

5-4-2023

The Chanticleer, 2023-05-04

Coastal Carolina University

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THE CHANTICLEER

May 4, 2023



THE CHANTICLEER

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The Chanticleer declares itself a public forum. All letters to the editor must be typed, signed, or emailed with the author's name, address, phone number, major, and position or relation to the college. All letters should be limited to 250 words. With no exceptions, all letters will be edited for length, clarity, and libelous or lewd material. Any accusations made in letters by the author are subject to confirmation. All letters must be supported by factual materials.

Letters must be delivered to *The Chanticleer* office in Room 205B in the Lib Jackson Student Union. Letters can also be emailed to thechanticleer@coastal.edu.

The Chanticleer is printed weekly. Articles in *The Chanticleer* do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the staff of the paper or of Coastal Carolina University.

CCU later, Class of 2023

By Caroline Surface

This weekend's graduation ceremonies will be in-person May 5 and 6 to celebrate the university and college level graduate's achievements.

Senior language and intercultural studies major Teddy Yazvac says this has been a long time coming. They said they are very excited to graduate but wanted to share some advice.

"This senior year has really been the hardest, but it's just so important with all the things we are doing to keep on working as hard as we can," they said.

Senior public health and psychology major Beth Woods said she is going to miss Coastal Carolina University but is looking forward to the graduation events and her future career.

"I think with us graduating now, it's important to remain in contact with our professors and the staff at Coastal because they have so many networking connections for jobs and grad school," she said. "I know that I'm definitely going to remain in contact with so many of my mentors."

In addition to the University Commencement on Friday, five separate ceremonies for Coastal's different colleges will be held in the

HTC Center. Tickets are required for all college ceremonies. Students earning degrees in sustainability and coastal resilience, or women's and gender studies, will be recognized at the Gupta College of Science and HTC Honors College ceremony.

The college ceremonies are as follows:

Friday, May 5

- Wall College of Business Administration: 2 p.m.
- Gupta College of Science and HTC Honors College: 6 p.m.

Saturday, May 6

- Edwards College of Humanities and Fine Arts: 10 a.m.
- Conway Medical Center College of Health and Human Performance: 2 p.m.
- Spadoni College of Education and Social Sciences: 6 p.m.

Graduation ceremonies started as early as April 12 and continued through the following weeks. Some of these events included the international sash ceremony, Lackey awards dinner, student involvement and leadership awards,

and lavender graduation brunch.

The university-wide commencement ceremony will be held Friday, May 5 at 9 a.m. in Brooks Stadium. This ceremony is not a ticketed event.

During University Commencement, each dean will step forward and request for President Michael Benson award degrees to the college candidates as they stand to be recognized. Attendees will also hear speeches from Benson, the board of trustees and CCU alumni including guest commencement speaker Brooke Weisbrod.

Weisbrod is a college basketball analysis for ESPN. Weisbrod played basketball for Coastal Carolina where she was named Big South Player of the Year, the Big South Scholar Athlete of the Year, and the NCAA Woman of the Year for South Carolina. She graduated from Coastal in 2001 with a degree in Marketing.

She started working for ESPN in 2003 and covers men's and women's basketball telecasts across various ESPN platforms. Additionally, she covers college basketball and football as a sideline reporter.



Congratulations Class of 2023



Graphic by Tiera Rivers

Career services serves students

By Brooklynn Hughes

Offering a variety of opportunities, Career Services at Coastal Carolina University has the mission of helping students build their own professional success.

Major and Career Selection

Helping students find their perfect career path is part of the job of career and major counseling. Through the provided career assessment tool, students can fill out a self-report to investigate different majors and find the one that best fits them.

Additionally, students can see occupations and companies who hire graduates with majors they have selected. Job shadowing opportunities are also available through the Career Services web page.

Job Search

The job search page found through career services provides multiple employment search engines for students in search of internships and careers. Handshake, CareerShift, Big Interview, and BuzzFile are linked on the website to help students in their post-graduation job search. Also linked online is a salary negotiation guide to help students achieve their highest potential.

Resume Help

Resume and cover letter templates are available online along with the opportunity to schedule a meeting with faculty to perfect a resume draft. Different templates are available for each college within the University.

Internships

While gaining professional skills, experience in their fields, and academic credit, students can access links to internships all across the world. Career Services provides both individual assistance during every step of the process as well as opportunities to encourage students from all majors to review available resources.

Graduate School Information

Free resources and guides are available to help students research and explore graduate school options. Along with test preparation, the website includes tips on writing a personal statement and links to graduate school exams.

Chants Career Handouts

Including links and worksheets to all previously mentioned academic opportunities, Chants Career Handouts is the place to go when looking for tips and guidelines for career search aid. Steps to curate the perfect LinkedIn account can be found on the web-page.



Illustration by Tiera Rivers

CCU Student or Alumni?

We can help whether you are a first time offender or facing serious criminal charges



Ryne "Josh" Kochan

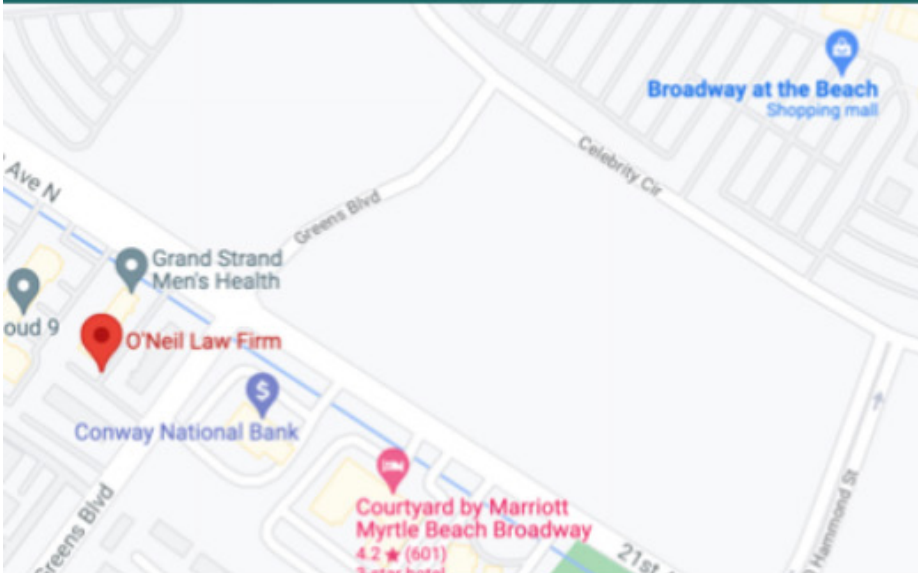
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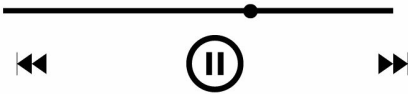
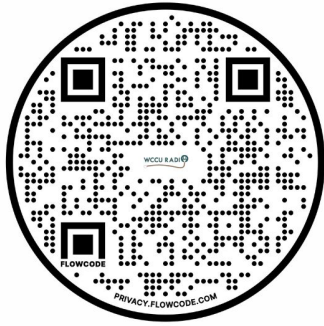
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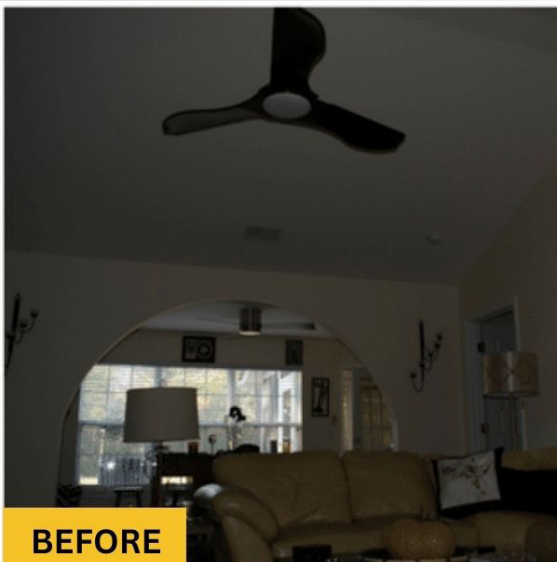
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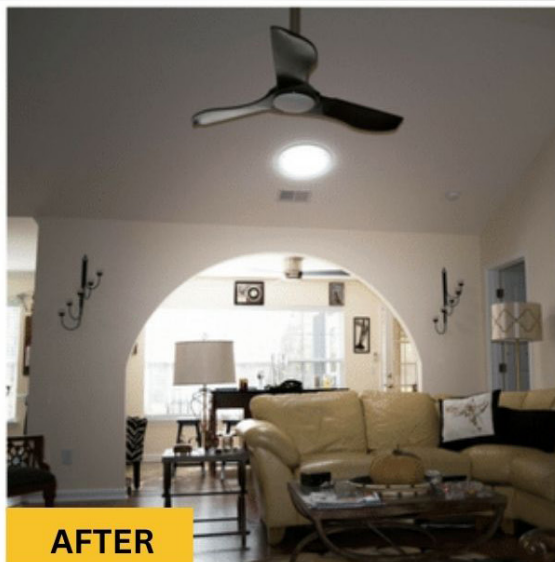
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Songs for the Summer

By Jacob Ackerman

We've made it to summer, and there's only one more thing to do: party and have fun. However, a party isn't the same without music. We have looked at a lot of interesting music this past year, so let's talk about some great songs for the summer. Since we live in a beach city, we have to have some beachy vibes. But first, we must congratulate our graduates with "Congratulations" by Post Malone. They are on to the next stage in life, and it is quite a big step.

The most obvious pick needed is obviously "Wipeout" by The Surfaris. I know we don't catch too many big waves here, but it's still an undoubtedly beachy song. Along with "Ocean Man" by Ween, "Surfin USA" by The Beach Boys, "Upside Down" by Jack Johnson, and "Summertime Sadness" by Lana Del Ray.

The fact we live really close to the beach, and it's always decently warm enough to be outside, means we always have a few beach vibes or at least somewhere great to walk and just hang around outside. So of course, the list I give won't be even remotely enough to last the summer, but it could help find some other songs you like that matches the vibe.

Summer is a time for chilling out and hanging on the beach. The songs that come to mind when I think of a beach day with friends are ones that really capture that happy-go-lucky feeling. Songs like "Walking On A Dream" by Empire of the sun, "Electric Avenue" by Eddy Grant, "Down Under" by Men At Work, and "Another One Bites The Dust" by Queen.

Then, there are kind of beachy songs by bands that have numerous great songs that deserve mention. However, I'm going to point out some of the more underrated ones. These include "In Bloom" by Nirvana, "Sick Love" by Red

Hot Chili Peppers, "San Tropez" by Pink Floyd, "Badfish" by Sublime, "Panama" by Van Halen.

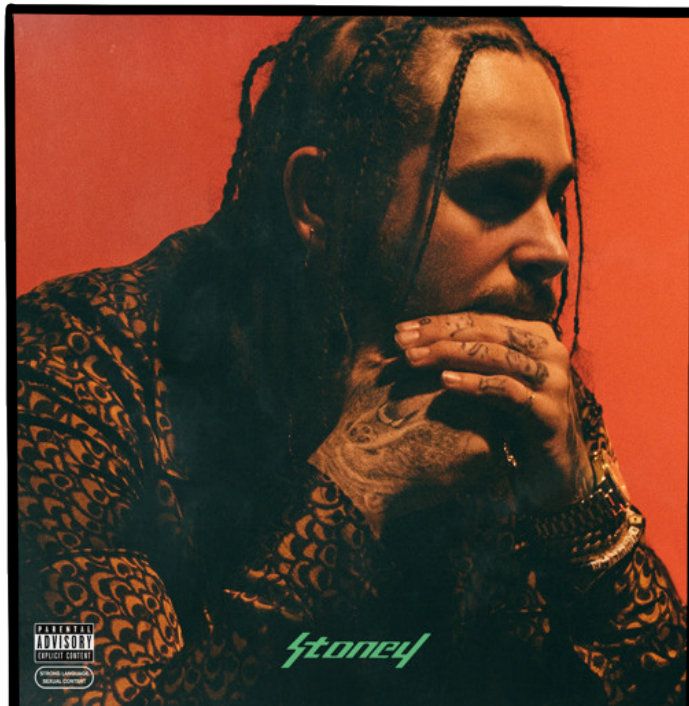
Songs that will be more suited for the nighttime rides or just chilling in the night, include "One Night In The City" by DIO, "GONE, GONE/ THANK YOU" by Tyler The Creator, "Tokyo Drifting" by Glass Animals, "Chemical" by Post Malone, "3005" by Childish Gambino, and "The Eternal Summer" by The Strokes.

I always love songs that you can't help but sing along to, so let's have a couple of those. We will do "Juicy" by The Notorious B.I.G., "Psychosocial" by Slipknot, "Stronger" by Kanye West, "21 Questions" by 50 Cent, "Die Young" by Kesha, "The Middle" by Jimmy Eat World, "No Scrubs" by TLC, "Temperature" by Nelly, "Zombie" by The Cranberries.

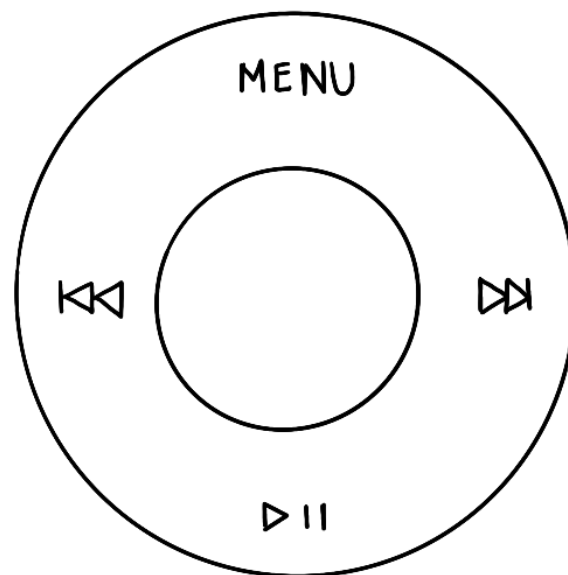
Then there's those songs that won't let you sit still. The second they come on, you know you're going to end up grooving. These include songs like "Around The World" by Daft Punk, "Right Round" by Flo Rida, "The Less I Know The Better" by Tame Impala, "Billie Jean" by Michael Jackson, "Feel So Close" by Calvin Harris.

And with an outstanding response from audiences of "The Super Mario Movie," I got to say so far "Peaches" by Jack Black is likely to be love ballad of the summer. It took over the internet, it's too catchy, and Jack Black dropped a music video for it that's rounded up almost 30 million views.

But let's not forget the top picks from the albums we have looked at this past year. There have been numerous songs from bands and singers I loved that I hadn't heard before that I absolutely loved after hearing them. There are tons of music out there to listen to and enjoy. I hope y'all have a great summer and God bless.



Congratulations
Post Malone



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The student voice of Coastal Carolina University

THE
CHANTICLEER

SENIOR SHOUT-OUT
Coastal Carolina University
Class of 2023



**Megan
Wallace
2023**

Megan, Congratulations! We
are very proud of you!
Love, Mom and Dad



Hannah Grace Surface

We are so proud of you and all of your accomplishments. Keep being you and following your dreams. You are going to do amazing things in this world, and we are so excited to have a front-row seat for it! You make us so very proud!

**All of our love always,
Dad, Mom & Caroline**

“So, do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

Isaiah 41:10



Congratulations
Molly

2023

Congratulations to our
favorite Chanticleer!
We are so proud of you!
XO, Mom, Luke and Rory

Tiera Rivers



To our princess Tiera, we are so proud of you. Most of all we want you to be proud of yourself. Never stop striving to be the best version of you. God has truly blessed you, continue to grow in your gifts. We love you to life, again we are very proud of you.

From: Mom, dad, and sisters

Congratulations class of 2023

Dylan Blanton



Keep swinging away!
Love you, Mom

Joshua Carroll

Congrats Joshua!
The Chanticleer is so
proud of you! Thanks
for your leadership
and hard work!



Kelsie Crough

Congratulations on
your graduation! We
know you're going to do
great things!



Black at Coastal: Setting an example

Living out ancestor's wildest dreams graduating from PWI

By Shyanne Bellamy

Amid studying for final exams, notifying family members of graduation dates, deciding on what to wear for graduation and where to eat afterward, I find myself in shock that after just four years, I will soon be a Black college graduate.

I am shocked to be one of many who are accomplishing something that was not often seen as a goal for African Americans to achieve, let alone Black students.

For many African Americans before and after the ending of slavery in 1865, the idea of education held the utmost power in accomplishing

every dream that has ever been sought after to achieve. Being educated was an ability that stood the test of time to show that African Americans were just as qualified and capable as those who once thought African Americans could never be more.

Establishing a history of education didn't just mean knowledge. It also meant freedom. This is a freedom I sometimes think of when looking back at those who had come before me and paved the way for me to reach this moment in my life.

I think of Alexander Lucius Twilight, the first known African

American to graduate from Middlebury College in Vermont in 1823, and Mary Jane Patterson, the first Black woman to earn a bachelor's degree from Oberlin College in 1862. I can't help but give my appreciation to these two, along with so many others after them, when looking back at what Black educated excellence looks like.

As graduation closes in, I now recognize this excellence, and I'm met with the many opportunities and achievements my college career provided along with a few other future accomplishments as well.

My college experience gave me a

chance at achievements that not only I could dream of having, but other Black students as well. Coastal graduate and English major Taniah Gibbs shared some of her thoughts about being a first-generation Black graduate.

"On one hand, I'm really proud about it, and then on the other it feels like a lot of pressure. But the support is immense, and that's great," Gibbs said.

I hope that I and others can continue on this line of accomplishing the impossible and laying the groundwork for those that look like me, for we will all be living the wildest dreams our ancestors could think of.

Chatting with Chauncey

By Chauncey the Chanticleer



Dear senior,

It's about this time every year where times for a bird like me get conflicting. I am sad to see you all leave but I also know the impact on the world you are about to make.

I'm so proud of each and every one of you. You have accomplished many feats during your time here. You will always be a part of Teal Nation. I'm so excited for what this next step in your lives has for each of you.

Always remember that I love you, Teal Nation loves you, and you always have a home here in Conway.

- Chauncey

Graphic by Tiera Rivers

Best places to capture last moments on campus

By Madison Sharrock

Seniors, the countdown to graduation has begun. Here are some of the best spots on campus to take your graduation photos to hopefully cure some of your senioritis or possibly make it worse.

7. Coastal Carolina University sign

The brick CCU sign near the roundabout on University Boulevard makes a great landscape photo to show off where you received your degree and spent thousands of dollars. You can either stand beside the sign or even climb on top.

6. Your college

Students who belong to the Edwards College of Humanities and Fine Arts, Wall College of Business, or Gupta College of Science have this part easy. However, if you are part of the Conway Medical Center College of Health and Human Performance, you may have to settle for pictures in front of the science buildings. Similarly, Spadoni students may have to pose in front of the Prince Building, but the landscape makes up for it.

5. Turtle Bridge

This option is more scenic, featuring one of the most beloved

and known places on campus. On Turtle Bridge, you can get views of both Prince Lawn, or the walkway facing the Wall College. The water underneath the bridge and trees on the Wall side really add in the campus landscape.

4. Blanton Park

I think Blanton Park is the heart of campus. Events are held here constantly because of its many paths and plants that are picture worthy.

3. Freshman dorm

Posing in front of the building you lived in when you first lived away from home can be

sentimental for most seniors.

2. Chauncey statue

Posing with one of the two statues of our beloved mascot pays serious homage to where you spent the last four or so years. Both the statue in front of the sports complex and the newer one made of bronze will look great, but the one of Chauncey putting up his dukes embodies teal nation.

1. Atheneum Hall

It's essential for any graduation photo-shoots to take place in front of the seal of CCU. This location is classy and looks perfect with the sun shining.

Hidden gems

Graduation dining locations for a memorable day

By Maci Kaye Anderson

As families visit Conway for graduation, many restaurants get swamped, making it harder to find spots to eat with loved ones. Luckily, there are some local diamonds that have stood out to me when it comes to dining with those I care about, especially as a local to the area.

Here are my top five locations I recommend to anyone who has no idea where to begin.

Jo Hibachi

Jo Hibachi in Downtown Conway is the perfect place for any small family and provides casual dining with high quality Japanese food, along with my favorite sushi in all of Horry County. The wait here is typically maxed at 45 minutes during dinner times but usually is vacant for

lunch. I would only recommend this place for lunch if you are bringing your immediate family as it does have very limited seating with select numbers at each table.

Miyabi Japanese Restaurant

Another alternative option similar to Jo Hibachi is Miyabi Japanese Restaurant in Myrtle Beach. This is a finer dining option as the food is prepared in front of you, and the tables are large enough to include families of a larger party. Here, your best friends on the menu are the appetizer shrimps, various steaks, and soups.

DinoLand Cafe

If you are looking for an unforgettable and fun dining location, DinoLand Cafe in Myrtle

Beach is a surreal experience as there are dinosaur statues, sceneries, and a dinosaur that walks around the restaurant to all the guests.

This restaurant has a diverse menu, surplus seating, and a great experience at a rather good price. The cafe is usually vacant during lunch and early supper time, and going is worth it because this place really showcases the unpredictable atmosphere and love of Myrtle Beach.

Travinia Italian Kitchen

Travinia Italian Kitchen and Wine Bar is another great location in Myrtle Beach at Market Common. Here, the service, food, and experience are impeccable and allow you the opportunity to browse Market Common shops

and desserts. Additionally, it is not a far walk from the parking lot whatsoever, which makes navigating a breeze.

Lombardo's Italian Restaurant

Another alternate location for Italian dining is Lombardo's Italian Restaurant, a more formal dining experience for Italian cuisine in Myrtle Beach. The dim lights and wide variety of seating allow for a cozy and delightful atmosphere. Everything I have tried so far on the menu is mouthwatering and I would recommend it to anyone looking for a memorable time.

There are so many options in Myrtle Beach, so there are no restrictions to "good food" on an unforgettable day of graduation.

Special thanks



By Joshua Carroll

Being the editor-in-chief for the past semester was an indescribable experience. Of course, “indescribable” doesn’t exactly make for a compelling goodbye, so I’ll try my best to find the words for it.

Working in this position wasn’t easy, and I couldn’t have possibly done it without the support of my staff. They truly are the reason for everything great about the paper. From their care for their work, their limitless creativity, and their patience with me, I’m grateful to have had the chance to work with them. Madison has been an excellent assistant editor, with unrelenting persistence and an eye for detail.

Tiera continuously outdid herself as art director, always going above and beyond for her work. Kelsie’s ability to adapt and wear so many different hats as our managing editor was

nothing short of impressive. Annette wore many hats as well as our graduate assistant, always taking time to help out with anything and offer advice.

Sarah’s work supporting the paper as advertising director was also crucial to our success. I’m also grateful for the editors-in-chief who preceded me, Megan and Shelbi, for the examples they set as I worked under them. When I worked as a reporter, there was never a time when I didn’t feel welcome, and I thank them for putting up with my annoying questions.

A big thanks also to the reporters who contributed this semester. Whether you’ve been with the paper for a while, or you started out not too long ago, I’ve loved being able to work with you all and see your skills as journalists develop.

And of course, I’d like to thank our adviser Dr. Weinhold for

her support and giving me the opportunity to work with so many wonderful people in the first place.

It’s hard to believe I went from being too afraid to even join the paper in my freshman year to now becoming so heavily involved with it. Journalism wasn’t really on my radar when I first came to Coastal, and I’ve since gained a new

appreciation for it.

Even with campus being so close to home, my experience here has shown me things and taken me to places far beyond it. I don’t know what the future holds for me after I graduate, but the variety of experiences I’ve been able to have will surely prepare me for whatever’s thrown my way.

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THE
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Forever teal and bronze

By Tiera Rivers

I am writing this goodbye with a heavy heart. It is hard to believe that I've reached the finish line and will walk across the stage on May 6. It makes me sad that I must leave and shift to another place, but I know that my time at Coastal has prepared me for what's next, whatever that may be.

I transferred to Coastal Carolina University from Midlands Technical College in August 2020 not knowing anyone or anything about how a four-year institution worked. This was right after the pandemic where I developed anxiety and was having a hard time coming out of my comfort zone. When I met my roommate and forever friend Iyanna Chancy, I knew she was going to be a big help with my mental and personal

growth here at school.

My senior year was not what I expected. In August 2022 I joined *The Chanticleer* Newspaper as the art director, still battling with anxiety. I had no experience with journalism, and I was new to a team where the majority already knew each other. I am grateful for the bonds that were made while being part of the paper. Former editor-in-chief Megan Wallace and assistant editor Madison Sharrock have both helped me through thick and thin and has played a huge role in my life.

Now my time in college is coming to an end and yes, I am terrified of being an adult. But I know I am ready. Thank you, Coastal Carolina, and all who have stuck beside me during the best three years of my life.



Proud to be a Chanticleer

By Shyanne Bellamy

Who could have known just how much four years at Coastal Carolina University taught me in more ways than one.

My time here at Coastal has been a whirlwind experience that I wasn't expecting to happen to me. I wasn't expecting to fall in and out of love with my degree of choice only to fall head over heels in love with it by the time I entered my junior year. I wasn't expecting to get along with all of my professors, who taught me so much more than the lessons in the textbook, or expected to find a few friends that encouraged and

inspired me every day.

I wasn't expecting to find my voice through my writing and coming out of my shell by working with the school newspaper or looking in the mirror for the first time and actually see the bright, young woman that was always there.

Coastal has taught me so much about myself and how I, just like my other graduating peers, are important to this world and the future.

Therefore, I'm proud to be known as a Chanticleer and to be graduating from Coastal Carolina University.



More than words can say

By Shelbi R. Ankiewicz

I've lived in Myrtle Beach for most of my life, so I certainly didn't want to go to college here. However, after weighing everything, it was the best option and later the best decision of my life.

I realized I wanted to be a journalist after my first newspaper class as a sophomore in high school. From there, my interest continued throughout the rest of my high school career and followed me to Coastal. The first thing I did as a freshman was attend Organizational Kickoff (OK) Day and find the newspaper booth.

There, I met a girl who had been on staff with me in high school. Since then, my experience has been nonstop. I was a reporter during my freshman year on staff, then I advanced to assistant editor, eventually making my way to editor-in-chief by the time I was a junior. My role was cut short when I did an exchange year, but I still had the pleasure to write a study abroad column.

The newspaper has helped me develop tremendously as a professional over the

past four years. I have learned leadership, how to give constructive criticism, work on deadlines, deal with controversial news topics and much more. It's also taught me a lot about free speech and our rights as individuals.

Some of my favorite memories from the newspaper will be setting up for OK Day and sitting in the scorching sun for hours on end or driving to campus at midnight while waiting for the delivery driver to show up with our latest issue—or even the last-minute rush to get everything in on time.

In the moment, those situations drove me crazy, but looking back and reflecting on them, it's what I remember and learned from the most.

Moving towards the next chapter of my life, I'm going to keep writing. On my current path it's a lot of freelance, but I'm embracing every opportunity given to me. Thank you, to both the newspaper and Coastal Carolina University, for giving me the opportunities of a lifetime.

All the best,
Shelbi R. Ankiewicz



“Holding the first hard-copy version of my newspaper as editor-in-chief.”

Thank you CCU

Kelsie Crough

When I had decided to transfer to Coastal Carolina University, the world had shut down. I was on spring break from my previous college when the governor of Rhode Island announced the lock-down that would alter everyone's perceptions of time to be divided into before and after.

In between the empty parking lots and the walls of my bedroom, I was faced with redefining the college experience for myself. Growing up, I always had this romanticized notion of what college was going to be: studying abroad, partying, falling in love with everything and everyone around me. That was before.

During this time, my aunt told me the stories of her “best years” on CCU's campus. She talked of warm weather, the beach, and the relationships she built. That was enough for me to put in my application.

Today, I am graduating from

CCU with a Bachelor's in English and Communications. I haven't gotten the chance to go abroad or live in a big city yet, but I have found my people here. I found faculty and friends that believed in me and my goals. I even joined a few clubs that gave me once-in-a-lifetime opportunities.

What started as attending a local open mic night turned into reading one of my works across the country to a room full of travelers.

What started as writing on and off for *The Chanticleer* for about two years, turned into an idea for multimedia reporting and a brand-new position on the executive staff team. Being a part of that growth of the newspaper and being able to travel and network with a brilliant team is an experience I wouldn't trade for anything.

When I was touring college campuses four years ago, the tour guides would wave to their friends on campus as they passed. It was such a simple gesture, but it stuck out to me because I wanted



to be like them and have that sense of belonging. When everything shut down my freshman year, I didn't think I would ever get the chance.

Now, in the after, I have found that I have fallen in love with everything and everyone around me. I think of my

brother coming to CCU in the fall, and I want to offer the advice to him and the underclassmen one cliché piece of advice: make the most of it.

I want to leave by saying thank you to CCU and to *The Chanticleer* for helping me make the most of my college experience.

Beware of poaching

Harms outweigh benefits in transfer portal

By Madison Sharrock

Looking forward to the next semester in the fall, head coach Tim Beck holds the reigns of Coastal Carolina University football in his hands.

After working with Power Five schools for the last 12 years, Beck was drawn to Coastal because he saw its potential. The University is known for its football program despite the small, yet growing, campus and number of students compared to other Division I schools.

Beck learned about CCU when his daughter came to play volleyball for Coastal's team, and said it reminded him of where he went to college at the University of Central Florida.

"That's where I saw this and I envision this as a gem, as a goldmine," Beck said. "I just kind of waited patiently for that."

He said location and community are the two main attributes that bring in student athletes. Additionally, Vice President for Intercollegiate Athletics and University Recreation Matt Hogue said Coastal's coaches and a chance for good competition in the Sun Belt Conference is what attracts them. Beck agreed and mentioned the difficulty of competing against universities such as Marshall, James Madison, and Old Dominion.

As students choose to come to continue their intercollegiate careers in South Carolina, both

from out-of-state and in-state, they have the option of Power Five schools over CCU. Beck said their money may put these universities on the map but Coastal's style of play and strength is "as good as anybody's."

"I just, I think sometimes you're comparing you know, steak and hamburger," Beck said comparing CCU to other schools in the state. "They're both good. They're just different, right?"

Beck said the transfer portal can do more harm than good because Power Five schools are able to take more chances and risks. If one crucial player enters the portal to explore offers, a bigger university can take advantage of that.

"The hard part about the portal is you know, it's just it's been abused by schools," he said. "There's a lot of poaching."

Hogue said in most cases, portal decisions boil down to the amount of play time offered, rather than scholarship offers.

"We see a lot more athletes now who may be in their first or second year and they haven't reached that playing time threshold yet. So, they go ahead and leave," Hogue said.

Hogue continued to say the bigger the roster of a university, the more potential there is for a greater turnover. However, he agreed that the transfer portal can be harmful in many ways. Going into the portal does not always guarantee the student athlete a place to land or could potentially end up in a worse situation.



Photo by Madison Sharrock

Tim Beck, Coastal Carolina University's fourth head football coach, sporting a "chants up" in his new office overlooking the teal field in Brooks Stadium.

"The big takeaway, I think, that is important for student athletes to understand across the country is there are more athletes going into the portal than seats at the table," he said.

Student athletes like Coastal's quarterback Grayson McCall find themselves on the opposite side of the transfer portal where there is a demand for their skill set. McCall said he entered the portal in December 2022 to see what options were available for him.

McCall said while he was in the portal, he received offers from SEC, Big 10, ACC, and Group of Five schools. But, he said it wasn't the right decision to leave because Coastal is home to him.

"Coming here was the best decision of my life," McCall said. "I got one more year so I'm enjoying every day making sure I don't take it for granted, and just soaking it all in."

In addition to CCU's resources, Hogue said the \$15 million indoor practice facility will be an investment in student athletes. The architectural programming committee consisting of board members and athletic leaders have been meeting for the past four to five months, and they are at the stage of planning and drawing up the design.

Now, the next step for the facility is to get approval from the state. Hogue said it would be premature to set a date for its completion but hopes for it to be done close to the 2024 football season.

"It's as much of a need like parking spaces," Beck said regarding the importance of the indoor facility. "People don't realize how big of an impact something like that makes for student athletes."