CELEBRATION OF INQUIRY

The Celebration of Inquiry enters its seventh year at Coastal Carolina University. The conference will start at 7:30 p.m. on Feb. 13 with the traditional keynote address.

Thursday and Friday offers an innovative change for students as classes are redirected to various sessions at regularly scheduled class times.

The conference started as an idea by Dr. Sara Lyles Sanders, currently a Kearns Palmetto Professor of English at CCU. She shared the idea with Dr. Joan Pirotch, the chair of the psychology and sociology departments, and together they talked about the idea with other interested faculty and staff members.

The concept was accepted by the then-university president, Dr. Ronald Ingle, and the then-provost, Pete Barr. The first Celebration of Inquiry took place in February 1999 with Gerrita Postlewaite and Archbishop Desmond Tutu as the plenary speakers.

A different theme is chosen each year. The 2008 conference theme is “The Modern Life: The Challenges and Advantages to Living and Learning in the 21st Century.” All sessions for the Celebration of Inquiry tie into this theme in some way.

Students are encouraged to attend these sessions and are able to choose which ones they want to attend, the times they wish to attend and how many they want to attend.

There are more than 160 sessions that are centered around the theme. The conference will conclude Feb. 15 with the traditional keynote address.

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What You Missed

CCU’s revised mission statement approved

Coastal Carolina University revised its mission statement as part of the strategic planning process President David DeCenzo initiated.

The South Carolina Commission on Higher Education approved the new mission statement on Jan. 8. The mission statement was revised to establish the priorities of the university and to link the various initiatives by CCU. Visit www.coastal.edu/about/mission.html to read the new statement.

Travel additions added; renovations begin

The traffic light at University Boulevard and Chanticleer Drive is complete and running in an effort to ease traffic on Chanticleer Drive.

The bridge from the Prince Lawn to the Wall Building was renovated over the semester break.

Construction has started on the Student Center. The second floor is being reorganized for the student organizations and the Office of Student Activities and Leadership. The changes will also add more lounge space to the first floor and enlarge the CINO Grille.

Audit results released; tax advisers hired

The independent audit of Coastal Carolina University discovered no outstanding violations, according to a recent press release.

The university is required to write both a response to the audit and detail a plan of action by the end of March.

Dr. James L. Fisher has been hired to help guide CCU’s President, David DeCenzo, as he makes changes to facilitate university improvement.

In addition, Alison L. Hawk was hired on Jan. 22 as CCU’s director of internal auditing. According to a press release, “The purpose of the new position is to establish a comprehensive audit, compliance and management services function for the university.” Hawk will report to the CCU board of trustees.
CAMPUS EVENTS

What to do and where to do it on campus this week

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<td>New Music Listening Party 10 p.m. Commons Pvt. Dining Room</td>
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Compiled by Meg Duvall, assistant editor

From www.weather.com as of press time

Important dates for SGA

Sam LeClair
For The Chanticleer

Upcoming Dates for SGA:

> Treasurer Workshop: Feb. 4 at 4 p.m. in the Wall Auditorium and Feb. 5 at 5 p.m. in the Wall Auditorium. (All student organizations must attend one of these two sessions, with the exception of Greek organizations.)

> Professor of the Year and Advisor of the Year Voting: Feb. 4-6 at www.coastal.edu/student/vote/faculty_08.

> College Park Clean-Up: Feb. 24 at noon

> Student Government Association elections will be held in late February. Applications for the 2008-2009 year will be available Feb. 4 in the Office of Student Activities and Leadership.

> SGA meetings are held every Monday at 3 p.m. in the Wall Auditorium.

> SGA officers are Lauren Brajer, president; Sam LeClair, vice president of public relations; Sean Clemmensen, vice president of policy; and Chelsea Trimmer, vice president of finance.

> SGA offices are located in the Student Center, Room 203.

Interfraternity Council to hold spring rush events for new members all week long

Meg Duvall
Assistant Editor

The Interfraternity Council is holding its spring rush from Monday, Feb. 4 to Saturday, Feb. 9, and will host events for potential new members throughout the week.

IFC organizations who are recruiting new members are Delta Chi, Sigma Alpha Epsilon, Pi Kappa Phi, Sigma Phi Epsilon, Tau Kappa Epsilon.

The schedule for rush week is:

Monday, Feb. 4 - Meet the Greeks: 7:30 p.m. in Wall 317

Tuesday, Feb. 5 - Chapter Overviews: 7:30 p.m. in Wall 317

Wednesday, Feb. 6 - Individual Event 1: 5 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 7 - Individual Event 2: 5 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 8 - Individual Event 3: 5 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 9 - Bid Day: 11 a.m. at Student Center

"With the new direction of CCU Greek life, I feel strongly that it will continue to grow and positively impact the Coastal Carolina community," said Travis Overton, coordinator of Greek Life.

For more information regarding rush week, visit www.coastal.edu/students/greek or contact Travis Overton, coordinator of Greek Life, at 349-2311.

KOTO EXPRESS

JAPANESE RESTAURANT

347-0559
OPEN Monday - Saturday 11 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Lunch & Dinner
CONWAY
2250 HWY 501 EAST
SINGLETON SQUARE SHOPPING CENTER
Zeppelin ready to roll at Hard Rock Park
Grand opening to be held in June

Led Zeppelin: The Ride, which has been running tests since November, will be one of Hard Rock Park’s main attractions when it opens in June.

Ashley Stevens
Viewpoints Editor

With the opening less than three months away, the thrill of what is Hard Rock Park can be felt by the park staff and visitors alike. Although the park is still in the building process, Hard Rock Park Public Relations Manager Megan Winnett said, “Everything is on schedule and there are no major setbacks.”

The park’s main attraction, Led Zeppelin: The Ride, is almost complete, with only minor finishing touches to be added. According to Winnett, the roller coaster has actually been going on test runs since the end of November.

At this time, no other roller coasters have been tested, but all the tracks have been laid; it is now just a matter of technical aspects.

One of the most anticipated coasters is Maximum RPM, which features a ferris wheel-like system that lifts the cart to the top, preparing riders for the infamous roller coaster drop.

Park officials also recently released information to the press about the world’s largest Gibson guitar that is in process of construction.

- The guitar, which is more than 70 feet tall, will sit on top of the Gibson retail store and will also serve as the centerpiece to the park’s evening laser and pyrotechnic show.

Not only is Hard Rock Park offering thrills, but Winnett also believes the culture the park offers will attract park guests.

“The great thing about the park is that it offers a whole experience: the theming, the music and the rock and roll,” Winnett said.

During the summer’s peak season, from June to August, it is predicted that the park will attract between 20,000 to 30,000 guests a day, ranging from children to adults.

- With theme parks being stereotypically kid-friendly, Winnett trusts that Hard Rock Park will have just as much to offer adults as it will children.

There are plans for the park to be open until 1 a.m. during the busy season, which hopes to attract the area’s late-night crowd.

There will be various bars in the park, along with late-night concerts. Adults will be able to reminisce throughout the vintage video games, classic rock and the fashion.

But the kids will not be left empty-handed, as the park has plans for a group of cuddly characters known as the Bear Metal Family, which are based off an undisclosed rock band of the 1970s.

In addition to thrills and characters, there is a live amphitheater that holds a standing capacity of up to 10,000 patrons, which will complete the rock aspect of the park.

With Hard Rock Park being the first rock and roll theme park ever created, Winnett has high expectations for the park’s success.

“I hope the community embraces us and we just rock out,” she said.

Hard Rock Park will hold its soft opening between April 15 and May 9. Tickets for this time will be sold at a discounted rate, as this time is used as a trial and training process for the park’s new employees.

The grand opening for the park will be held the first weekend in June, and plans for this event are kept secret from the public. A formal announcement is set to be released in early February.

Those interested in becoming a part of the Hard Rock Park team should attend the job fair Feb. 8 and 9 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. next to Waccamaw Pottery in Fantasy Harbour.

For more information: visit www.hardrockpark.com.
The Chanticleer

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Letters to the editor and submissions are welcome from the CCU community. Submissions should not exceed 300 words and must include the name and phone number. Submission does not guarantee publication. The Chanticleer reserves the right to edit for libel, style and space.

Articles and editorials in The Chanticleer do not necessarily express the opinions of the university’s student body, administration, faculty or staff.

Advertisements are paid advertisements and reflect the views and opinions of the advertiser, not The Chanticleer or Coastal Carolina University. Some material may not be suitable for people under 17.

CRIME LOG

JAN. 17
Larceny, resisting arrest
A CCU employee reported to CCU DPS that they had surprised a person who was attempting to remove university property from the Williams Brice building without permission. The person left behind the property they were attempting to steal and exited the area when confronted. The subject was spotted by a CCU DPS officer and ran when the officer attempted to speak with the suspect. The suspect was stopped by another officer, ticketed, arrested and transported to the Horry County Detention Center.

JAN. 18
Burglary
The victim reported to CCU DPS that someone unknown entered their bedroom and removed personal property without permission. A subject was seen by the victim with what might be some of the victim’s property. The subject has been contacted by CCU DPS.

JAN. 19
Vandalism of personal property
The victim reported to CCU DPS that someone unknown threw two eggs at their vehicle and caused damage to the vehicle.

JAN. 19
Larceny
The victim reported to CCU DPS that someone removed their personal property from their apartment without permission. The victim was able to give CCU DPS some information on a possible suspect.

JAN. 19
Drunkenness, liquor law violations
A CCU DPS officer observed a student being assisted into the building apparently intoxicated. Officers attempted to locate the student out of concern for his or her health. The student was located and transferred to his or her own apartment. In the apartment another intoxicated student was found, along with evidence of alcohol. The alcohol was confiscated and destroyed. The incident will be referred to the Campus Judicial System.

BOOKMARKS

Elaine Urban
Staff Writer

It’s late and it’s the night before a major test — the typical college student finds it impossible to study.

As if the cramped dorm room space or apartment space and lack of helpful resources were not enough, there are more distractions. The insidious student’s roommates decide to have an unbelievably fun-sounding and obnoxiously loud dance party.

Being so late at night and having no place quiet to conceal them, the student just succumbs to these disruptions. Sadly, the student will most likely have to endure a poor score on the following day’s test.

Fortunately, there is a solution to this student’s dilemma that is now accessible to all Coastal Carolina University students who find themselves in this same situation late at night — the Kimbel Library.

Students are constantly occupying the library’s seats while burying themselves in books. It seems as if they cannot get enough of the library’s facilities. Recent requests to lengthen the library’s hours have even been voiced by CCU students.

In order to accommodate all students, the library has extended its hours this semester. During four days of the school week, Monday through Thursday, students have the opportunity to use the library from 8 a.m. to 2 a.m.

Hours on the other days of the week are convenient as well. On Fridays, the library remains open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and on Sundays the hours were extended and are now from 1 p.m. to 2 a.m.

This new schedule would not have been achieved without the help of a few key people.

The idea of extended library hours was proposed by various students to the Head of Public Services, Margaret Fain. Fain then contacted CCU Provost Robert Sheehan, who made changing the library’s hours of operation possible.

There are two new members to the library staff who contribute to the extended hours. CCU alumni Brooke Elliot and Matt Fowler are now accompanying students while they study late.
BUSINESS ADVICE

Strategies for success in the plunging real estate market

Grant Brown
Business Writer

The U.S. real estate market is in steady decline, with more trouble on the way. According to CNNMoney.com, America is undergoing its worst housing slump since the Great Depression, with median home prices expected to decline around 13 percent by the first half of 2009.

Most experts agree that this decline was triggered by the excessive use of subprime loans and adjustable rate mortgages. These loans were designed for those with less-than-ideal credit ratings, and often come with a high risk of default.

Over the past decade, these lending vehicles allowed many Americans to buy more houses than they could afford, driving prices above the market equilibrium. In 2007, defaults on these loans were occurring at a rapid pace, sending home prices in free-fall and amateur real estate investors back to their day jobs.

MSNBC.com reports that major homebuilders are predicting the price decline to hit bottom in mid 2009. After the dust settles, those serious about real estate investing will be in good position to turn a profit.

A safer play would be to wait until 2010 to start buying. Thus, a serious investor now has two years to acquire the capital and the knowledge to make money.

Here are three ways to do it:

- One strategy, known as "house-flipping," involves buying a small home at a bargain price, renovating it, and selling it for a higher price. A successful "flip" will usually occur within one year, and profits usually range anywhere from $5,000 to $50,000.

- A part-time "flipper" can turn about two houses per year and still maintain a full-time job, but turning four or five per year is usually a full-time job in itself. The drawback to this strategy is that it involves a high level of risk and ties up a lot of working capital.

- Another strategy is investing in long-term real estate. Investors using this strategy will usually buy a small house, rent it to a third party and sell it after five years or so. The rental income usually covers the investor's mortgage payment, while the investor pays the property taxes and maintenance costs out of pocket.

When the property is sold, the investor makes a profit equal to the price appreciation of the property, plus any equity accumulated minus the taxes paid and the maintenance costs over the life of the investment. This strategy is much safer than house-flipping, and often comes with a lot less headache.

- A third strategy is investing in Real Estate Investment Trusts. REITs are companies that receive the majority of their revenues from real estate stemming from the properties they own.

An investor who owns shares in a REIT actually owns real estate in the U.S. and enjoys the price appreciation of real estate in the form of an increase in the share price. Furthermore, the U.S. tax code requires REITs to distribute 90 percent of their profits to shareholders, resulting in a hefty dividend.

A popular REIT is Boston Properties Inc. Boston Properties owns real estate in Boston, Washington D.C., Manhattan, San Francisco, and Princeton, N.J. Since 2003, shares in Boston Properties Inc. have more than doubled in value, and now pay a yearly dividend of $2.72 per share.

As with all forms of investing, research and dedication are the keys to success, and the potential for losing money always exists. Yet with two years to develop a solid plan, a dedicated college graduate should be able to succeed throughout the upcoming market conditions.

Chamber of Commerce hosts event to attract young voters

Elaine Urban
Staff Writer

It is a well-known fact that the young people of today will someday lead America. A way to prepare for the youth's eventual leadership is to encourage them to get involved now.

This is exactly what The Myrtle Beach Chamber of Commerce accomplished on Jan. 18 at Broadway at the Beach. Inside Celebrity Square, many students and South Carolina residents bee-bopped around while rocking out their votes.

"Older people have the power, but so does the youth. We need fresh ideas," said Jimmy Doyle, president of Coastal Carolina University Young Democrats.

Rock Out Your Vote is an event directed toward the youth, encouraging them to become involved in politics. People supporting various political parties attended the event to promote their candidates.

Registration to vote was implemented to all eligible people who wanted to partake in the upcoming elections. Registration was not the only thing that was free. Food and live music created a fun and friendly atmosphere under heated tents. Food was provided by various restaurants and by parties supporting their candidates.

The beats of the Five Point's band filled the air as participants enjoyed their time chatting with favorite political parties.

CCU had a few representatives who presented themselves at this political function. CCU's Young Democrats and CCU's College Republicans were both highlighting loyalty to their political parties.

"There are a lot of good candidates in the Republican field right now. Come November this should be interesting," said Alex Wetherell, president of CCU College Republicans.

The current presidential election is a way to engage youth and to become aware of what is happening in society. Many CCU students at Rock Out Your Vote felt strongly about youth voting.

Senior Terrence Wilson, another member of CCU's Young Democrats, said, "Youth voting is needed and it needs to increase."

Shane Warren added, "It is important for the youth to vote because it is such an unheard voice and there are so many numbers to look at."

Additionally, Wetherell said, "Students are the future of America and we need to step up and see what's out there and get involved."

Who CCU supports as the next U.S. president:

- Barack Obama: 24 percent
- Hillary Clinton: 19 percent
- John Edwards: 3 percent
- John McCain: 3 percent
- Mike Huckabee: 10 percent
- Rudy Giuliani: 9 percent
- Mitt Romney: 3 percent
- Undecided: 22 percent
- Don't care: 4 percent
- Other: 4 percent

Information provided by CCU Young Democrats

Celebration, page 1

theme. Sessions range from presentations, workshops, discussions and performances.

Sir Ken Robinson, Ph.D., a leader and business speaker, will deliver the keynote address. His speech will end his talk with the title "Out of Our Minds: Learning to be Creative."

In his speech, Robinson, who was knighted by Elizabeth II in 2003, will discuss the issues he is famous for. He will encourage individuals to find creativity within themselves and in their workplaces.

"The entire campus community is invited to enjoy this fascinating and entertaining session," said Charmaine Tomczyk, director of the Celebration of Inquiry conference.

This event is free, but tickets are required and can be picked up at the Wheelwright Box Office with a CCU ID.

Alongside Robinson are six people who have been chosen to be plenary speakers for this year's Celebration of Inquiry. They are Jessica Mogel, a graduate of CCU who is now the customer development manager for Coca-Cola, David Redmond, a documentary filmmaker and producer, William D. Nicholson II, the vice president for advancement at CCU, Jack Thompson, a well-known photographer and Patti Mercer, Miss South Carolina of 2006.

Each of these plenary speakers will bring their own tales and experiences to the Celebration of Inquiry to share with anyone who attends their sessions.

Closing ceremonies will take place in the Wheelwright Auditorium. Two Colombian guitarists will perform a concert of selected songs from their country. English and Spanish lyrics will be made available for the audience.

"This event is unique in its interdisciplinary approach to discovering new ideas and the connectivity among various topics," said Tomczyk.

The Celebration of Inquiry will allow people to ask questions about the issues that are impacting the world today and "through the answers, people will be able to plan for a better tomorrow."

Editor's note: Celebration of Inquiry booklets are now available on campus, free of charge. They include information on speakers and the 3-day schedule of events.
Career minded students won’t want to miss the Spring Career & Internship Fair on February 15, 2008. Employer representatives will be on campus from 1-4pm Friday afternoon eager to meet candidates interested in summer internships and entry level professional jobs. Resumes and career attire are required to enter the fair.

Career fairs are the best way to quickly learn about multiple career opportunities. Sophomores, juniors and seniors who want dazzle the recruiters and make the most of the career fair should sign up for workshops at the Career Services Center before the fair. Freshmen who have questions about career fields are welcome to drop in to talk to the experts about the academic majors they recruit, GPA requirements, and highly sought skills.

Call or email the Career Services Center (349-2341 or Nadine@coastal.edu) to get help with your resume or register for a workshop. You only get one opportunity to make a good first impression, so plan to wear a conservative, businesslike outfit.

Some employer representatives will visit campus informally in the weeks before the career fair, setting up information tables in the Student Center Lobby or speaking to classes. A list of all recruitment events can be found on the Career Services web site at www.coastal.edu/career or on your personal ChantsJOBLINK account.

Senior On-Campus Interviews will begin on Monday, February 18th and run through March 12th. Seniors must have a resume uploaded into the ChantsJOBLINK in order to sign up for campus interviews. Many of the career fair employers will also hold interviews on campus following the fair. All interview dates can be found in the ChantsJOBLINK site.

Contact the Career Services Center at 349-2341 to schedule an appointment with a Career Services Coordinator.

Pre-Fair Workshops at the Career Services Center
(Limited Seating – Call 349-2341 to pre-register)

Develop the Professional Resume and Cover Letter
February 5th 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Learn Business Etiquette for New Professionals
February 7th 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Build Effective Professional Communication Skills
February 12th 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Develop Polished Interview Skills
February 13th 2:30 – 3:30 p.m.

On-Line Job Search Workshops
Available on the Career Services Center website: www.coastal.edu/career

Develop the Professional Resume and Cover Letter
Develop Polished Interview Skills

Spring Career & Internship Fair
Friday, February 15th
1 – 4PM ~ WB Small Gym
RESUMES & PROFESSIONAL ATTIRE REQUIRED
SPONSORED BY THE CCU CAREER SERVICES CENTER
CHAUNCEY SHOWDOWN

What is more important in leaders, experience or charisma?

At such a crucial time in politics, it is interesting to examine what characteristics push leaders to the front of the public eye and increase their ability to be elected.

Many voters might say one of the major qualities they look for in a leader is what is demonstrated by their past experiences as a leader. On the other hand, history has demonstrated that the general public responds to charisma.

Perhaps politics would make more sense and be more agreeable in everyone’s eyes if experience were the leading factor regarding how our leaders are elected. Unfortunately, it seems that we are unable to know as much about our leaders’ experience than about their charisma.

People can be won over by an individual’s charisma in a matter of minutes. It is hard to learn the key factors of a person’s experiences in the same amount of time. In a day and age when many of us do not have enough time to be as educated as we would like to be about the issues, that time span of only a few minutes is more crucial than ever.

We may only have time to watch a few hours, or even minutes, of a political debate before making such crucial decisions as who will lead this country for the next four years. The most influential leaders in the history of the world won people over by their tremendous ability to persuade the masses that they were best qualified to rise to the occasion and solve the problems of the times.

The power of charisma has demonstrated itself both positively and negatively throughout history. Leaders whom we revere as having had tremendous influence for the good of mankind, such as Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., won people over by way of their tremendous personalities.

The world also witnessed the incredible dangers of charisma and persuasion when Hitler was able to command these tools for his own uses. These examples only further demonstrate the power of charisma with regards to winning people over.

As I am trying to decide which candidate to support during the upcoming presidential election, there are many important factors that help determine the right choice.

Two of the most popular qualities that voters may look to are charisma and experience.

Personally, I feel that experience in political office is by far more crucial to success than simply having charisma.

Presidential hopeful Barack Obama has used his fiery personality and charm to establish himself as a front-runner for the Democratic nomination. Obama, who has been the senator of Illinois only since 2004, lacks the experience necessary to lead this country.

He can talk about making changes all he wants to, but the ability to make people appreciate you is not enough to perform this enormous task.

Only having charisma will not be enough to fix this nation’s floundering economy, as well as managing foreign affairs. Those with prior experience in political matters are more prepared for the job.

At this critical time, the most important thing is to elect an official who knows what needs to be accomplished.

I don’t care who has the most followers; I want someone who has been under pressure before and who will react accordingly.

Hopefully, whomever we elect as our next commander-in-chief will know how to improve conditions in our country.
COVERING THE DEBATES
2 students share their experiences at the Republican and Democratic debates

Claire Arambula
News Editor

The queasiness in my gut hunches me over as I drive my black Honda Civic to the filing center at Phillips Seafood Restaurant. The Democratic Debate at The Palace Theatre isn’t scheduled until the evening, but despite the chill in the air, I am determined to retrieve my key to freedom as soon as possible.

I expect to see reporters in suits and ties, quickly scurrying to their perfect vantage points with indifferent, superior expressions. I do not expect the jeans and North Face jackets, and I try to hide my curiosity.

All else is still as my glorious press pass is handed to me at the volunteers’ desk. I take it as calmly as I can, cradling it in my hands, this original piece of art.

Can it be that I, an insignificant Coastal Carolina University student, am actually holding media credentials from CNN? Can it be that I am truly here to cover the 2008 Democratic Debate?

The man behind me impatiently taps his foot and I regain my composure, moving on into the dining room. Enormous red and white CNN flags hang from what must be cathedral ceilings. TV screens and red, white and blue streamers circle the room.

This is my first time. I’m overwhelmed. I’m proud. I am not a political expert, yet I am feeling very patriotic.

I imitate my role models and search for my name on one of 50 tables reserved for reporters. But unlike the others, I am disbelieving, not really expecting to find my name. It’s like an Easter egg hunt and only one egg is left.

I find it. CNN has reserved a place for me. I am empowered.

It’s 11 a.m. and security is tight at the Palace entrance. A policewoman wearing black leather pants and stunning vintage 1974 sunglasses walks in front of my car, palm raised authoritatively, preventing my entrance.

I flash the coveted press pass and her stern, intimidating look is replaced with her promise of “Allow me to stop the traffic for you.”

“Go right ahead,” and her promise of “Allow me to stop the traffic for you.”

Royalty.

It’s 2 p.m. and the scene changes significantly. Signs praising John Edwards line the road, overlapping, obscuring the horizon. The oversized sand sculpture with intricate details of the three candidates’ faces captivates a flock of spectators. Some hold cameras. Some just stare.

People come from all directions to be part of the excitement. The energy is explosive. Voices boom. Chants of “Hillary! Hillary!” are silenced only by the icy air attacking vocal cords. Car horns honk. It’s an orchestra of praise to the senator from New York.

There is no visible support for Barack Obama. No signs. No chants.

I approach spectators raising name-signs on pickets. I choose 12. I ask them, “What is your political stance?”

Chuck Plunkett
Staff Writer

When confronted with the question whether or not I wanted to work the Republican Debate at the Myrtle Beach Convention Center, my obvious answer was ‘yes.’

I figured, if nothing else, I would make some much-needed money and gain some experience in a field of a possible career choice. Little did I know how much the experience would outweigh the promised payment.

Seven communication students, myself included, were hand picked by our adviser, Dr. Lee Bollinger, director of internships at Coastal Carolina University, to work the debate after she was contacted by Jamie Ball, a producer at Fox News.

My fellow students and friends, including Ashleigh Gunning, Alex Souza, Ashley Cyr, Meghan Miller, Phillip Cook and Jason Fong-Sam, were all selected to work and represent our school as-production assistants at the debate.

When I arrived for my first day of work, I had little to no idea exactly what I would be doing. I had worked as a production assistant before, but it was on a much smaller scale than this, and I knew my jobs and tasks would differ from those of my previous experience.

The day before the debate, we were sent on any number of tasks from making Excel spreadsheets to running errands around Myrtle Beach or any other little thing we could help do to set up equipment. There was no task, however small or big, that the producers thought we couldn’t handle.

One of the most enjoyable tasks we had to do was to stand in for the candidates behind their podiums for sound, lighting and camera checks.

I would say we spent a good four hours there making sure everything was right, down to the smallest details. We even ran through the beginning of the show numerous times, which was a great experience to see how a production like that is set up.

A photograph of us taking pictures of each other behind the podiums actually made the front page of The Sun News. The producers had a good laugh about that and were really happy for us and made sure we had plenty of copies to hand out to friends and family.

We all learned a great deal in the days leading up to the debate, but I think most of the experience and knowledge I gained occurred during the debate itself. Having a backstage pass and being able to stand on the side of the stage during the debate and actually see it happen was an experience I will never forget.

The producers were also very accommodating to our explorative nature. We all tried to soak up as much of the experience we could and the people at the top who were running the show did nothing but help us out and allow us access anywhere to see how things work.

> See Democrats, page 12
> See Republicans, page 12
Professors share their views on national issues

Lo Pirie
Staff Writer

Recently, Coastal Carolina University played host to a political panel, comprised of university faculty and staff members, with the aims of educating students and local community members about the major issues involved in the upcoming presidential election.

The panel included Dr. Holley Tankersley, an associate professor of politics, Dr. Dennis Edwards, an assistant professor of economics, Dr. Yoav Wachsman, also an assistant professor of economics and Scott Royce from university advancement.

The focus of this event was to provide attendees with the perspectives of two individuals identified with the two major parties contending for the election, Republicans and Democrats. Tankersley and Wachsman represented the Democrat perspectives about the issues, and Royce and Edwards informed the crowd regarding the Republican side of the same topics.

“First, I think we’re all passionate about the issues. Many of us on the panel studied these issues and Scott Royce worked in politics. And secondly, I think we all see students getting interested and we want to encourage that in the best way possible by focusing on the issues instead of celebrity,” said Tankersley.

The first issue covered during the nearly two-hour panel was the question surrounding the rising cost of health care and the varied viewpoints regarding how to go about reforming the undeniably flawed system.

Throughout the event, the members of each party were able to agree about many of the problems present in today’s political system. Perhaps more surprisingly, the speakers were also sporadically able to agree about the best potential solutions to these problems, regardless of polarizing party lines.

Following the discussion of problems in the U.S. health care system, the panel turned to the topic of immigration and national security with an emphasis on border security. Although legal immigrants, and their contributions to society were briefly touched on, the major concern was discussing how to handle the agreed upon problem of illegal immigration.

Both the Democrat and Republican speakers touched on pros and cons of the suggested remedies to the conflict. Wachsman, himself a legal immigrant, suggested that immigrants bolster the economy, giving America a needed edge over the rising power of other nations. Tankersley supported her fellow speaker by discussing the ways that immigrants financially contribute to the economy, regardless of their illegal status.

Two speakers also discussed their views on the positive outcomes of legalizing those who entered the country illegally. However, both Democratic panel members made the concession that plans to legalize illegal immigrants could possibly serve to encourage the idea of the U.S. as a sanctuary for future illegal immigrants.

The Republican panel presented the problems that could result from legalizing illegal aliens, suggesting that turning a blind eye to an overly illegal action could give both Americans and the international community the perspective that American policy makers are too cowardly to handle the problem.

Next on the agenda for the event was the topic of the economy, especially with relation to the housing slump of late. Professors from either side of the panel discussed, and seemed to agree on, many of the causes for the increasing problems with the economy. The Republican panelists noted that banks may be extending loans to people who would normally not qualify for them.

In addition, they suggested there are too many incentives under the current system for banks to continue doing so. The Democratic speakers reinforced that the government should perhaps place more strict regulations on bank lending and also push individuals to save more money to cover growing expenses.

Both sides also added to the discussion their thoughts about America’s growing debts and deficit problems, discussing both how they arose and why they may not have to be a major long-term concern.

The concept of international borrowing was discussed in depth, serving to emphasize that although the U.S. is undeniably in debt, the country serves as a lender to others as well.

Attending the politics panel was an opportunity for all members of the local community to be more informed as they move further into election season. The faculty and staff who dedicated their time to speak were able to discuss the issues rationally and with respect to others’ opinions.

The panel served as a chance for students to learn more about many key aspects of society. The panelists also demonstrated a display of how to debate the important issues tactfully and without personalizing the issues.

Residence life takes students on trip to Charleston

Nicole Svonavec
For The Chanticleer

Southern culture came to life for more than 30 on campus residents during a trip to Charleston on Dec. 1.

Led by associate professor of history Dr. John Navin, the group toured Fort Sumter, shopped the French Market and ate traditional fare during the day-long excursion. The event was sponsored by the Residence Life Living and Learning Community program.

The excitement began as residents boarded three university vans in the early morning and journeyed the two hours to Charleston. The group ate at Tommy Condon’s, an Irish pub in the heart of downtown.

After lunch, the students split up; some perused the outdoor market while others strolled down the cobblestone streets around the restaurant. Most students then boarded the vans to travel to the Fort Sumter museum and dock ground.

“I enjoyed the opportunity to accompany students to Fort Sumter,” said Navin. “The site has tremendous historical significance; the battle-scarred walls and aging cannon evoke sentiments that you just can’t generate in a classroom setting.”

While the majority of the group toured Fort Sumter for most of the afternoon, a small group of students discovered the soul of Charleston on their own.

Senior Courtney Cundiff and friends shopped on King Street, walked along the waterfront and explored the historic churches and graveyards.

“I lived in Charleston last summer, so the trip gave me a chance to share my favorite places with friends,” said Cundiff, a health promotion major. “The city is one of those places where you see something new every time you walk down the street.”

Due to the interest generated by the trip, Residence Life will plan another excursion for the spring semester. The planning committee is considering another trip to Charleston, a Waccamaw River tour or another day-trip for residence hall students.

For more information or to express interest in the trips, contact Penny Oakley, assistant director of Residence Life, at poakley@coastal.edu.
SLANG: HOW TO KEEP IT REAL

Kimberly Daniel
Staff Writer


These words, often heard in the world of pop culture, can now be found in the Merriam-Webster Dictionary.

The integration of these slang terms into the English language may be accepted by some professionals while others despise the widespread use of them.

The question across the board deals with how the use of slang will affect the English language.

Although the English language is constantly evolving, there may be a defined line of what is acceptable and what is not.

“Slang is not ruining the English language, it’s just adding more variety,” said Dr. Becky Childs, assistant professor in the English Department.

Childs believes that slang is always going to exist in the English language and when it is learned, even if it is not included in an English book, it should be addressed.

In teaching a course in English as a Second Language, Childs said she received various questions from students dealing with slang.

“People learning the English language should learn slang because it’s part of our lifestyle,” said junior communication major Misty Gazdacko.

While slang may be a part of the American lifestyle, it may not be acceptable enough to be included in dictionaries.

Bryan Stalvey, a senior dramatic arts major, believes people should learn slang in the appropriate atmosphere but there is a defined line of which slang terms should be included in the dictionary.

The process used to determine which terms will be added to the dictionary is sometimes unknown to many people, but understanding the procedures may create a better perspective on it if the slang included in the dictionary is suitable.

Merriam-Webster Online addresses the question “How does a word get into the Merriam-Webster Dictionary?” The editors reply that the entries into the dictionary are simply based on usage.

Editors of Merriam-Webster study the language and monitor the words used most often by people and the context they are used.

They follow word usage by dedicating a few hours a day to reading magazines, newspapers, books and other published material, both print and electronic.

Each term is required to be found in various publications over time with a shared meaning. The word must also be substantially cited.

Childs addressed the process of adding new words to the dictionary and further agreed that slang should be included.

When it comes to the dictionary, many agree that it is acceptable for slang to be included, but that may not be the case in academic writing even though it can be claimed as grammatically correct.

“There’s a difference in academic and nonacademic writing. Students should not use colloquial language in essays, but I will say words like ‘bling’ in class,” said Childs.

Childs finds that the public is savvy in determining what words are appropriate at certain times.

The evolving language of pop culture may embrace Stalvey saying his commonly used slang phrase “the bomb” and Gazdacko saying “redonkulous,” but it may not be as supported in the academic arena.

Editor’s note:
For more information about popular slang words, visit www.urbandictionary.com and to find a list of new words added to the Merriam-Webster dictionary, visit www.merriam-webster.com/info/newwords07.htm.

Compiled by Amanda Kelley
Inside-out bears attract a crowd

About the artist:
New York-based artist Kent Rogowski has received numerous awards, including the Center Award from the Center of Photographic Art, and was selected as finalist for the Calumet/Friends of Photography Emerging Artist Award and the Nerve.com Emerging Artist Award. Rogowski also produced a feature length documentary film on drug trafficking and immigration called “Al Otro Lado.” It premiered at the TriBeCa Film Festival in 2005 and made its theatrical premiere at the Museum of Modern Art, New York, in 2006. It was also broadcasted nationwide on PBS’s P.O.V. in 2006, and will be included in the film program of the 2008 Whitney Biennial. Kent is represented by the Foley Gallery, New York.

For more information go to:
http://www.kentrogowski.com/
http://www.bearsthebook.com/images.html
http://www.foleygallery.com/

The exhibit “Bears” is on display in the Rebecca Randall Bryan Art Gallery. The exhibit features stuffed bears turned inside out and re-stuffed. Students and community members are invited to peruse the exhibit, which runs through Feb. 29.
Can’t find a club you’d like to join? Start your own!

Maegan Sweat  
Staff Writer

Whatever a student’s reasons for coming to college – higher education, sports, the fun atmosphere – becoming involved in on campus clubs and organizations is one way to become an active student. But what if Coastal Carolina University doesn’t offer something a student is looking for?

CCU policy allows that a student to start his or her own organization, provided they follow the proper rules and procedures. As stated by the Office of Student Activities and Leadership Web site, www.coastal.edu/osal, there are several steps students need to take in order to start a new organization:

> Complete the "Intent To Organize" form. This form is available in the Office of Student Activities and Leadership office in the Student Center.

> Obtain approval from the area that the organization would fall under and return it to the Office of Student Activities and Leadership.

> Acquire a recognition packet and return it completed within six weeks. If the proposed organization is affiliated with a local or national organization, the constitution and/or charter of the local or national organization must be included with the completed packet materials.

> The official approval process begins. This is when the goals and objectives of the organization are evaluated, and the benefit of the organization for CCU students is evaluated.

> Once all forms have been completed and approved by the director of Student Activities and Leadership, the club or organization will be given a date to appear before the Student Government Association for recognition.

The recognition of the club or organization will be submitted to the Student Senate for consideration. It will be presented as new business during the initial meeting and will be voted on as old business at the following meeting.

Once approved and recognized by SGA, the club is entitled to all rights and privileges afforded to all recognized organizations.

> Hold a meeting with a staff member who has been designated to advise your organization and further discuss the general rules and policies of being a club on campus.

These guidelines are also found online at www.coastal.edu/osal/newclub.html.

SGA President Lauren Brajer further explained SGA’s role in the formation of a new club.

“Once all the official paperwork is processed, it is then heard by the Senate, who makes the decision of passing the organization. If the club is passed, a new constitution is drawn up and the organization is assigned a budget based on their needs.

“Many new clubs start holding fundraisers to raise money and draw attention to themselves from other students,” said Brajer.

There are also many organizations that were started and recognized on campus, but for different reasons, have since disbanded. At any time, a student can restart a club and redraft a new constitution is written.

“Take the Surf Club for instance, which is recently looking to resume activity on campus,” said Brajer.

The process may seem long and complex, but the benefits to being actively recognized on campus are substantial.

Not only will the organization receive campus-wide attention and involvement, members and officers will have the opportunity to meet and work with other students and faculty members who share their interests.

The Student Government Association meets every Monday at 3 p.m. in the Wall Auditorium. Any student interested in creating or restarting an organization is encouraged to attend. SGA offices are located in the Student Center, Room 203.

Editor’s note: See page 2 for a related story by SGA vice president, Sam LeClair. The SGA column is written every week by a different SGA officer.
Meet Joey

Joey's idea of fun is partying with his friends on weekends

He spends
- $50 on alcohol a week
- $200 on alcohol a month
- $2,400 on alcohol a year
- $9,600 on alcohol during his 4 years in college

Six years later Joey has completed college. He is living with his parents in his 10 x 10 bedroom.

Meet Jack

Jack's idea of fun includes
- Time with friends
- Sports
- Music
- Reading
- Volunteering to mentor a Second-grader

Six years later Jack has completed college. He has taken the $10,000 he saved and already has a down payment on his first home, a new car and brand new furniture.

Think About It!
Be responsible.

COASTAL CAROLINA UNIVERSITY
www.coastal.edu
Students have the right to appeal parking tickets

Kevin Hanes  
Staff Writer

Coastal Carolina University students who receive tickets from campus police have the right to appeal those tickets.

With tickets being written and students appealing some tickets, the Traffic Appeals Committee spends a good deal of time reviewing cases. The Traffic Appeals Committee meets every Monday to discuss the appeals students make.

"There are some students who only want to do appeals just to get out of paying tickets, but there are students who sometimes have good reasons for appealing tickets," said Penny Oakley, the programming assistant director of Residence Life.

The process of appealing tickets is easily done by filling out an appeal form within 72 hours from the time the ticket was issued. Weekends and holidays are not included in the 72-hour period.

The written appeal must be made to the Traffic Appeals Committee. The form can be picked up at the Department of Public Safety in Atheneum Hall.

The committee looks at the appeal and then decides on a date to review the case with the student. At the hearing, the student must make probable causes as to why the ticket should be appealed.

After the case has been reviewed, the committee decides on how to rule the appeal.

There are three different categories in which the committee can rule: uphold, mitigate or throw out completely.

"As a student who appealed a ticket for having an outdated parking pass, it seemed right to do because of the fact that the expiration date on it is in very little writing," said Mike McDonald, a senior interdisciplinary studies major.

The Traffic Appeals Committee is made up of faculty and students. According to Oakley, some of the students on the committee can be more strict than the faculty members.

The members of the Traffic Appeals Committee believe in upholding the rules and regulations of the campus, but they are willing to compromise.

"In the fall semester of 2007, over 781 appeals were filed. Out of that, 328 were overturned, 144 were reduced, and 309 were upheld. So, it appears most tickets get overturned," said Chief Greg Weisner, CCU's director of Public Safety.

The most common citation issued on campus is for not having a parking decal. The next reason is for on-campus students parking where they are not supposed to park and last is for students who park in the grass.

Appealing tickets allows students the freedom to earn equal treatment.

"The process is fair and it is not too terribly difficult to do," concluded Oakley.

Students may return to their vehicles after class to find an unexpected parking ticket waiting for them. Students have 72 hours after the ticket was written to file an appeal.
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Friday, February 8 - Black Glass
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Thursday, February 14 - Singles Mingle with DJ Barry
Friday, February 15 - Ten Toes Up
Saturday, February 16 - Ten Toes Up
Friday, February 22 - Eason
Saturday, February 23 - Eason
Friday, February 29 - Tokyo Joe

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CD REVIEW: Grammy Nominees of 2008

Raytevia Evans
Features Editor

The best way to wrap up a year is to invest in the Grammy Nominee album of the upcoming year.

The album Grammy Nominee 2008 released Jan. 29 is a summary of all the great songs of 2007. Starting off with Justin Timberlake's "What Goes Around...Comes Around," this CD gives listeners a review of every great song, artist and band of 2007.

Besides JT, the 21-track album also includes the unforgettable Beyonce. Her hit song "Irreplaceable" is a single from the R&B artist's second solo album "B-Day." This song is not only one of the biggest hits of 2007, it was also translated into Spanish when she re-released "B-Day" as a double-disc album not long after the first album dropped.

Amy Winehouse was also nominated for her song "Rehab." A song that was much needed in Tinsel Town in 2007, "Rehab" is about Winehouse's struggles with drugs and alcohol. Listeners liked the catchy hook and still sing along with the track today.

The album gets a little upbeat by track four with "The Pretender" by Foo Fighters. This original rock and roll song adds diversity to the album. It starts off slow and then gradually gets listeners pumped as the beat changes. The lyrics during the bridge enforce the theme of the song, saying "Who are you?" During the bridge, it slows down again but quickly picks up its speed again bringing back the energy.

Another band included is Maroon 5 with "Makes Me Wonder" from their album "It Won't Be Soon Before Long," its title possibly a pun on the five-year gap between albums. This was also an irresistible song during the past year because of the eclectic style of Maroon 5.

Another song with a catchy hook was "1234" by Feist. The song is something that everyone liked last year. "1234" which is also used in iPod commercials, seems to be on everybody's playlist.

"(You Want To) Make a Memory" by Bon Jovi also makes the list of nominations with its mellow sound. The song talks about making a memory with a loved one. Because of its smooth, slow beat, the song was on the top of the charts last year.

Other artists include Paul McCartney, Christina Aguilera, Corinne Bailey Rae, Green Day and Carrie Underwood. All of these artists and bands and others contributed to the diversity of the album Grammy Nominees 2008.

To find out who takes home the awards, tune into the 50th Annual Grammy Awards on Feb. 10 on CBS at 8 p.m.
Brian Turner is a soldier-poet whose debut book of poems, Here, Bullet, won the 2005 Beatrice Hawley Award and was a New York Times “Editor’s Choice” selection. Turner served seven years in the US Army, including one year as an infantry team leader in Iraq with the 3rd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division. Prior to that, he was deployed to Bosnia-Herzegovina in 1999-2000 with the 10th Mountain Division. Turner's poetry has been published in Poetry Daily, The Georgia Review, and other journals. A graduate of the MFA program at the University of Oregon, Turner is the recipient of the 2007 Poets Prize.

Jill McCorkle is the author of five novels: The Cheer Leader, July 7th, Tending to Virginia, Ferris Beach and Carolina Moon, and three story collections, most recently Creatures of Habit. Her work has appeared in The Atlantic, Ploughshares, Best American Short Stories, and New Stories from the South, among other publications. The recipient of the New England Book Award, the John Dos Passos Prize, and the North Carolina Award for Literature, she has taught creative writing at UNC-Chapel Hill, Tufts, Harvard, Brandeis, and Bennington College. She is currently on faculty at NC State University.

SPORTS

Baseball expects good season

Amanda Kelley
Photo Editor/Writer

The men’s baseball team finished the 2007 season with an overall winning record of 50-13. This season, the 15 veterans and 20 new Chanticleer men are expected to play just as well while sporting brand new jerseys.

The team leaders in offense returning for the 2008 season are senior Tommy Baldridge and junior David Sappelt. Last season, Baldridge posted 62 runs, 13 home runs and 58 runs batted in with a batting average of .383 in 240 at bats.

Sappelt’s average was .359 with 276 at bats, 62 runs, 10 homers and 50 RBIs. Sappelt’s 99 hits in 2007 is a CCU single season record for the most hits.

Also returning is starting pitcher Bobby Gagg who had a 2.57 earned run average. Gagg was the only pitcher in the Big South Conference to win 12 games last season.

The Chanticleers were ranked 19th by Ping! Baseball and 37th by Collegiate Baseball Newspaper in the preseason rankings.

The 2008 season opens Friday, Feb. 22 against Maryland at 4 p.m., at Watson Stadium/Vrooman Field.

Cross country teams break records and earn All-Conference honors

Amanda Kelley
Photo Editor/Writer

Men’s cross country

The men’s cross country team had been picked to place second at the Big South Conference Championships sponsored by New Balance.

However, the team had to compete without three of their top seven runners, and instead placed sixth out of the nine competing teams.

Senior Blair Paul was named to both the All-Conference Team and the All-Academic Team with a 3.935 grade point average as a marine science major. Paul placed 10th overall at the league championship meet.

Paul was joined by senior Jake Morris at the NCAA Southeast Regional meet. Paul placed 99th out of 200 runners in the 10k with a personal best time 32:35.85. Morris did not finish the race due to illness.

Women’s cross country

The women’s cross country team ended the season placing second at the Big South Conference Championships sponsored by New Balance.

Diana Jepchirchir placed fifth at the NCAA Southeast Regionals and earned All-Region honors. Jepchirchir’s award continues Chanticleer excellence making this year the 13th consecutive season CCU has had a runner with the All-Region honor.

At regionals, Jepchirchir broke a CCU record in the 6 kilometer run with a time of 20:22.50.

Jepchirchir was joined by Felicitas Mensing, Maranie Staab and Theresa Schamberger in earning All-Conference Honors. All-Conference Honors are awarded by finishing in the top ten at the Big South Championship meet. Jepchirchir placed first, Mensing third and Staab and Schamberger placed ninth and 10th respectively.

Mensing was also selected as 2007 Big South Scholar Athlete of the Year with a 4.0 grade point-average as an applied mathematics major, computer science minor.

BASEBALL CALENDAR

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Ernie Wenzel
CCU hosts Big South front-runners with 7-foot-7 player

Greg Martin
Staff Writer

On Jan. 28 at 6:45 p.m., the line outside the Kimmel arena spilled out into the street when tickets sold out. Inside the stadium the cameras were out, capturing the remarkably tall Kenny George from UNC Asheville.

This towering junior is 7 feet, 7 inches tall, and he proved nearly impossible to shoot over in the key. His shoe is a size 28 and can step across the entire painted ceiling of the court in one large lunge.

George led UNC Asheville to a 56-52 victory over Coastal Carolina University’s men’s basketball team.

CCU exposed the junior’s weakness which was hustling up and down the court. CCU’s Chad Ferguson and David Long successfully forced George out of the lane holding him to only two field goals in the first half.

The Chanticleers held the 7-6 Bulldogs within an eight point lead the entire game. At 19:04 in the second half, the Bulldogs took their first lead of the game.

These two teams went to war underneath, pushed the boundaries, fired shots and hit shots that made the arena jump. The Bulldogs earned a tough 16 points to regain a point lead with less than nine minutes remaining.

Anthony Breeze immediately answered with a powerful dunk at 7:23 hammering the rim with two hands cutting the deficit to one point. CCU fans shot up to their feet like a wave of teal. This jolt of energy in the sold out arena caused the Bulldogs to call a time out.

The Chanticleers emptied the tank on the Bulldogs but it was not enough to prevent them from pulling away in the final six minutes. The last effort 3-pointer was good with 1:39 by Mario Shum to put CCU within two. Reid Augst of the Bulldogs answered with a lay-up to increase their lead to four with one minute left.

The end of the game caused controversy over the spotting of the final throw-in and the remaining time on the clock. Nevertheless, CCU’s last shot came up centimeters short to fall to the division leaders. UNC Asheville is at the top of the Big South Conference and CCU proved they have the skill to unleash the next time they meet.

The next home game is Saturday, Feb. 2 at 1 p.m. against Charleston Southern.

Athletics corner: Squad makes history

Kelly Moore
For The Chanticleer

Coastal Carolina University’s cheerleading squad has come a long way since its inception. This year is the first time in the history of CCU that an all-girl cheerleading squad will be competing for a national championship.

CCU cheerleading has competed at the co-ed national championship level, but is now able to compete at both levels. The all-girl team is comprised of 20 members (only 18 are competing due to injuries) who will be traveling to Orlando, Fla., to take part in the UCA College Championships.

CCU’s team will be competing against Division I teams from across the nation.

Cheerleading at the college level takes a very strong person both physically and mentally. Not only do these athletes cheer at home and away football games, and men’s and women’s basketball games, they also participate in community service events each month. On top of that, they are competing for a national championship.

It has been a long road traveled by these gals from fundraising to last-minute injuries. Through it all, these ladies have persevered in hopes of bringing a national championship award to CCU.
A bundle makes an awesome 3-pointer.

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