

# Bridges: A Journal of Student Research

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Issue 8

Article 6

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## From the Editor

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## From the Editor

*Bridges: A Student Research Journal* continues to showcase undergraduate scholarship produced at Coastal Carolina University, Conway, SC. The newest issue, Issue 8 (Spring 2014), features five articles based on original research conducted by CCU students under the tutelage of faculty advisers from multiple disciplines. As such, they represent the best outcomes of the CCU teacher-scholar model. The teacher-scholar model promotes quality teaching and engaged learning as well as collaborative research and creative opportunities. Student research and production is often an outgrowth of faculty research and mentorship, but student publications have value and make contributions all their own.

The students whose work is featured here are exceptional: they investigated compelling research questions, wrote up their findings, underwent a (sometimes lengthy) review process, and addressed intensive editing. The Editorial Review Board received a record number of submissions this year, making the review and selection process quite challenging. We feel privileged to be in a position to be exposed to and evaluate outstanding undergraduate research on our campus. We remain impressed by our students' accomplishments and wish to commend all contributors. Let me introduce the works finally selected for publication.

Sean Dove's "Sustainable Energy in the Galapagos" examines the "Zero Fuels Initiative" implemented by the Galapagos Islands, a critical scientific and tourist destination, to eliminate fossil fuels entirely. This initiative, as well as others to reduce unsustainable energy sources, provides a blueprint for addressing the global energy crisis. Certainly, the stakes could not be higher for such an assessment.

Tom Fernandez investigates CCU students' post-graduation plans by utilizing public opinion polling in the article "Education, Employment, and Coastal Carolina University: What Are CCU Students' Plans After Graduation?" As Americans debate the

purpose and payoff of higher education, determining how recent graduates will navigate their prospects is very timely.

Karen Jennings displays an innovative and creative approach to analyzing the image of the American Pit Bull Terrier in “The Pit Bull’s Discourse.” This article plays with different genres, reading like a lively special interest piece in a paper column. In it, the author has readers confront media perceptions of the vilified pit bull and, thereby, demands we confront our own (mis)perceptions.

Shawnee Lechliter’s “Preliminary Study of Kleptoplasty in Foraminifera of South Carolina” examines the ability of some microscopic aquatic protists to steal photosynthetic plastids from other microorganisms in symbiotic relationships. By doing so, much can be determined about great changes in the ecology of a habitat. She points to further research needed on the phenomenon along the Grand Strand.

Sadara Shine draws on first-person interviews, among other sources, that she conducted on the ground in Rwanda to consider the roles of state and non-state actors in influencing human rights norms. In her article “The Globalization of Human Rights in Post-Genocide Rwanda,” she concludes that non-state actors like international non-governmental organizations have greatly influenced post-genocide Rwanda.

Like last year, the Editorial Review Board guided the second publication of an issue—Issue 7 from Spring 2013—to print. This feat was made possible by the support of Dr. J. Ralph Byington, Provost and Senior Vice President. Provost Byington’s unfailing support is one indicator of a campus culture steeped in experiential learning and undergraduate research—a culture that allows *Bridges* to flourish. Each issue is a collaborative effort among students, faculty, and staff, and I wish to express my sincere appreciation for the many dedicated people who have a hand in producing *Bridges*. I am personally fortunate to have had the discerning assistance of Scott Pleasant, the managing editor, this year. Working with amazing people on

*Bridges* is some of the most rewarding work that I do at the University. I hope that you will enjoy Issue 8 as much as I do.

—Amanda Brian, Ph.D., Editor (2012-2015)



## Acknowledgement of Faculty Advisers

We would like to acknowledge each of the faculty advisers who worked with the student authors on their articles both before they were submitted for publication in *Bridges* and during the publication process. These faculty advisers, whose photographs and biographies follow the articles, dedicated time and energy far above their regular teaching responsibilities to guide their mentees in original research and writing. In many cases these articles were originally written as the student's senior project, capstone paper, or honors thesis. Working with advisees on such endeavors is not required for professors. They do this work for select students whose work rises above the normal expectations for undergraduate work. They also model faculty-student collaboration for our learning community. Without the work of the faculty advisers who direct the student toward success, *Bridges* could not exist.

We want to offer our sincere appreciation and gratitude to the following advisers who worked on articles for Issue 8:

<b>Adviser and Department</b>	<b>Student Author and Title</b>
Richard Aidoo, Politics and Geography	Sadara Shine, "The Globalization of Human Rights in Post-Genocide Rwanda"
Megan E. Cevasco, Biology	Shawnee Lechliter, "Preliminary Study of Kleptoplasty in Foraminifera of South Carolina"
Adam Chamberlain, Politics and Geography	Tom Fernandez, "Education, Employment, and Coastal Carolina University: What Are CCU Students' Plans After Graduation?"
Pamela Martin, Politics and Geography	Sean Dove, "Sustainable Energy in the Galapagos"
Denise P. Paster, English	Karen Jennings, "The Pit Bull's Discourse"



## Other Acknowledgements

We would also like to acknowledge the following people who have supported *Bridges* and should be recognized for their ongoing efforts to foster undergraduate research and scholarship at Coastal Carolina University. Without their continued commitment to this journal and their belief in the importance of promoting undergraduate publications, producing *Bridges* each year would literally be impossible. Our deep gratitude is given to:

- David DeCenzo, President
- J. Ralph Byington, Provost and Senior Vice President
- Robert Young, Director of Undergraduate Research
- Erin Burge, Acting Director of Undergraduate Research (Fall 2013)
- Michael Ruse, Director of the Honors Program

For Issue 8, a former editor of *Bridges* returned to offer his guidance and expertise at a critical moment. A sincere thank you is extended to:

- Scott Pleasant, Writing Center Coordinator

We have wonderful website and administrative support as well, which is a testimony to the broader campus support *Bridges* receives. Special recognition goes to:

- Debbie Hamm, Program Assistant of the Honors Program

In addition, we would also like to acknowledge the work of our faculty reviewers. These faculty members agree to read and comment on articles that have been submitted for consideration. The faculty reviewers serve as subject matter experts who comment on the value of the articles and offer suggestions for improvement before the article is published. In order to be published, an article must first be nominated by a faculty adviser and then reviewed positively by the entire *Bridges* Editorial



Review Board. At that point, the article is sent to a faculty reviewer. Only when an article has received a positive review from the objective outsider can it be slated for publication.

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

- Erin Burge, Marine Science
- Suheir Daoud, Politics and Geography
- Wes Fondren, Communication, Languages, and Culture
- Vladislav Gulis, Biology
- Joe Oestreich, English
- Holley Tankersley, Politics and Geography

The Editorial Review Board is composed of Coastal Carolina University faculty members who are dedicated to strengthening our broadly defined research community. Their guidance of *Bridges* is invaluable.

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