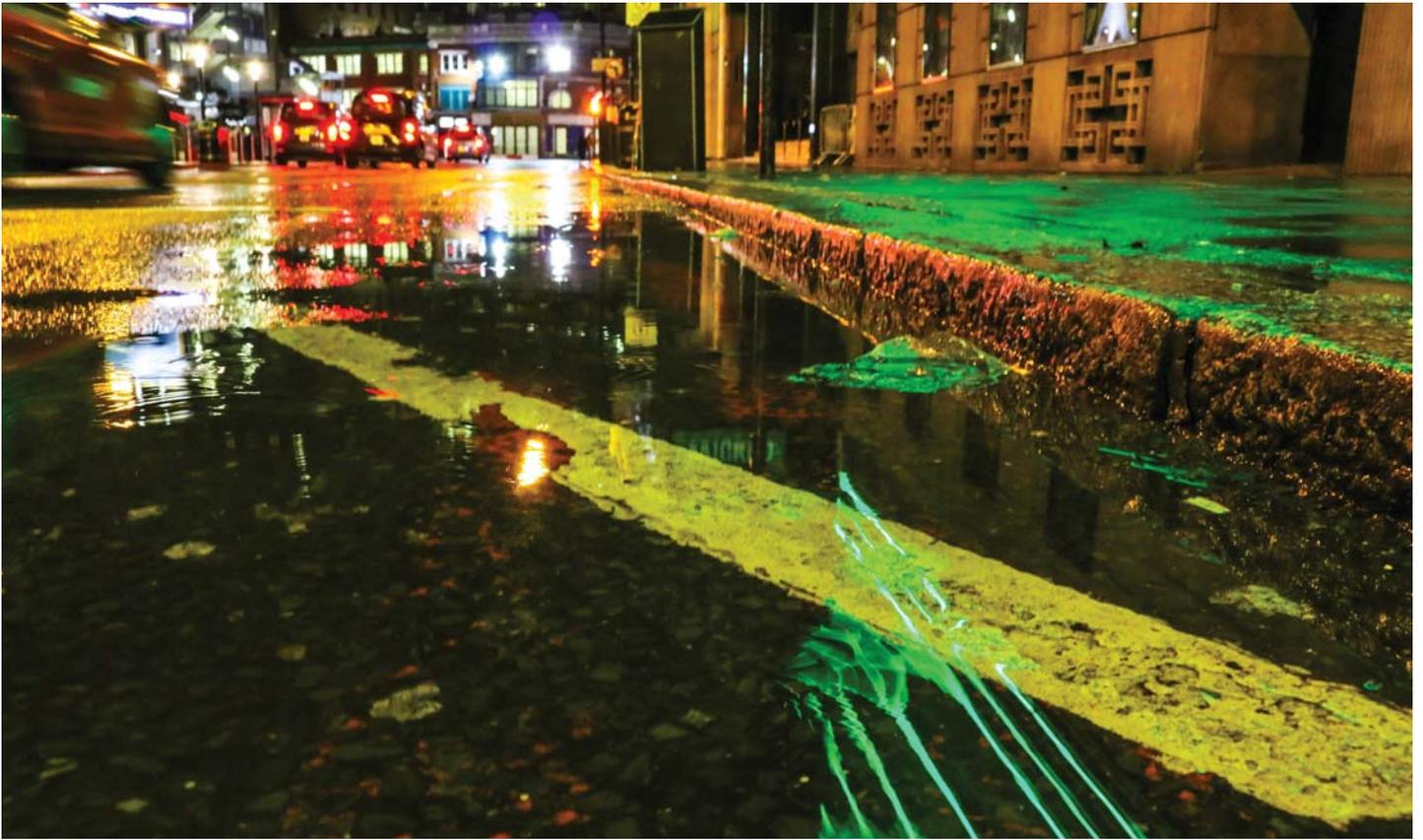


Photo by: Ashley Mastias



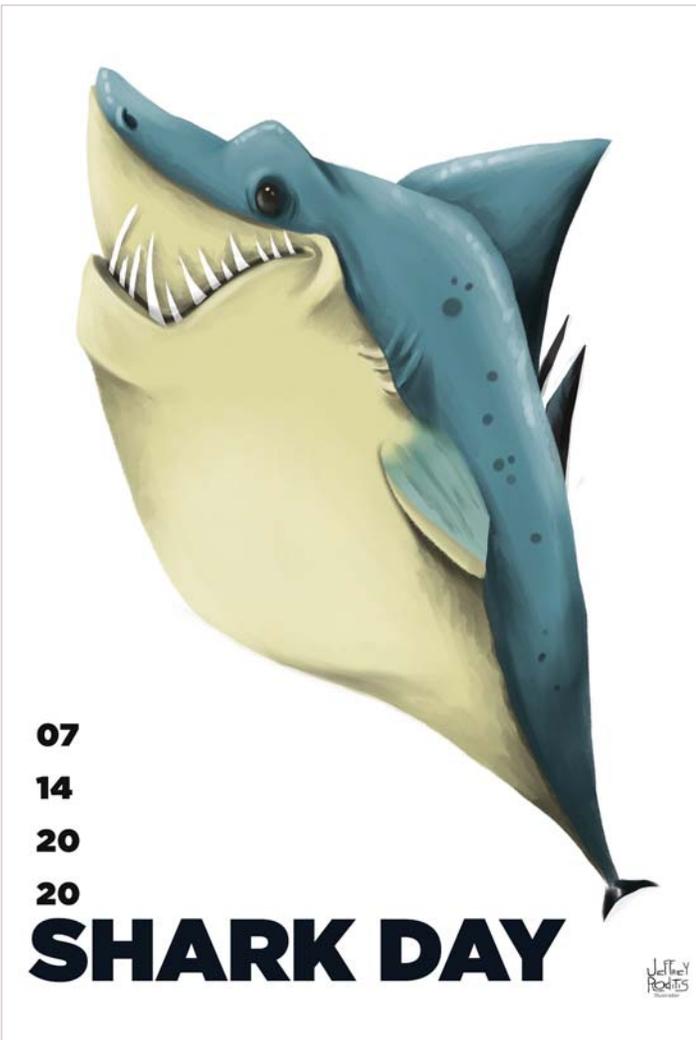
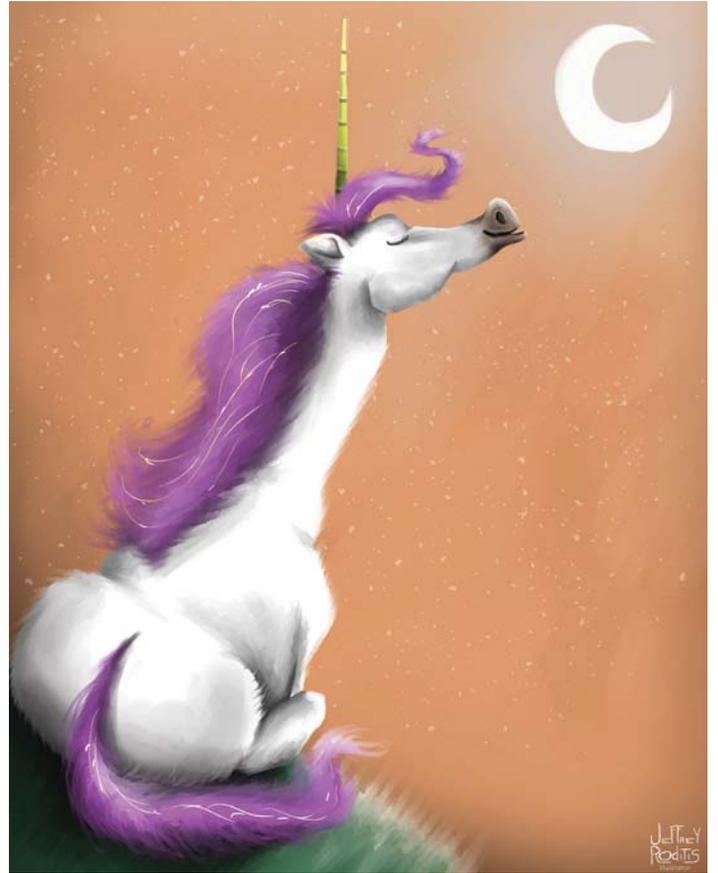
Jeffrey Roditis

Jeffrey Roditis, a senior graphic design major, completed several commissioned artworks during the summer of 2019. During this time, he cultivated his distinct art style as a digital artist and illustrated a variety of pieces for a number of clients. He often spends his time doing commissioned and freelance work, and his clients enjoy his painting style as it reflects the story that they want to tell in a unique and interesting way.

In addition to his commissioned work, he also paints illustrations of fish in order to work toward advertising for fishing products. For everything that he sees, he is always thinking about how he would paint it through his eyes. He says that it is very rewarding when he is able to put an image from his head onto canvas.

ILLUSTRATION WORK BY JEFFREY





Portfolio Show

Photos by: Associate Professor Ed Speyers

Last April, graphic design students participated in our annual Portfolio Show organized by Assistant Professor Carla Marchione.



Pictured: Addison Kaderli



Pictured: Class of 2019



Pictured: Bryanna Terry



Pictured: Gabriel Shahid



Pictured: Tyler Reese



Pictured: Lynzie Burdick

The Newsletter Crew



Photo by: Ellen Young

Brittany Priester
Senior Graphic Design Student



Photo by: Caroline Keating

Ellen Young
Senior Graphic Design Student

Art Director: Assistant Professor Andrea Glover
Editor: Dr. Jason Peterson
Graphic Designer: Brittany Priester
Lead Photographer + Photo Art Direction: Ellen Young
Assistant Editor: Grace Marshall

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