What three music faculty enjoyed most about recording their new CD

How one phone call made Wayne Smith realize just what was on the line

The Future, The Earth & The College

This fall’s citywide bluesphere: Earth Art Expo enlightens campus with some bright ideas for a sustainable future
A Classic Accompaniment

THEY DINED ONE TABLE OVER FROM GEORGE LUCAS. They explored the vineyards at Skywalker Ranch. They enjoyed the state-of-the-art technology of Skywalker Sound. But, for these three music faculty members, the best part about recording a CD together was, well, recording a CD together.

“Being contracted by a record company is rare in our field; to be able to include colleagues in a recording is even more rare,” says classical guitarist Marc Regnier, who summoned a former student, Marco Sartor ’03 (guitarist), and fellow music professors Natalia Khoma (cellist) and Tacy Edwards (flutist) as soon as he’d been contracted to record Brazilian composer Radames Gnattali’s solo compositions and chamber works – which feature elements of jazz, chamber music and classical music, as well as the very accessible sounds of Brazilian bossa nova. “We have some of the best musicians here at the College, so why not use them?”

And Regnier couldn’t be happier with his team.

“My colleagues were fantastic – and everyone involved worked very hard,” he says. “It was a wonderful opportunity to showcase the amazing talent in our department, and it’s a great way to showcase the College itself, too.”

The CD, titled Radames Gnattali: Solo & Chamber Works for Guitar, is now available on Amazon, at Barnes & Noble Booksellers or through Marc Regnier, regnierm@cofc.edu.

GOING GREEN WITH THE PORTICO

By using 1,345 pounds of Mohawk EcoVarsity matte paper – made with Green-e-certified wind-generated electricity, 50 percent recycled fiber and 40 percent post consumer waste – the Portico is making the following environmental differences.

post-consumer waste fiber vs. virgin fiber

- 5 trees are preserved for the future
- 13 pounds of water-borne waste are not created
- 1,920 gallons of wastewater flow are saved
- 212 pounds of solid waste aren’t generated
- 418 pounds of greenhouse gases are prevented
- 3,201,100 BTUs of energy are not consumed
Before MS-DOS, before the mouse – before the Department of Computer Science, even – there was the PDP-11 series minicomputer running on something called an RSTS operating system. And it seems the rising high school seniors in the National Science Foundation Students Science Training program thought it was pretty cool.

Shown here with then-math professors Dave Tudor (far left) and Hugh Haynesworth (far right), the students were competitively selected from across South Carolina to be part of an intensive six-week program that ran concurrently with the Governor’s School, and – as evidenced by the group’s matching 1980 SST T-shirts, designed by the students themselves – they were proud to be on the cutting edge of technology! After all, things were progressing so fast that it wouldn’t be long before the College’s first standalone computer – a PDP-8 with 4 KB of memory, purchased in 1976 for $4,000 – would be completely obsolete!

ON THE COVER Chris Jordan’s photo collage, *Light Bulbs* (2008, 72 x 96“), depicts one light bulb for each of the 320,000 kilowatt-hours of energy that the United States wastes every single minute from inefficient residential electricity consumption (e.g., water heater thermostats set too high, refrigerator temperatures set too low, unused appliances running too often, air-conditioner filters changed too seldom). See page 6 for more information about Jordan and the other artists featured this fall in *bluesphere: Earth Art Expo.*
Wayne Smith was still getting settled at the College, still organizing his new office on the third floor of the Beatty Center, when the phone on his desk rang for the very first time. He couldn’t imagine who’d be calling: Hardly anyone around here knew him, much less his number. Still, he answered the call.

And he continues to do so every year.

What started in August 2006 with a random phone call from Catherine Gavalas Price – whose father, Nick Gavalas, and Ron Kolanko cofounded the Gavalas-Kolanko Foundation in 1999 to help Lowcountry students with disabilities reach their secondary educational goals – is now an annual project for both Smith and his students.

“The relationship we have with the foundation provides great opportunities for everyone: the College, the students, the community – everyone,” says the assistant professor of hospitality and tourism management, who is particularly involved in the GKF’s annual James Island Connector Run, which funds scholarships for disabled students to attend the College of Charleston and other local colleges.

Every year Smith and his students create and conduct a runners’ survey, compiling the results into a report evaluating the effectiveness of sponsorship and outlining the runners’ motives, demographics and feelings about the course and the overall event. Students also have internship and volunteer opportunities surrounding the 10K run/5K walk.
“It not only gives them practical experience, it sends an ethical message that they have a responsibility to our community. Plus, it takes us from this ‘ivory tower’ place and brings us out there to the people who need it. They’re getting involved, becoming part of the community – which means, when it’s time, the community will embrace them back,” says Smith, who involves his students in five or six events a year, including the Wine + Food Festival and the Fall Tour of Homes and Gardens. “The big events are flashy and exciting, but there are great little events that really help out the community, and they mean just as much as big events.”

Just ask the 37 special needs students who have been awarded GKF scholarships to attend the College of Charleston over the years.

“For these kids, the scholarships truly mean the difference between going to college and not going to college,” says Smith, whose son was recently diagnosed with autism and understands just how much it costs to raise a child with special needs. “The expenses are unbelievable. Without some kind of outside help, even wealthy families would have a hard time sending special needs kids to college – let alone students who are coming from more modest means.”

And, ultimately, everybody wins.

“These students enhance the diversity on campus, and that enhances our students’ ability to interact with different kinds of people,” says Smith. “So, the foundation contributes more than money. It contributes to the education of great students who enhance our campus and the College community as a whole.”

And this is why Smith calls not just on his students, but on the entire College community to get involved in this year’s run – either by volunteering or running/walking the race.

“I think it just makes for a better event – it shows appreciation for what they’re doing, and it sends a welcoming message to the scholarship recipients,” he says, adding that there are also sponsorship opportunities available. “If you want your money to go to something where you can see the difference, this is the place to do it. You’ll see it walking down the hall, in the classrooms, all over campus. You’ll see it and know that you helped make the College a better place for everyone.”

Smith, for one, is glad he answered the call.

The 12th Annual James Island Connector Run is November 6. To run/walk the race or to become a volunteer or sponsor, visit jicrun.com.
Artful Sustainability at the College

With two exhibitions opening on campus this month, the College is at the center of the citywide bluesphere: Earth Art Expo. Drawing in internationally prominent artists from as far away as Brazil, bluesphere complements its visual arts exhibits with lectures, panel discussions and other programming to further educate residents about sustainability, environmental stewardship and social justice. The project, which was initiated by the Halsey Institute of Contemporary Art and which will extend into December, promises to be provocative and engaging, with plenty to see, plenty to do and plenty to learn – and it all starts right here at the College.

For more information, visit halsey.cofc.edu/bluesphere.

Bryant Holsenbeck, sculptor
Bottle Cap Mandala

Addlestone Library rotunda, Oct. 22–Nov. 19
Mandala Creation/Installation: Oct. 19–21
Opening: Oct. 22, 5–7 p.m.
Gallery Talk: Oct. 23, 11 a.m.

Bryant Holsenbeck invites the interaction of passersby as she creates a three-dimensional floor mandala – meant to echo the tantric Buddhists’ mandalas that represent transient sacred space – out of recyclable bottle caps and jar lids. “The bottle caps each are a record of food eaten. I use them as markers of food consumed, money spent,” says Holsenbeck. “Mostly, we throw these away without thinking. My work is about bringing awareness to our waste stream.”

Pedro Lobo, photographer
Favelas: architecture of survival

City Gallery at Waterfront Park
Oct. 21–Nov. 23
Opening: Oct. 21, 6–8 p.m.
Lecture: Oct. 23, 2 p.m.

The color images in this show – which is curated by Mark Long, political science professor and a political geographer whose research agenda is anchored in part by visual culture – depict the favelas (shantytowns) of Rio de Janeiro and the creativity and motivation of the people who inhabit them. By photographing the favelas in the same manner as conventional architecture, Pedro Lobo hopes to provide an unbiased understanding of the struggles of ecological sustainability in an overpopulated world.

Chris Jordan, photographer
Running the Numbers: An American Self-Portrait

Halsey Institute
Oct. 22–Dec. 10
Lecture: Oct. 22, 4 p.m.
Opening: Oct. 22, 5–7 p.m.

The 20 large-scale digital images in this exhibit each portray a specific quantity of some element of American consumption to represent a hitherto empty statistic (e.g., in the above image, 106,000 aluminum cans represent the number used in the U.S. every 30 seconds). Chris Jordan gives numbers that are often too vast for the human mind to comprehend some startling visual punch, making them uncomfortably real. “I believe it is worth allowing these issues to matter to us personally, despite the complex mixtures of grief, rage and anxiety that the process causes,” says Jordan. “Perhaps these uncomfortable feelings can fuel individual and collective action.”

It’s no secret that the College is a photogenic place – its buildings, its landscape, its very character, seem to be perpetually posing for the camera. Neither is it a secret that the campus is full of gifted people, although faculty and staff rarely seem to parade their talents the way the campus flaunts its splendor. With the first of the Portico’s series of amateur photography contests, however, it’s time to capture both the beauty of campus architecture and the artistic perspective of our campus community.

Submit any one of your photographs of campus architecture to have your chance at two free tickets to the College of Charleston Madrigal Singers’ A Yuletide Madrigal Feast. The winning photograph will be printed in the December issue of the Portico, so, go ahead: Give it your best shot!

For more information, including how to submit your photography, visit portico.cofc.edu/photocontest.

In January 2011, OAKS will replace WebCT, the College’s online course environment for faculty-student communication. Be sure to attend one of the many workshops being offered this fall, and get ready now!

**THEATRE: TINTYPES**
3 p.m.; $10
Simons Center, Robinson Theatre (Continues Mon.-Wed., 8 p.m.)
Info: Marie Oleksiak, 3.5604, oleksiakm@cofc.edu

**FALL BREAK**

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**WORKSHOP:**
**OPEN LAB FOR ANY OAKS TOOLS**
9-11 a.m.
J.C. Long Building, room 317
Info: Monica Harvey, 3.5428, harveym@cofc.edu

**LECTURE:**
**STUDENT ACTIVISM IN THE 1960S**
7-8:30 p.m.
School of Education, Alumni Center
Info: Conseula Francis, 3.7738, francisc@cofc.edu

Which first name is most common among female faculty and staff at the College? a. Mary b. Sarah/Sara c. Catherine/Katherine (and other spellings)
Find out in the next Portico!

Which first name is most common among male faculty and staff at the College? a. James b. John c. Michael
Find out in the next Portico!

**MULTIMEDIA WORKSHOP:**
**MUSIC AND SOUNDSCAPE**
6-8 p.m.
Education Center, room 207
Info: Dave Brown, browndd1@cofc.edu, 3.8168

**WORKSHOP:**
**OPEN LAB FOR ANY OAKS TOOLS**
10-12 p.m.
J.C. Long Building, room 317
Info: Monica Harvey, 3.5428, harveym@cofc.edu

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**BOO!**

**WORKSHOP:**
**OPEN LAB FOR ANY OAKS TOOLS**
1:30-3:30 p.m.
J.C. Long Building, room 317
Info: Monica Harvey, 3.5428, harveym@cofc.edu

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>> Staff and faculty can get men’s basketball season tickets for $168 (20% off the regular price) by calling 3.2632 or visiting the box office at Carolina First Arena, Mon.-Fri., 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
CONGRATULATIONS TO CASSANDRA FOSTER, assistant to the dean in the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, who was the first to guess that the object in question was the gravestone for Amerinthia Lowndes (1729-50) found on Dixie Plantation at the former site of the Parish Church (c. 1708).

If you think you know what the object in the above photo is and where it can be found, send your guess to lutza@cofc.edu by Friday, Oct. 8. The names of those who submit the correct answer will be entered into a drawing for two tickets to the men’s basketball game against Coastal Carolina at the Carolina First Arena on November 16. The contest is open to all College faculty and staff.