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## Opening Remarks

'Tis the season! It is always this time of year when students around campus are feeling the cool air across their faces and holding a warm cup of coffee in their hands as the semester draws to a close. Just as things are cooling off outside, the Wall Fellows program begins heating up with activities, events and projects.

The Class of 2018 is into the first few months of its two-year journey and is becoming acquainted with the responsibilities of being a Wall Fellow. Meanwhile, the Class of 2017 enters into its final semester in the program.

We look forward to concluding the semester with the ambition and tenacity and welcoming the holiday season!

With warmest regards,

Lainey Lewis '17 and Kaylea Gassaway-Rea '18



**Wall Fellows Class of 2017**  
(From top left): Jonah Skiles,  
Lainey Lewis, Olivia Carlton,  
Beatris Petelkova and  
Geoffrey Guyette.

**Wall Fellows Class of 2018**  
(From top left): Ross Kunmann,  
Miles Anderson, Emilie-Kate  
Tavernier, Kaylea Gassaway-Rea,  
Sean Edwards, Darien Rexach,  
Sora Lebowitz, Josh Stilley and  
Mickayla Smith.



# Class of 2018 Induction Kaylea Gassaway-Rae

Celebrating 22 years of excellence, character and integrity, the Wall Fellows Program inducted nine new members on Oct. 21. It is more than just an achievement; it is truly an honor to be selected and inducted as a member of the Class of 2018.



Left to right: Darien Rexach, Sean Edwards, Myles Anderson, Mickayla Smith, Josh Stilley, Ross Kunmann, Emily-Kate Tavernier, Sora Lebowitz and Kaylea Gassaway-Rea.

I was selected to join the program spring semester of my sophomore year, and I could not have been more proud. Conveying to your friends and family how great the program is only goes so far, but to have them sit and attend the induction ceremony makes everything you said come to life. They begin to see the program for what it really is and what it stands for: excellence, character and integrity.

From the moment the reception began on Oct. 21, I began to see the program in a different light. As I spoke with the families of my classmates, professors and professionals, my excitement about the program grew. Once the ceremony started, the excitement turned to pride as all nine of my fellow inductees signed the code and creed, received our plaques and shook the hands of President David DeCenzo, Dean Barbara Ritter and all who stood in our places years before. We have started a new chapter in our lives, one that will require us to step out of our comfort zones and embrace the world around us. Jason Repak '07 and Meghan Laffin '13 were the hosts for the evening. Dean Ritter, Geoffrey Guyette '17, Olivia Carlton '17 and Jonah Skiles '17 spoke to the incoming class and guests.

In addition to welcoming the Class of 2018, we celebrated the 22nd anniversary of the Wall Fellows Program. Two years ago, the Wall Fellows Program started a new tradition by inducting Honorary Wall Fellows. Harold Stowe was inducted as the first Honorary Wall Fellow in 2014, and G. Henry Jobe was inducted in 2015. This year, Charles "Chuck" Parisher was posthumously inducted as the 2016 Honorary Wall Fellow. The award and jacket were accepted by Henry Lowenstein and Larry Lyles in honor of Parisher. Honorary Wall Fellows are paramount to the program, and we are so grateful to have them serve in many different roles.



Left to right: Larry Lyles and Henry Lowenstein.

The induction ceremony was planned and coordinated by Olivia Carlton '17, Jonah Skiles '17 and Sebastian Henschel. A special thanks goes to many others for all of their hard work.

# Alumni Brunch

On Saturday, Oct. 22, current Wall Fellows and alumni gathered in the Wall Boardroom for the Alumni Brunch. It was a wonderful opportunity to make connections that can last a lifetime.

During the brunch, we awarded the Wall Fellows Alumni of the Year Award to someone who is consistently active and has given much time, talent and resources to the program. Jason Repak '07, founder and president of TACK Holdings Inc., was the recipient of this year's award. Repak has also been creating and implementing a strategic vision for a financial services firm servicing sub-prime auto debt. He has been heavily involved in the Coastal Carolina University community as an alumni board member for the Wall Fellows Program and a member of the Coastal Carolina Finance advisory board. Additionally, he was the first recipient of CCU's Young Alumnus of the Year Award in 2011.



Left to right: Brandi Repak, Jason Repak and Gina Cummings.

Repak has met with the Wall Fellows on numerous occasions and works as a mentor for many students in the program. We are honored to have him as continuing support for the program, and we thank him for his time and dedication.

The alumni brunch was planned and coordinated by Geoffrey Guyette '17 and Beatris Petelkova '17. A special thanks goes to Deb Lauria, administrative assistant for the Wall Fellows Program, for all her hard work.

## Recruitment Plans and Efforts

The fall semester is crucial for the recruitment process. The prospective Wall Fellows are curious and have questions that are answered through the various recruiting activities. Leading the effort is Geoffrey Guyette '17, Sean Edwards '18 and Kaylea Gassaway-Rea '18. Everyone worked during the recruitment process to ensure we reached students who are a perfect fit for the program.

This semester, the Wall Fellows participated in an organization kickoff day and held two information sessions. We also delivered presentations across campus that targeted students who were eligible to apply. Students interested in the program are encouraged to visit the Wall Fellows office in Wall 313 for more information.

With these activities, coupled with summer orientation sessions, letters to the homes of qualified students and recommendations from faculty, we are hoping for a successful application and interview process for the Class of 2019.

# Fall Reading List

Each semester, the Wall Fellows Program is structured around events, projects, activities and readings that give the semester an overarching theme or lesson. This semester, students in the Class of 2018 have been working toward developing key leadership and team member skills to prepare them for the program. Meanwhile, the Class of 2017 has been focusing on the art of decision-making and problem-solving. To lay the foundation for these lessons and discussions, Gina Cummings, director of the Wall Fellows Program, has developed selective readings that guide these principles. Below are some of the books our Wall Fellows have been reading this semester:

## Class of 2017:

*Standout*  
*Getting Things Done*  
*Fish! For Life*  
*Sway: The Irresistible Pull of Irrational Behavior*  
*Who Moved My Cheese?*  
*The Power of Intuition*  
*Leaders Eat Last*  
*Gung Ho!*  
*The Tipping Point*  
*Mindset*

## Class of 2018:

*Courage to Lead*  
*True North*  
*The Power of Hidden Champion*  
*Live Love Lead*  
*The Click Moment*  
*Blink*

## Project Update: Teal Goes Pink

“Women empowering women” is the basis of the Teal Goes Pink community giveback project. The team, which consists of Olivia Carlton '17, Beatris Petelkova '17 and Kaylea Gassaway-Rea '18, have been working this semester on social media posts, securing a speaker for fall and spring semesters, and organizing a photo shoot for middle- and high-school girls through Fostering Hope that will take place on April 8, 2017, in downtown Conway.

Social media posts are posted every Monday. The posts cover an array of different topics; however, the main goal is to encourage women to be themselves, regardless of what society says. Teal Goes Pink hosted an event at 6 p.m. on Dec. 1 in the Wall Boardroom where Emma Ware, a certified nutritionist, spoke about healthy eating and living.

To learn more about Teal Goes Pink, visit and like the project's Facebook page at [facebook.com/TealGoesPink](https://facebook.com/TealGoesPink).





# Project Update: Autism Speaks



The Wall Fellows have been actively engaged in helping students around campus, including those in the LIFE™ (Learning is For Everyone) Program, which is facilitated through the Autism Speaks campaign led by Olivia Carlton '17. The LIFE™ Program is a four-year, tuition-based, post-secondary education transition program for young adults who have mild to moderate intellectual disabilities as defined by the American Association for Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. On Nov. 12, the team hosted LIFE™ Program students at a football game where Josh Stilley '18, quarterback for the CCU football team, led some field passes and gave a tour of some of the locker rooms.

Additionally, the Autism Speaks initiative welcomed the senior LIFE™ students to participate in an etiquette lunch on Nov. 14 to demonstrate etiquette skills to aid the students in their future careers.

To learn more about the Autism Speaks Program or to get involved, contact Olivia Carlton at [olcarlton@g.coastal.edu](mailto:olcarlton@g.coastal.edu).

## Special Awards and Announcements



During the homecoming football game on Oct. 22, Coastal Carolina University announced the 2016 Outstanding Alumni of the Year honorees. Meghan Laffin, Wall Fellows Class of 2014, received the Outstanding Young Alumnus of the Year Award.

Left to right: President David A. DeCenzo and Meghan Laffin.



On Oct. 26, Gina Cummings and Mickayla Smith '18 attended a Carolina Forest Rotary Club meeting, where they spoke about the program, the Wall family, and the efforts and successes of the Wall Fellows.

Left to right: Mickayla Smith, Porter Medley and Gina Cummings.



“The more you put in, the more you get out,” is a quote by Ross Kunmann '18, who was featured in #CCUfamily, CCU's social media campaign. The post read, “This guy practices what he preaches, as he is a supervisor on the HTC Center fitness floor, a valuable member of Pi Kappa Alpha and a Wall Fellow.” View the full post at [coastal.edu/coastal-now/ccufamily/rosskunmann](http://coastal.edu/coastal-now/ccufamily/rosskunmann).

Ross Kunmann.

## Iceland Project Announcements

The Wall Fellows Program is excited to begin working on additional international business projects based out of Iceland for this year. After the success of last year's programs, we will be working with six companies on various business-related projects. Companies this year include Bokun, Dohop, Epal, Florida Villas, Star Oddi and Lysi. The Class of 2018 is eager to begin their new projects and work toward their international trip in Spring 2017.

The Class of 2017 has already completed its international trip and project, so they will be working to help the newest members of the Wall Fellows with various projects.



## Holiday Wishes

In the spirit of the holiday season, we thank you for reading our latest edition of *The Wall Fellows Journal* and for your support of the Wall Fellows program. It is always an honor to connect with you and share the activities of the program. We look forward to the future as we begin to build the foundation for our careers through projects, seminars, and international and domestic trips. Just as our students have been working diligently to give back to the community, we encourage you to donate to the Wall Fellows Program. Your contributions provide for the continued empowerment of current and future students through the leadership development and learning opportunities offered by the program. Your generosity and support is truly a testament to the legacy of the Wall Fellows.



For more information on how to give, visit [coastal.edu/giving/options.html](http://coastal.edu/giving/options.html) (designated Wall Fellows Program under “other”) or contact Eric Rivenbark at 843-349-2010 or [erivenbar@coastal.edu](mailto:erivenbar@coastal.edu). Also, we are still raising money for the “Friends of Ned Cohen” and “Friends of Chuck Parisher” funds for memorial purposes.

We sincerely thank you for your support of the Wall Fellows Program and wish you a happy holiday season!

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