From the Editors

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From the Editors

May 2012

All of us who work on *Bridges* see this journal as an essential outlet for the fine research work of our best students at Coastal Carolina University (CCU). We are proud to present these excellent examples of student scholarship.

This issue features another crop of well-written articles by undergraduates from a surprising variety of academic disciplines. The articles are arranged alphabetically by the author’s last name this year. The decision was made partly because the articles are of such uniformly high quality that it was difficult to choose a “lead article.”

The issue begins with Ryan Brown analyzing the changing business model in the contemporary music industry. Kevin Crowley’s biochemistry article examines the potentially life-altering characteristics of carsonine. Emma Currin’s article explores the reasons why businesses choose to “go green.” Bailey Devon Howard reports on compliance with the gender equity requirements of Title IX at Big South institutions (including CCU) and at all South Carolina Division I schools. Kevin Kern’s astronomy article addresses techniques for making measurements of binary star systems. Desmond Wallace explains the impact of midterm elections on a president’s reelection chances in the United States. Aliyyah Willis tells the story of the education of freedmen in the Pee Dee region of South Carolina.

While these articles represent a wide range of academic fields, they belong together because they can all be described as current and relevant. These articles speak to and about vital issues that we should all be concerned about in 2012, and the authors deserve a great deal of praise for addressing topics that truly matter in today’s world.

Issue 5 (Spring 2011) was the first one to feature student research exclusively, and this change in focus has helped to
redefine and reenergize Bridges. This year, we are including brief biographical statements about their advisers because we want to emphasize and recognize the dedicated people—students and faculty alike—whose work makes this important journal possible.

Thanks to everyone who has contributed, advised, or reviewed an article for this issue. Thanks also to the devoted members of our Editorial Board. Bridges is poised to become an increasingly important part of the scholarly and academic environment at Coastal Carolina University because of the people who care enough to keep this journal active.

—Scott Pleasant, Editor (2011-2012)
January 2013

We have had the distinct pleasure of producing the first issue of *Bridges* in print. While the discussion of launching a printed version of the student research journal at Coastal Carolina University began under Scott Pleasant's judicious leadership, we have been fortunate to oversee its fruition. It is the hope of the Editorial Review Board to maximize our audiences and resources both by continuing an online presence and by establishing a printed one. This publication duality affords student researchers the best outlets for completed academic work, keeping in line with academic and publishing developments.

Issue 6 proved to be a rich product to work with, and we are pleased to be offering it now in print as well as online at http://www.coastal.edu/academics/bridges/. As suspected, turning the previously electronically published articles into print-ready versions revealed the advantages and disadvantages of both publication mediums. The electronic format proves its flexibility and creativity; the print format proves its rigor and weight. Both formats inspire each other. We contend that there is room for and great value in producing each format, and we hope to develop each to its full advantage in future issues.

Once again, many thanks are in order for those who had a hand in bringing Issue 6 to its present condition. Special gratitude is extended to the Senior Vice President and Provost, Dr. Robert Sheehan, who supports student research on campus with verve and provided the financial backing necessary for this project.

—Amanda Brian, Editor (2012-2013)
Keira Williams, Managing Editor (2012-2013)
Acknowledgement of Faculty Advisers

This year we would like to acknowledge each of the faculty advisers who worked with the student writers on their articles before they were submitted for publication in Bridges. These faculty advisers, whose photographs and biographies follow the articles, worked with the students during the process of writing their articles. Our student authors worked with their advisers at every stage of the writing process.

In many cases these articles were originally written as the student’s honors thesis. Working with advisees on honors theses is not required for professors. They do this work for select students whose work rises above the normal expectations for undergraduate work. Without the work of the faculty advisers who direct the student toward success, Bridges could not exist.

We want to offer our sincere appreciation to the following advisers who worked on articles for Issue 6:

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Other Acknowledgements

We would also like to acknowledge the following people who gave their time generously to Issue 6 of *Bridges* and should be recognized for their ongoing efforts in support of the journal:

- Charmaine Tomczyk, Director of Undergraduate Research
- Phillip Whalen, Director of the Honors Program
- Debra Hamm, Program Assistant of the Honors Program

Without their continued commitment to this journal and their belief in the importance of promoting undergraduate research, producing *Bridges* each year would literally be impossible.

In addition, we would also like to acknowledge the work of our faculty reviewers. These faculty members agree to read and comment on articles that have been submitted for consideration. The faculty reviewers serve as subject matter experts who comment on the value of the articles and offer suggestions for improvement before the article is published. In order to be published, an article must first be nominated by a faculty adviser and then reviewed positively by the entire *Bridges* Editorial Review Board. At that point, the article is sent to a faculty reviewer. Only when an article has received a positive review from the objective outside reviewer can it be slated for publication.

It is essential for *Bridges* to have this kind of outside review process because almost all scholarly work proceeds in this manner. Our student authors are experiencing this important process for the first time. Without the unpaid work of these reviewers, this outside review process could not take place. We wish to thank the following faculty members for serving as reviewers this year:

- Teresa Burns, Chemistry/Physics
- Richard Hourigan, History
- J. Kay Keels, Management and Decision Sciences
The new 2012-2013 Editorial Review Board ushered in the print version of Issue 6 and should also be acknowledged. The Board is composed of Coastal Carolina University faculty members who are dedicated to strengthening our broadly defined research community. They give generously of their time and expertise to support and vet student research, even as great demands are placed upon them as teachers and scholars.

- Sarah Banks, Kinesiology, Recreation, and Sport Studies
- Jennifer Boyle, English
- Sara Brallier, Psychology/Sociology
- Brian Bunton, Chemistry/Physics
- Paul Clark, Marketing and Resort Tourism
- Steve Earnest, Theatre
- Monica Fine, Marketing and Resort Tourism
- Melanie James, Accounting, Finance, and Economics
- Linda Martin, English
- Paul Peterson, Politics and Geography
- Philip Whalen, Honors

With the online and print versions of Issue 6, we are debuting a new logo for the journal. We wish to thank Coastal Carolina University alumna Allie Tague for creating it. Her design is yet another testament to the talents of our students.