Board concludes presidential search: Michael Benson to begin next semester as CCU’s third president

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It was announced today, Oct. 2, 2020, that the Coastal Carolina Board of Trustees selected Coastal Carolina University’s next president.

Michael T. Benson, D. Phil, will “begin serving as the University's third president on Jan. 2, 2021,” the email from the Office of University Marketing said.

Benson has had several years of experience in the field of higher education. The Office of University Marketing gave some insight into his background.

“Benson served as the 13th president of Eastern Kentucky University from 2013 to 2020 and was named president emeritus of EKU in December 2019. While at EKU, he held an appointment as Professor of Government,” the email said. “He is currently a visiting professor in the Department of History and Science and Technology in the Krieger School of Arts and Sciences at Johns Hopkins University.”

Before serving as president at EKU, Benson was the 15th president of Southern Utah University.

At SUU, he “helped secure the designation for SUU as the state’s public liberal arts and sciences university; established the Hispanic Center for Academic Excellence, [etc.],” the Office of University Marketing said in an email.

According to the same email, Benson was also president of Snow College in Ephraim, Utah for five years before serving at SUU. Benson also has background as a member on the Council of Presidents of the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges, on the Presidents’ Trust for the Association of American Colleges and Universities, and on the Task Force on University Partnerships of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities.

Benson’s background seems to make others confident in his ability to take over as president of CCU.

“We are excited to welcome Dr. Benson and as a Board, we firmly believe his leadership talents and experiences are an excellent match for Coastal Carolina University and the advancement of this dynamic institution,” H. Delan Stevens, vice chairman of the University’s Board of Trustees and Chairman of the Board’s Presidential Search Committee, said in an email.

Benson looks forward to becoming a part of the CCU community.

“My family and I are ecstatic to be joining Coastal Carolina University,” he said in a CCU press release. “We appreciate the board of trustees entrusting us with this amazing responsibility, and we pledge to do everything we can to build on the solid foundation already in place. There are limitless opportunities ahead. What a great time to be a Chanticleer. We can look forward to getting involved on campus and in the community and to helping our students succeed any way we can.”

The current president, David A. DeCenzo, Ph.D, will not be officially retiring until June 30, 2021. He will remain available through the spring semester to ensure a smooth transition.
Why the Chat N’ Chew is such an important part of CCU history

Shelbi R. Ankiewicz // Assistant Editor

The Chat N’ Chew restaurant in Turbeville, South Carolina, is an important part of CCU’s history, and the building is now up for sale.

The current owner, Bernard Blackman, has gotten to the point in his life where he wants to settle down and retire. That is why the Chat N’ Chew is on the market to be sold. He will keep the restaurant open until he finds a buyer, but he wants to ensure that the new owner will keep the restaurant as is, since there is so much history attached to the building.

“I just want a good person to keep it, of course, keeping it in the same name,” said Blackman during a phone interview.

According to the book, “Coastal Carolina: The First 50 Years,” written by CCU’s retired history professor Roy Talbert Jr., Coastal originally did not want to be a part of USC. They wanted to be their own junior college, rather than be swallowed up by a bigger university. Yet, USC’s division director, Nick Mitchell, who oversaw the expansion of USC, had other plans in mind.

Ken East, a former secretary of the Coastal Carolina board, input a quote for Talbert’s book and said, “Since Horry pioneered in establishing the first tax supported junior college in the state, the group felt that we should use all the sources we could to maintain our identity as an independent community college.”

During the summer of 1959, Mitchell held USC classes in Myrtle Beach. The number of students that enrolled equaled the same amount, if not more, than the number of students that were enrolled at Coastal. This was due to the amount of resources and availability USC had, since they were already an established university. After Coastal realized this, they knew they could not compete, for they did not have the same funding as USC.

According to Coastal Carolina’s website, this was the turning point for the Coastal Carolina Junior College. The officials from the two institutions met at the Chat N’ Chew in the summer of 1959, and officially declared Coastal Carolina would then be named the University of South Carolina’s Coastal Carolina Extension Center, starting in the fall of 1960.

The reason this is so profound is because USC helped establish CCU as the university it is today. Prior to becoming a branch of USC, Coastal only offered a two-year educational program and had little to no funding. Then, once USC stepped in, CCU slowly became a four-year institution with thousands of students. If Coastal never became a part of USC, the university would not be where it is now.

CCU graduate student, Ashaar Arbali, agrees that the Chat N’ Chew is an important part of history that must be preserved because of the significant decisions that have been made there.

“It would be kind of sad because it’s like an end to an era in a way because right now you can still go there, and it’s filled with teal stuff,” said Arbali. “You know the president went there, and they had a flag put up and all that stuff, so it’s pretty cool to see that part of like history, for Coastal at that spot.”

The address for the Chat N’ Chew is 112 Main St., Turbeville, South Carolina, 29162. The restaurant is about one and a half hours away from Coastal Carolina University. I
CCU ranked Best Value School by U.S. News and World Report for fourth

Coastal Carolina University placed within the top six Best Value Schools category in the U.S. News and World Report for the fourth year in a row, and also placed in six other categories.

This year CCU placed at No. 6 out of 56 universities in the Best Value category for the Southern region. The calculation for this category “takes into account the school’s academic quality and net cost of attendance,” a CCU email explained.

CCU President David A. DeCenzo commented on the university’s placements on the list.

“The Coastal Carolina University administration, faculty, and staff continue to work very hard to help raise the overall profile of the University,” said DeCenzo in an email. “We approach every day with a student-first mentality. The various rankings by U.S. News and World Report provide evidence that we are offering students a top-quality education at a reasonable cost.”

CCU also ranked No. 45 in Regional Universities, tying with University of Puerto Rico-Mayaguez and dropping a few places from last year’s ranking at No. 41. Regional universities are “defined as institutions that provide a full range of undergraduate programs, some master’s programs, and few doctoral programs,” a CCU email explained. After meeting these qualifications, a university can be considered against others within the same region: North, South, Midwest, or West.

The university was ranked at No. 14 in the Most Innovative Schools category, tying with University of West Florida. This was the third consecutive year that CCU was listed in this category; this year placing five spots higher than last.

“Inclusion in this category is based on nominations by college presidents, provosts, and admissions deans, who were asked to nominate up to 15 colleges in their ranking categories that are making the most innovative improvements in terms of curriculum, faculty, students, campus life, technology, or facilities,” a CCU email said.

CCU also ranked at No. 15 in Best Undergraduate Teaching tying with four other universities in the category, and No. 19 in Top Public Schools tying, once again, with University of Puerto Rico-Mayaguez. The university was also placed at No. 27 at Best Colleges for Veterans which is a drop from last year’s placement at No. 25. The rankings for this category are based off which colleges provide the most “benefits for veterans and active-duty service members,” the U.S. News and World Report website said.

CCU is currently No. 70 in the Top Performers on Social Mobility category, tying with three other universities. The U.S. News and World Report website explained how the rankings in the social mobility category are determined.

“Some colleges are more successful than others at advancing social mobility by enrolling and graduating large proportions of disadvantaged students awarded with Pell Grants,” the U.S. News and World Report’s website said. “The vast majority of these federal grants are awarded to students whose adjusted gross family incomes are under $50,000.”

To some, these placements are a sign that CCU is providing the experience that students are promised.

“Placing so high in categories that speak to our mission provide access to higher education, sends a positive message to our students and their families,” said Dan Ennis, CCU’s provost and vice president of academic affairs, in an email.
Editor’s Note: This article was written in April 2020, but never published in print due to COVID-19.

Ally, an application embedded through Moodle, allows students to use alternative file formats such as PDF, HTML, ePub, electronic braille, and audio. Ally also provides translation of Moodle announcements and assignments in 50 foreign languages. Additionally, file recovery assistance is available to professors whose files may not be readily accessible.

Katerina Teruel, a senior communications major with a concentration in PR, has been able to work alongside the Director of the Coastal Office of Online Learning, Sherri Restauri, to become familiarized with Ally. Teruel has used this platform for some classes since she has learned about the online feature. She admits not having seen the icon for Ally on Moodle in the past; she assumed if her professor did not mention Ally then it was not anything to worry about. Teruel even brought it to a few of her professors’ attention.

“Play around with Ally,” Teruel said, “it doesn’t hurt; it’s right there on Moodle and it’s free.”

Kelly A. Parnell, Online Learning Systems Administrator, was able to expand on the knowledge that Ally offers. Parnell is familiar with the Moodle as an online management system, and she works to integrate other tools for students at Coastal Carolina University.

“Ally is an accessibility tool which means that it is integrated writing on Moodle and anytime a faculty member uploads any type of document; Ally scans it to make sure it is compliant, and if it is not, then it alerts the faculty member,” she said. “Part of the Ally tool is giving students an option to download in a variety of alternative formats.”

Parnell says the MP3 option is the most used format among scholars because it allows them flexibility to listen on the go. Another feature she highlighted was, “ePub, which is for your Kindles and iPads; you can actually go into a document and make digital notations to an article or file that is uploaded.”

Parnell wishes for faculty to promote Ally to students so they know it is available as a resource. She encourages professors to use it for themselves as well because it is a learning tool for everyone.
Revealing the science behind COVID-19

Sierra Mahoney//Reporter

Editor's Note: This article was written in April 2020, but never published in print due to COVID-19.

Countless reports about the novel Coronavirus have been released. Cases and deaths have reached record numbers. States and even whole countries are on lockdown or in quarantine in attempt to control this perilous pandemic. The decrease in socialization, or social distancing, is starting to reap positive benefit in China as well as other countries around the world. Many people just watch the news, but it may help for some to know the science behind the virus.

COVID-19 was first detected in Wuhan, China. It is believed to have been sourced in a laboratory. From China, the virus quickly spread through the air from person to person. At the start of the infection in the US, the virus appeared to only severely affect the elderly and those who are immunocompromised, meaning they've got a weakened immune system that could be due to underlying health conditions, or those that do have underlying health conditions. As the months dragged on, more people who didn't fit that exact mold seemed to be getting sick. Little kids to healthy adults caught this new virus and some cases were severe. Death tolls rose and people started to panic. Even those who didn’t show symptoms suddenly were testing positive. The virus is now a pandemic and a scary one at that. What exactly is the Coronavirus though?

COVID-19 is a virus, and viruses occur in the natural world. These are pathogens that are both alive and dead as they have characteristics of both. A virus needs a host to live and reproduce so it is considered dead, but it also creates its own genes, either RNA or DNA, showing that it is alive as well. This virus is one of those.

According to an article in LiveScience, the host cells have the mechanisms for the virus to replicate and therefore, infect the host. This process within the host allows viruses to produce RNA from the host’s DNA, allowing proteins to be built and passages into cells. When a virus is ready to infect, it is known as a virion. A virion consists of an inner nucleic core (where the genes are held) and the area is surrounded by proteins, knowns as a capsid. The capsid protects the genes from being attacked by the host cells. Finally, on top of the capsid is another protective layer that is called the envelope and is created using little bits from the cell membrane of the host that the virus modifies and uses.

The primary role of the virus is to deliver its genes to the host cell so that those genes can be transcribed and expressed by said host cell. Viruses get to a cell through an opening in the body such as cuts, or the eyes and mouth. Once the virus is inside the host, it will attach to cell surface receptors and are able to move through the membrane. Once this process is done, the virus disrupts normal parts of the cell and releases its own genes into the host cell, starting an infection.

Now what does this pathogen look like and what are the basics to understand?

According to John Hopkins Medicine, ‘Corona’ means crown and this particular family of viruses are shaped like a crown under the microscope. Different coronaviruses can cause other, common diseases in humans, such as the cold and other respiratory illnesses. Still other species can infect animals and on rare occasions, such as COVID-19, it is possible that the virus jumped from animal to human.

This particular strain is getting so much attention because it is new and unpredictable. There is no cure for it, and it is affecting every differently, plus it is spreading fast with no cure right now. The virus moves through the air from person to person; the droplets containing the virus can stay aloft for about 6ft, hence the mandatory 6ft rule for social distancing that we should all be practicing, though it is still not entirely clear if that is the main way of transport or if touch could be involved.

But, our bodies are also designed to deal with and catch those viruses in the process. There are common viruses that we encounter every day, sometimes you may not even know about it. The body is well equipped to protect against any invaders and most of the time, that’s exactly what it does and will continue to do until the end of life.

// Photo courtesy of Eden Alon.
Coastal Carolina beats Campbell at first home game of the season

On Friday, Sept. 18, Coastal Carolina’s football team celebrated its second win of the season in its home opener, defeating the Camels of Campbell University, 43-21.

The Chanticleers jumped out with a commanding 14-0 lead in the first quarter. Both of these first two touchdowns came on the ground and were scored by senior running back, CJ Marable, and junior running back, Shermari Jones.

To begin the scoring for the Camels, redshirt sophomore, Robert Brown, kicked a 45 yard field goal, making the score 14-3. Then a redshirt freshman quarterback, Grayson McCall, passed a touchdown to junior wide receiver, Jaivon Heiligh, extending the Chanticleer’s lead to 21-3. Marable then scored his second touchdown of the night from nine yards out to cap off a drive lasting less than one minute. This gave Coastal a 36-15 lead.

On the longest and last Coastal Carolina scoring play of the night, quarterback McCall threw a 57 yard touchdown pass to junior tight end, Isaiah Likely. The Camels scored the last touchdown of the game on a four yard touchdown run by sophomore running back, Hajj-Malik Williams, resulting in a final score of 43-21 in Coastal’s favor.

Notable Chanticleer stat lines on the offensive side include McCall’s 11-for 16, 273 yards and two touchdown night, as well as Marable’s 11 rushes for 54 yards and two touchdowns. As for the Chanticleer defense, senior linebacker, Silas Kelly, had eight tackles, including two sacks and two tackles for loss. Sophomore nose tackle, Jerrod Clark, who has been on the rise the past couple of games according to coaches, also had a sack.

Coaches have had high praise for Clark.

In regards to a question asking him if anyone on the defense stood out to him, Defensive coordinator Chad Staggs commented on Clark’s performance on the field.

“He’s turned into a dominant force on the field and has really surprised me,” Staggs said.

Head coach Jamey Chadwell was happy about the win, but also expressed that they could still improve on some things.

“I’m pleased with the team overall, I think there’s a lot of things we can improve on, we’ll start on that tomorrow, and then we have a couple of weeks here to get ready for Sun Belt,” said Chadwell.
Coastal Carolina University played their second home football game this past Saturday against Arkansas State and won, 52-23, improving to a 3-0 and 1-0 conference.

This was CCU’s first win against the Red Wolves in the fourth matchup between the teams.

The team strived offensively, manufacturing 539 yards: 322 passing and 217 rushing. Senior running back, CJ Marable, led the team in rushing with 15 carries for 63 yards and a touchdown. Junior running back, Shermari Jones, and freshman running back, Braydon Bennett, both also rushed for one touchdown each.

Quarterback, Grayson McCall, once again topped the Chanticleer stat book with 322 passing yards along with 44 rushing and four touchdowns, throwing one interception.

McCall cited great coaching and established the run game as two of the reasons why the team has had early success.

“Our coaches have put us in a really good position to be successful, we have a good game plan every week,” said McCall. “Our offensive line has been doing really well to the point where we’ve been able to establish the run so we can open up some other stuff in the pass game.”

The quarterback also provided insight into how he thinks the team can improve.

“This past game, we had three turnovers but we still managed to put up 52 points,” he said before explaining that if they could limit the turnovers, they could continue to have a very efficient offense.

Defensively, the Chanticleers got the job done, as well. Senior defensive end, Tarron Jackson, had three tackles, including two sacks. The team allowed just 23 points the whole game. One of the touchdowns came with just five minutes remaining, signifying that CCU only allowed 17 points all the way up until there were only five minutes left in the fourth quarter.

French film “Mignonnes,” or “Cuties” in English, was released on Netflix in early September, creating major controversy.

The movie, directed by Maimouna Doucoure, is about an 11-year-old Muslim girl named Amy, who joins a group of dancers her age called, “The Cuties.” The type of dancing they perform could be presumed as twerking or grinding, while wearing skimpy outfits that show a good amount of skin. In the film, Amy’s mother gets upset because Amy is going against their religion and becoming an embarrassment to the family.

Right away, based off that description, many Americans went ballistic over the movie before it even came out. I was even surprised when I first read about it. Various Twitter users expressed their opinions of the film on social media.

“There is a movie called Cuties on Netflix. I saw the poster of it, and I was pretty much stunned at what Netflix did,” said an online user in a tweet. “Bad enough the movie was made, although I’m sure the person who made the film had a legit reason. Still, Cuties is a movie that should never have existed.”

Most of the bad reputation for the film originally came from the poster Netflix chose to advertise the movie. Netflix chose an image of the young girls wearing small clothing and standing in provocative positions. Whereas in France, when the movie was released, it did not have the same controversy.
Netflix movie, “Cuties”, receives backlash after a misleading poster

Shelbi Ankiewicz // Assistant Editor

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Most of the bad reputation for the film originally came from the poster Netflix chose to advertise the movie. Netflix chose an image of the young girls wearing small clothing and standing in provocative positions. Whereas in France, when the movie was released, the poster featured the girls walking down a street holding shopping bags and jumping around.

Because Netflix made this decision, they were given a lot of hate, to the point where people were threatening to cancel their Netflix subscriptions if the movie was not removed.

Coastal Carolina University Language and Intercultural Studies instructor, Melanie Giraud, expressed her feelings about the poster.

“Well, my main problem with the movie in the U.S. is how Netflix used the image of the movie,” said Giraud in a zoom interview. “Descendants version of the movie, when you see the poster in order to publicize the movie, it’s not the same at all. It’s young girls in the street, they’re not exactly showing that much skin, you know it’s more about them, thinking about dancing, going out etc.”

Giraud is from France. She has lived in the United States for 20 years now. She understands the difference between movies, cultural wise, and how the meanings differ depending on the country’s societal norms.

“In France, we would look at it like an artistic movie, above all, because it was made by someone from immigration, and it’s more like artistic, etc.,” said Giraud.

Aside from the young girls in the film, there is a lot of background information that must be understood to understand what the movie is portraying. The main character, Amy, comes from a Muslim family, where polygamy is accepted. This means that the man can have up to four wives. Once Amy discovers that her father is coming home to get married to another woman, she becomes furious, and that is when she begins to “rebel.”

The incentive behind the film was to portray a girl entering womanhood. This idea was based off the producer’s experience from when she was a child. Doucouré wanted to show how difficult it is for young girls to grow up when living in between two cultures. One of the reasons the main character Amy, wanted to be a part of the dance group, was to get attention from someone. She saw videos of women on social media that danced in a very provocative style, and people went crazy over it. So, in return, she mimicked them. Since people do not understand the reasoning behind the film, they jump straight to conclusions.

Giraud said, “I think that is also why in the United States this movie is so problematic, is that there is a lot of the French background that people don’t have.”

This was not an enjoyable movie for me to watch. In America, we grow up with different societal norms, of which this movie does not portray as acceptable. Although, after doing research, I understand why people would enjoy this film and applaud it. I would not recommend it to anyone unless they understand the artistic viewpoints of foreign films.
Deyah Pereira and Jurnee Jamison // Photo by Eden Alon.

Daysha Lindsay shows off her mask // Photo by Eden Alon.

Brian Roessler // Photo by Eden Alon.

Stephen Ross takes a break from working to show some school spirit // Photo by Eden Alon.
The CCU community shows off their masks

Dalyn Harris and Jabbar Williams have fun in the game room, wearing their masks // Photo by Eden Alon.

Dr. Bergeron and Dr. Green // Photo by Eden Alon.

Reginald Neville // Photo by Eden Alon.

Katie Angulo // Photo by Eden Alon.
Robin Edwards-Russell, an associate professor of theatre, went viral on TikTok for dancing; a story was released by University Communication around late August. Russell’s daughter, Grainger, recorded a TikTok video of her mother dancing on Zoom with students on the first day of classes. Dance Day is a tradition where Russell gets her students to dance for an unspecified amount of time.

“There’s so many things that you could see in a person. The one thing that I see in somebody is, of course, their stamina. The other thing I look at is: ‘Are they capable of making big choices?’” said Russell.

In acting, Russell stated that actors [and actresses] love to make large choices and take a leap of faith. Dance Day allows Russell to observe students’ personalities as they endure this “mini-boot camp.” People dance in a way that shows their uniqueness through their movements.

Russell’s idea for Dance Day was inspired by Polish theatrical director, Jerzy Grotowski.

“He would make his acting troupe run miles and miles and miles until exhaustion and then they would come in to start class. His whole principle was: Until you can get everything exhausted and all the masks come off, can real emotion come out,” said Russell.

Russell and Sota have known and worked alongside each other in the Department of Theatre for seven years.

“Yes, she is the host of Coastal Today, and is an artist whose work transcends video and live performance. She wears her heart on her sleeve and is one of the best student advocates in the university,” Sota said.

“I would say it’s a great way for professors to get people involved and maybe get students out of their comfort zones, especially those who maybe have a harder time doing classes through the online setting,” United States Marine veteran and CCU senior, Devin McCullough, said.

McCullough believes that student engagement is the most important thing professors can do to ensure students fully understand the material.

Initially, Russell did not intend to host Dance Day over Zoom, since it was traditionally done face-to-face in a classroom. She called it a “happy accident.” With 15 minutes before class was supposed to start, she decided to just go ahead and have the students dance via Zoom.

When it comes to acting, Russell said, “you learn who you are and you learn about other people.”

In spring 2021, Russell will be teaching THEA*230 - Complete Stage Makeup, THEA*364 - Acting III Studio, and THEA*499 - Theater Capstone Project.
Events scheduled to take place near Conway area through this fall

While COVID-19 has caused many events to be canceled or postponed, some festivities are still scheduled to take place along the Grand Strand this fall.

Sept. 26 – Oct. 31: Boone Hall Fright Nights

If you’re willing to take a road trip to Mount Pleasant, Boone Hall Fright Nights will take place every week from Sept. 26 up until Halloween night. They will be open from 7:15 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays, and 7:15 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. on Thursdays and Sundays. Tickets are on sale now and due to COVID-19, there are a limited amount available. The Scream-Pass costs $30 per ticket and includes one admission to each of the three attractions. The VIP Faster to the Fear Pass costs $50 per ticket and includes one admission to each of the three attractions with special access lines that reduce the wait time. Tickets for each individual attraction are also available for $15.

Oct. 22-24: Conway Ghost Walk

Taking place in downtown Conway, professional storytellers will tell tales of the “lowcountry haints through the shadowy streets of Downtown Conway,” according to Conway Downtown Alive. Stories will begin at 6 p.m. and one will be told every 15 minutes until 8 p.m. Tickets are $15 for this self-guided tour which includes seven stops on a 1.2-mile route.

Nov. 7: Taste of Georgetown

This event is set to take place from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m. at 800 Front Street in Georgetown and will feature foods from more than 20 restaurants. The Taste of Georgetown is a fundraiser for the Family Justice Center which is a non-profit organization that provides services for victims of domestic violence.

Want to see your ad on thechanticleer.com & right here in print?

Contact our business manager Garrett Kalenick for information: ggkalenic@coastal.edu
Fall is here, and it’s time for a makeover. Enjoy these trendy, and inexpensive, clothing items to spice up your wardrobe.

1) **Sweater vest with a pop of color: $18**

   Sweater vests have been turning heads this fall, and I can’t get enough of them. With a pop of color, this stylish, cozy look can be dressed up, or dressed down. For a dressed-up look, pair it with mom jeans, and a bodysuit, or collared shirt underneath. If you want a comfier look, pair it with leggings and a long sleeve underneath.

2) **Grid skirt: $19.99**

   Grid skirts are simple, yet stylish. They have a sophisticated pattern that can be paired with anything. To accentuate the look for Fall, add a chunky sweater or pull-over. These pairings will make you look classy, and cute.

3) **Ugly Halloween sweater: $19.99**

   Yes, you heard that right... ugly Halloween sweaters. If you want to move a little out-of-the-box, try pairing an ugly Halloween sweater with some jeans, so the sweater can be the star of the show, aside from you, of course.

4) **Plaid pants: $15**

   Plaid pants add the perfect amount of flare to a simple look. To finish the look, add a fitted long sleeve, and lots of fun accessories like earrings, rings, and a layered necklace.

5) **Fall floral midi dress: $21 (on sale)**

   If you’re looking for something a little more girly, try out a fall floral midi dress. They’re the perfect length for the season, and scream fall. Top the look off with boots, and a fedora-style hat.

6) **Funky Patterned Cardigan: $25**

   Cardigans are a must-have when it comes to fall fashion, so why not make the cardigan the centerpiece? Try pairing this funky cardigan with a jean skirt and a plain crop top.

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**Culture 13**

**Six trendy and inexpensive outfits to wear this fall**

Madelyn Sipola // Reporter

Everywhere we look right now, there are divisions that are running deep in our society with historical roots, which can be traced back centuries.

CCU junior Justin Sisler said, “Our system is set up in such a way that it does benefit a few people. So, it’s easier to look and pinpoint ‘those guys are making us suffer,’ because that’s how the structure was built.”

Within this division, there are many parallel and simultaneous truths that exist and are ignored. The ignorance of these truths only works to further divide people and prevents legitimate legislative or social action from solving these troubles.

“We don’t even think to ask, ‘Who are these people who have left us at each other throats debating an inappropriate multiple-choice question that can never be answered,’” said American Economist Eric Weinstein on “The more girly, try out a fall floral midi dress. They’re the perfect length for the season, and scream fall. Top the look off with boots, and a fedora-style hat. Funky Patterned Cardigan . // Photo courtesy of Shein.
The current political climate of the U.S. has many begging for change

Adam Allen // Reporter

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“We don’t even think to ask, ‘Who are these people who have left us at each other throats debating an inappropriate multiple-choice question that can never be answered,’” said American Economist Eric Weinstein on “The Portal,” a podcast.

These truths are not limited to the current, obvious situations, but are applicable to most issues discussed in a public setting. Often this behavior is driven by the improper framing of arguments between binary choices. Our choices and interpretations lie on a broad spectrum with the optimal view of events constantly shifting. This is due to the variety of individual choices which make up a dynamic socio-political environment. Acknowledging these truths can lead to a better understanding of any complex topic.

Poet Margaret Sitawa said, “Our failure as humans becomes illness and lethal when we cling to our differences. Of tribes, races and class. Of religion, cultures and gender. We forget who we are; blood, skin and bones, hearts, minds and souls. A sick world in need of healing.”

There are many examples of truths that may be beneficial to simultaneously acknowledge for the purposes of productive discourse and compassionate policy making. Capitalism has produced the most prosperous and innovative society in recorded history, simultaneously it has created wealth disparities nationally and globally which must addressed in order to create a more equitable society moving forward. Every unarmed individual who dies by the actions of a law enforcement officer is a tragedy to be mourned by the nation and should provoke an introspective look at the institutions in place, that uphold the legal frameworks and the interactions between these structures and the civilian population. The policies designed by one party are designed with the intent to move its nation towards a prosperous end, simultaneously the platforms designed by another party are designed with the intent to move its nation towards a prosperous end.

In George Washington’s farewell address, he spoke on the dangers of tribalism and politicized figures when he said, “Whence designing men may endeavor to excite a belief that there is a real difference of local interests and views. One of the expedients of party to acquire influence within particular districts is to misrepresent the opinions and aims of other districts.”

The calls for the reduction of division in America’s national political system are not new. They have been a constant fear since the emergence of our bipartisan system, yet there is little practical advice given during these pleas for unity.

This is not designed to dissuade any persons from their passions or convictions of values. The hope is to supply practical outlooks that will give one the ability to conduct effective conversations with peers and policy makers, in order to achieve what everyone desires: a prosperous and equitable society.
The play, “Hamilton,” strongly relates to current U.S. political situation

Adam Allen // Reporter

The hit Broadway play, and now movie, “Hamilton,” delivers brilliant performances, but perhaps more interesting are the lessons useful for today’s political environment.

One of the most important relationships in the play is between Aaron Burr and Alexander Hamilton. Their relationship shows the overt juxtaposition of inaction and energy in politics and governing. This contrast is expanded through the songs, “Wait for It,” and “Non-Stop,” where Burr’s apathetic attitude toward taking political stances and Hamilton’s ethic and political energy are demonstrated. What is important to note is the variance in outcomes for the men; Hamilton becoming possibly the most important founder to never become president and Burr relegated to a footnote in history as his murderer.

“I’m not standing still; I am lying in wait,” Burr said in “Wait for It.”

Today’s politics are disfigured by a mass of Burr-like characters, with congress locked in constant legislative battles that are only escalated by deadlocks with the White House. The popularity of politicians who run on little to no concrete platform, are malleable beyond recognition and seem to be the norm among the many elected officials. Particularly as the population base of the election grow.

CCU senior, and avid “Hamilton” fan, Ariana Monroe said, “Later in the play, Hamilton endorses Jefferson strictly because ‘Jefferson has beliefs and Burr has none,’ with the background choir singing ‘we know it’s lose-lose.’ Both of these phrases relate heavily to today’s society.”

Another important and timeless aspect of politics that “Hamilton” highlights, is the division inherent in our bipartisan system. There are several examples of this verbal warfare throughout the play, specifically Hamilton’s feuds with Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, John Adams, and of course our friend Aaron Burr (which ended in bloodshed). Hamilton’s uncivil discourse with Jefferson, Madison, and Burr fell along the partisan lines of the Federalist versus the Democratic-Republicans.

“At the end of ‘Hamilton,’ Burr sings the song, ‘The world was wide enough.’ In this song there is a lyric that goes as follows, ‘I should’ve known the world was wide enough for Hamilton and me,” said Monroe in reference to Hamilton’s political lessons. “Burr learned this lesson once it was too late. I believe it is an important lesson that we, as Americans, can learn before it is too late. As the political spectrum continues to deeply divide, we should all take a step back and understand the world is wide enough for everyone to have different ideas and live in harmony.”

These political rivalries were often extremely contentious with open insults, character defamation, and demonization of policies. In fact, these public disagreements were much less civil than those of today. With this in mind, we can salvage some hope for the current political environment that has dissolved into the name-calling and fiery absolutist language it is. We have founders who worked together to frame American Republicanism and established the structures to enforce it. If we could produce much nastier rhetoric than what we are currently witnessing, then our modern society, with more developed views of social equality and classical liberalism, can certainly salvage its divided political state.

The play “Hamilton,” is designed to draw many parallels to the modern political structure, and it achieves this end to a strong effect. Now we can only hope that the people who currently sit in power will be inspired by the example of this founder to modify their behavior in a way that produces a more optimal outcome than the current political realities.

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Fall Crossword

**Across**
4. Jewish Holiday, Rosh ______
7. Scary Holiday
8. Fall from oak trees
9. Change colors
11. For carving and pie
13. Color

**Down**
1. Used to frighten birds
2. Feast Holiday
3. Tool to clean the grass of leaves
5. Marks the end of the growing season
6. Squirrel
10. Another name for Fall
12. Grows on stalks
Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is a new strain that was discovered in 2019 and has not been previously identified in humans.
Editor’s Note:

We’ve made it halfway through the semester despite all of the obstacles and adjustments that we’ve had to endure for everyone’s health and safety due to COVID-19. It’s definitely been a semester nobody will forget, and possibly the beginning of a “new normal.” Thank you to Coastal Carolina University’s faculty and staff for everything they have done to ensure students have a successful and safe semester. Thank you to the professors who have been helpful, understanding and flexible while also making sure students are still learning the material during this time. And, thank you to our readers for your support.

If you are interested in being involved with the student paper, whether it be for reporting, photography or social media projects, please reach out if you would like more information. You can email me at albrennan@coastal.edu. I’d love to answer any questions you may have.

Continue following health and safety guidelines as we begin the second half of the semester. Stay well, Chants.
Meet the Staff

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