

# The Wall Fellows Journal

## Special Interest Articles:

- Welcome New Co-Editor Kaylea Gassaway-Rea
- Meet the Class of 2018
- Wall Fellows 2016 Retreat
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## Opening Remarks

The 2015-2016 school year draws to a close. A new class joins the Wall Fellows Program as the junior class takes its international trip. The senior class graduates to pursue their dreams.

In this edition of *The Wall Fellows Journal*, we celebrate this season of bittersweet endings and new beginnings. Though we bid goodbye for now to senior co-editor Jada Bynum and her classmates, we welcome new co-editor Kaylea Gassaway-Rea and get to know the Class of 2018. We also highlight the incredible project updates to showcase the amazing impact the current classes are having on the community and the world.

With warmest regards,

Jada Bynum '16, Lainey Lewis '17 and Kaylea Gassaway-Rea '18



**Wall Fellows Class of 2016**  
(From back left): Kevin Hoffman, Laura Thareau, Alina Tananova and Nicholas DiDuro. (From bottom left): Kevin Connelly, Micaela Antzoulatos and Jada Bynum

**Wall Fellows Class of 2017**  
(From top left): Jonah Skiles and Lainey Lewis. (From bottom left): Olivia Carlton, Beatris Petelkova and Geoffrey Guyette



# Welcome New Co-Editor, Kaylea Gassaway-Rea!



Hello everyone! My name is Kaylea Gassaway and I am a member of the Wall Fellows Class of 2018. It is truly an honor to be named the new co-editor of the Wall Fellows Journal. I look forward to acquainting myself with all of you throughout the next two years. Once accepted into the University, I knew right away that I wanted to be part of something bigger than myself, and one day a Wall Fellow came to my class and gave a presentation on the program. After hearing the presentation, I knew I had found the program of which I wanted to be a part. The Wall Fellow giving the presentation did more than just give information about the program; he inspired me because he himself was inspired. As co-editor, I look forward to inspiring you, just as I was inspired. I hope you read through this newsletter and future newsletters and desire to be a better you for yourself and the community.

## Meet the Wall Fellows Class of 2018

**Emilie-Kate  
Tavernier**

**Major:** Biology

**Hometown:**  
Surfside Beach,  
S.C.

**Gerry Madden**

**Major:**  
Finance

**Hometown:**  
Warsaw, Poland

**Ross Kunmann**

**Majors:**  
Entrepreneurial  
Management and  
Accounting

**Hometown:**  
Bel Air, Md.

**Josh Stilley**

**Major:** Finance

**Hometown:**  
Charlotte, N.C.

**Myles Anderson**

**Major:**  
Financial Wealth  
Management

**Hometown:** Rochester  
Hills, Mich.



**Kaylea Gassaway-  
Rea**

**Major:** Management

**Hometown:** Pamplico,  
S.C.

**Sean Edwards**

**Major:** Marketing

**Hometown:**  
Florence, S.C.

**Sora Lebowitz**

**Major:** Information  
Technology

**Hometown:** Myrtle  
Beach, S.C.

**Mickayla Smith**

**Major:**  
Marine Science

**Hometown:**  
Oakville, Md.

**Darien Rexach**

**Major:**  
Finance

**Hometown:**  
Ashford, Conn.

# The 2016 Wall Fellows Retreat

A few months after their interview process and selection, the chosen members of the Wall Fellows Class of 2018 have already joined in the volunteer activities, project work and internship opportunities of the program. Learn more about the incoming class in upcoming issues and on their biographies on the Wall Fellows webpage at [coasta.edu/business/wallfellows](http://coasta.edu/business/wallfellows).

The Wall Fellows spring retreat took place April 8 and 9. The retreat was held in the Kline Hospitality Suite located in Brooks Stadium and was organized by Nicholas DiDuro and Jonah Skiles. The retreat was more than just speakers spilling information, but rather a time where the three classes of Wall Fellows interacted with one another and the speakers. It was an educational and fun-filled two days.

## Day 1: Friday, April 8, 2016



The day began when the classes interacted in multiple informational sessions with Mark Mitchell, chair of the marketing department; Henry Jobe, Wall Fellows board member; Leanne Mischel, assistant professor of management; and Ralph Byington, provost. While spending time with the speakers, Fellows learned to draw the attention, interest, desire and needed action during presentations. They became familiar with the history of Coastal, the Wall



Family and the Wall Fellows Program. Byington joined the group and spoke about his position and the future of the University. To conclude the evening, the Wall Fellows were joined by Byington and Madeleine Condron, Wall Fellows alumna and board member, for dinner in the Kline Hospitality Suite.

## Day 2: Saturday, April 9, 2016



Day two began at Brooks Brothers at Tanger Outlets. Chad Tingen and his co-worker educated Fellows on the meaning of business professional, business casual and interview attire. Following the presentation, the students returned to the Kline Hospitality Suite where the graduating Fellows gave a presentation on lessons learned, advice and an overview of what to expect. The Wall



Fellows also participated in two team-building activities, "Draw the University Map" and "Spaghetti and Marshmallow Tower." To conclude the retreat, Barbara Ritter, dean of the Wall College of Business, gave a presentation on "The Challenges and Opportunities for the Future of Higher Education." She later joined the Wall Fellows for dinner.



# Internship Spotlight: Olivia Carlton

**Company:** *DistinXion*

**Location:** *Bloomington, Ind.*

**Duration:** *May - July 2015*

**Position:** *Office Manager Intern*

During the summer of 2015, Wall Fellows Class of 2017 member Olivia Carlton was able to merge her passion



for basketball and accounting through a unique and rewarding internship with DistinXion (pronounced distinction), a nonprofit organization started by Luke Zeller and his family. The three Zeller brothers became known for playing basketball at the University of Notre Dame, Indiana University and the University of North Carolina. Two of the Zeller brothers currently play in the NBA – Cody Zeller plays for the Charlotte Hornets and Tyler Zeller plays for the Boston Celtics. Their mission is to build champions on and off the court, and DistinXion conducts multiple, three-day basketball camps and trainings throughout the summer that focus on developing athletic skills as well as character and faith.

Carlton learned about this internship opportunity through her involvement in the Fellowship of Christian Athletes when Luke Zeller spoke at an event and talked about DistinXion. She applied online and interviewed with Luke and was offered the internship position a few weeks later. “The first day on the job was great,” Carlton recalls. “Everyone was so welcoming and full of energy and the desire to help others. I could tell from the very beginning that it was going to be a very rewarding summer.”

DistinXion interns serve in both office jobs and leaders for the basketball camps.

A typical week includes spending Monday through Thursday at the office, and traveling and running camps Thursday evening through Saturday. In the office, Carlton served as office manager and was responsible for overseeing all of the different office teams, which consisted of 25 other interns. She conducted daily meetings with each team and served as a liaison between teams that promoted synergy throughout the organization. Due to her background as an accounting major, she was also assigned other financial projects throughout the summer, such as working with a budget to purchase camp supplies in the most efficient way, researching startup costs and creating a price structure for an elite training program for implementation the following summer. She also created breakeven analysis for the merchandise store and provided weekly team progress updates for DistinXion’s board members. “Needless to say, I was never bored!” says Carlton, who reaped a great reward for her hard work. “Getting to see the pure joy and energy each camper would bring to camp... that’s when I knew our hard work in the office was paying off and we were making a difference in a child’s life.”

Carlton learned and experienced things in many different aspects while getting to play basketball. Above all, she took away the power of strong communication, trust, transparency and consistency as key leadership characteristics. “My favorite part of interning was being able to combine my love for basketball, God and business into one single internship,” she says. “I loved being able to work alongside people who had a strong desire to help others, and being able to have an impact on a child’s life was extremely rewarding.”

Carlton is now interning and conducting financial research with notable financial writer of *The Daily Dirtnap*,

Jared Dillian, in Myrtle Beach, which she will continue through the fall. During the summer, she will be working as an audit intern with Crowe Horwath in downtown Chicago.

## Project Update: Teal Goes Pink

In the Spring 2015 edition of *The Wall Fellows Journal*, the project “Teal Goes Pink,” a community giveback focused on women empowering women, was introduced to our readers. One year later, we are proud to celebrate the anniversary of the project’s launch and the accomplishments team members Micaela Antzoulatos, Jada Bynum, Olivia Carlton, Alina Tananova and Beatris Petelkova have achieved for their cause. The team spent the course of the Fall 2015 semester carefully planning for Spring 2016 to bring to life three different events to positively impact the lives of the women of the Coastal Carolina University community.



Lisa Machesney speaking in Johnson Auditorium

On Feb. 22, the team welcomed Lisa Machesney, the retired vice president of Cabot Oil & Gas and mother of Wall Fellows Class of 2015’s Steven Vanden Heuvel. Machesney joined members of the current classes for a special lunch and discussion session before taking the Johnson Auditorium stage for the first Women Empowering Women Teal Goes Pink special speaker event. Sharing from her personal life story, she provided the audience with insight on being a woman in the corporate world, building a career while building a family, and being true to

yourself to achieve success. The event was an approved professional development activity for the Wall College of Business, for which attending students could receive credit; the event was also featured on a *COASTAL Now* YouTube segment.

On March 17, Teal Goes Pink partnered with the Office of International Programs and Services to celebrate International Women’s Day. The groups hosted a screening of the film *He Named Me Malala*, a documentary on Nobel Prize Laureate Malala Yousafzai that depicts her courageous fight for girls’ education in Pakistan and around the world. The screening attracted more than 30 attendees, both men and women ranging in ages 18-65 with traditional students, students from the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) and other community members. Following the film, Marjorie Thompson, the immediate past president of Women in Philanthropy (WIPL) at CCU, led a moving discussion and reflection on the film with participation from all audience members. Thompson also provided copies of the book *Find Me Unafraid* by Kennedy Odede and Jessica Posner, founders of Shining Hope for Communities and champions for girls’ education in Africa. As a sign of advocacy, attendees were asked to place their thumbprint and signatures on a canvas featuring a portrait of Malala and the hashtag #withMalala created by Bynum. The painting is now hanging in the Lib Jackson Student Union and a picture of it has been uploaded to the #withMalala digital art gallery ([www.withmalala.org](http://www.withmalala.org)).



From left: Micaela Antzoulatos, Olivia Carlton, Lisa Machesney and Jada Bynum.



From left: Jada Bynum, Marjorie Thompson and Micaela Antzoulatos.

“Everyone who attended walked away with a deeper appreciation of education and the impact we as women can make on the world,” said Bynum.

The semester drew to a close with Teal Goes Pink’s final event, Yoga Against Domestic Violence, an outdoor yoga session on Prince Lawn led by CCU yoga instructor Lydia Vasquez-Solazzo. Donations from attendees were collected and given to the Family Justice Center of Georgetown County.

To learn more about Teal Goes Pink, visit and like the project’s Facebook page at [facebook.com/TealGoesPink](https://facebook.com/TealGoesPink).

## Project Update: Carolina Kids Fish

This semester, the Carolina Kids Fish community give back project has been working toward finding bright, new faces to lead the group. As current leader and founder Steven Vanden Heuvel will be graduating, the leadership role has passed to Frances Bozak and James Coleman, current presidents of the Saltwater Anglers on campus. The student-led program continues to grow in number as more kids across Horry County hear about the fishing opportunities. Vanden Heuvel and Class of 2017’s Jonah Skiles have worked to develop relationships with more elementary schools and now have added Forestbrook and Lakewood Elementary to its growing roster of schools. This has allowed more students to learn about fishing and its practices. In addition to the new elementary schools, Carolina Kids Fish partnered with Coastal Carolina University’s Call Me MISTER (Mentors

Instructing Students Toward Effective Role Models) program to host a special fishing event. Vanden Heuvel has also worked with Thompson Farm to open Community Days, which invite kids from the local area to come to the farm and try their hand at fishing. The first Community Day event took place on Sunday, April 17.



Steven Vanden Heuvel and Jonah Skiles (front row center) with members of the Call Me MISTER Program and school children.

This semester, the ponds at Thompson Farm have been cleaned and renovated to make the fishing experiences better and safer for the kids through a \$3,000 fundraiser initiative led by Carolina Kids Fish. The surrounding land was leveled and an additional two feet of water was added to both ponds. This program is continuing to be an eye-opening experience for kids, some who have never seen a fish in person before. Also, the program draws families closer as parents and children work together in hopes to catch a fish.

## Coming Soon: Wall Fellows Program on Social Media

Senior Kevin Connelly, Class of 2016, has been working to create new ways for communication and connection for the Wall Fellows Program. Under the guidance and approval of Coastal Carolina University’s social media coordinator Brent Reser, Connelly is working to develop active accounts for the Wall Fellows on Twitter and Instagram. These social media channels will serve as an excellent vehicle for interaction between current Wall

# Project Update: Food Recovery Network

Fellows, alumni, board members, faculty, community leaders and students interested in learning more about the program. Stay tuned to *The Wall Fellows Journal* for more on the official launch date.

The Food Recovery Network at Coastal Carolina University is officially underway! One year after its inception by Class of 2016's Laura Thareau, Beatris Petelkova, Jonah Skiles and Jada Bynum have created a sustainable program to collect unused leftovers from campus and deliver them into the hands of the hungry in the community. After becoming an official chapter of the nationwide Food Recovery Network and achieving status as an official student organizations on campus, the team received approval from Aramark to begin collecting food. The team contacted local organizations who would accept the donated foods and partnered with New Directions of Horry County Inc., who operates three shelters in Myrtle Beach.



From left: Jason Tomlinson, Jada Bynum, Nick DiDuro, Beatris Petelkova and Jonah Skiles at the April 1 recovery event.

Their first recovery took place on April 1, when the team received 81 pounds of sesame chicken, brown rice, Brussel sprouts and carrots from Chauncey's Choice on campus. Wall Fellows Class of 2016's Nicholas DiDuro and CCU alumnus Jason Tomlinson joined the team to collect the food and deliver it to New Directions' family shelter. The team is scheduled to collect any leftovers available on Friday afternoons for future recoveries. "The best feeling ever is when you can give back to the community," Petelkova wrote on social media, reflecting on the delivery.

To learn more about the Food Recovery Network or to get involved, contact Petelkova at [bspetelko@coastal.edu](mailto:bspetelko@coastal.edu) or Skiles at [jbskiles@g.coastal.edu](mailto:jbskiles@g.coastal.edu).



# Project Introduction: SOS Autism Healthcare

Wall Fellows Class of 2016 member Micaela Antzoulatos and Class of 2017 member Olivia Carlton are going the extra mile in making a positive difference in the lives of those with special needs along the Grand Strand.



Olivia Carlton and Nick DiDuro volunteering at the Reggie Sanders Advantage Games.

On March 2, the team hosted their first event titled Spread the Word to End the Word, sponsored by Special Olympics. Spread the Word to End the Word campaign shares awareness about the harmful effects of the “r-word” (retarded). Antzoulatos and Carlton hosted a table on Prince Lawn where people signed a pledge to eliminate the “r-word” from their vocabulary.

Next, the girls partnered with a local organization titled SOS Healthcare

Autism, which focuses on behavioral therapy and the development of different social skills for kids with autism. Carlton and Antzoulatos assisted them in launching their Autism Community Engagement project by reaching out to several businesses and organizations in the Myrtle Beach area and establishing partnerships with local libraries, movie theaters and Ripley’s Aquarium, with the hopes they will work to make their environments more autism and sensory-friendly.

Then, on Saturday, April 2, Carlton organized volunteers for the Reggie Sanders Advantage Games at TicketReturn.Com Field at Pelicans Ballpark in Myrtle Beach. In honor of Autism Awareness Month, the event provided individuals with intellectual and physical disabilities a chance to participate in a variety of sport challenges without judgment. “It was a day of encouragement, empowerment and personal achievement for the kids!” Carlton said.

On April 16, Antzoulatos and Carlton hosted their final event for the semester, an autism and sensory-friendly baseball game at Coastal Carolina University for the kids of SOS. The children and their families participated in a special meet and greet with CCU’s baseball team and enjoyed the game in a sensory-friendly environment.



From left: Olivia Carlton and Micaela Antzoulatos at Spread the Word to End the Word Day on Prince Lawn.



# Class of 2017 Preparing for Europe

With the end of the semester in sight and the ensuing due dates for the Icelandic company projects introduced in our last edition, we are more than excited to be heading out on May 6 for the beginning of an experience that will change us for the better. We look forward to finalizing our projects and presenting them to our companies in Iceland.

As a class, we have been working diligently on our Icelandic projects since the beginning of the spring semester with the aid of the Class of 2016. It is amazing to realize how much we have accomplished in such a short amount of time. Both teams have worked to supply their respective companies with a survey of interest, suggestions for prospective customers or outlets for their product, and a detailed comparison of the company to their competitors.

Both teams have now had the experience of designing a project plan, maintaining deadlines, working with a company directly and producing a final project report. Upon our visit to Iceland, we will also have the responsibility of giving a final presentation to our respective companies. We look forward to seeing the results and hearing feedback about our work.

Not only have we had the opportunity to work directly on a real-world project, we had the wonderful opportunity to meet with Ambassador Robert Barber from Iceland. Barber opened the Celebration of Inquiry as the guest of honor for the keynote address. Before his speech, the Wall Fellows had the superb opportunity to meet with the ambassador over breakfast to share our Icelandic project scopes, as well as hear from the ambassador on topics he found interesting, one of which included fish leather, an original product that is made only in Iceland. He emphasized the importance of supporting local businesses and industries, such as the local Icelandic producer of fish leather. On a side note, Barber also shared with us his favorite color, which coincidentally is teal.

It was interesting how personable Barber was. As a former member of the Harvard Board of Trustees of Phillips Brooks House Association, Barber was highly interested in the Icelandic projects and community outreach programs led by the Wall Fellows. After hearing about our community initiatives and progress on our projects, he said we inspired him and he was pleased to see the hard work and dedication we put in toward bettering the local community.

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# Sending Off the Senior Class of 2016

Coastal Carolina University's spring and summer commencement ceremonies approach as the Class of 2016 prepares to graduate. After graduation, the class will diverge down many unique paths to pursue their personal and professional aspirations.

- Nick DiDuro will be moving to Atlanta to participate in AT&T's business sales leadership development program.
- During the summer, Kevin Connelly will be completing CBAD 478 in England before graduating in August and continuing in a full-time position with the Conway Innovation Center.
- Micaela Antzoulatos will enter the medical field as an orthopedic scribe at Children's in Maryland before beginning physician's assistant school in Fall 2017.
- Kevin Hoffman will also further his career with Merrill Lynch in Myrtle Beach as he begins the Team Financial Advisor (TFA) program.
- Jada Bynum will begin planning her wedding as she pursues work in a marketing position for a local organization.
- Laura Thareau will continue her position at Tesla Motors in California.
- Alina Tananova will complete her internship with Greenporter Hotel in Greenport, N.Y.

Though their roads are different and reach around the globe, the distance between the classmates will only separate them by physical location, not in heart. The Class of 2016 has grown to become a family over the past two years together in the program and they plan to connect as often as they can, cheering each other on as they take on all life has in store for them and as they continue to make a difference in the world.



The Wall Fellows Class of 2016 (from left): Kevin Hoffman, Jada Bynum, Laura Thareau, Nick DiDuro, Micaela Antzoulatos, Alina Tananova and Kevin Connelly.

Over the course of the past two years, I have been blessed beyond measure to be part of the Wall Fellows Program and serve as co-editor of *The Wall Fellows Journal*. Having the opportunity to connect with alumni, board members and current classmates on a quarterly basis has grown me tremendously as a writer, giving me publication experience and a journalistic voice of my own; however, the most rewarding part of this journey has been sharing the life-changing internships, awe-inspiring projects, and exciting updates of which I have seen my classmates accomplish and I have been a part during my time in the program. Words cannot fully express how special each member of the program is and how much my Wall Fellows family means to me. I hope to be an active alumna and look forward to all that the Classes of 2017 and 2018 will bring forth!

**All the best,  
Jada Bynum '16**

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