

# THE WALL FELLOWS NEWSLETTER

Winter 2019

## OPENING REMARKS

'Tis the season! It is that wonderful time of year where students are drinking hot chocolate, wearing cozy sweaters, and wrapping up another successful semester.

The Wall Fellows Class of 2021 are inducted into the program and becoming acquainted with their responsibilities. Also, the seniors are creating memories with each other as they prepare for their final semester in the program.

This year, there are 18 Wall Fellows in the program, which is our largest class to date! We made progress with our Wall Fellows Community Giveback projects, and hosted events like the leadership-book workshops, networking and social engagement events, and lectures by 17 guest speakers and alumni.

This edition of the Wall Fellows Newsletter summarizes our induction ceremony; provides project updates; features an outstanding alumna; highlights fall semester learnings; and more!

With warm regards,

Lucia Zats '20 , Emily Towne '20  
Allie Mitchell '21, and Nick Santaniello '21



Wall Fellows Class of 2021 (from left): Ariana Monroe; Nick Santaniello; Anaiya Moore; Ryver Morrow; Chloe Horton; Brian Crawford; Mayleigh Flanigan; Sam DiFiore; and Allie Mitchell.

Induction reflection:  
Emily Towne

Alumni tailgate wrap-up:  
Allie Mitchell

What does it mean to be a  
Wall Fellow? Nick  
Santaniello

Recruitment plans and  
efforts

Semester reflection

Project update: Teal Goes  
Pink

Awards and  
announcements

Internship spotlight:  
Morgan Goodall-Scott

Internship spotlight: Sam  
DiFiore

Alumni spotlight: Krystin  
Dean

...and more!

# Induction summation by Emily Towne

The Wall Fellows program is celebrating its 25th anniversary this academic year. On Nov. 1, 2019, we inducted the Class of 2021. This class contains hard-working and driven students who will carry on the legacy of excellence preceded by the Wall Fellows from the past 24 years.

The induction ceremony planning team successfully honored the 25th Anniversary of the Wall Fellows program with a formal event that was a night to remember. Members of the planning team included senior Wall Fellows Morgan Goodall-Scott, Austin Johnson, Kristin Slovick, Lucia Zats, and me, with integral support from key University staff including Gina Cummings, Debra Lauria, Shawn Sease, and the special events team.

The evening began with photos taken of the classes of 2020 and 2021 in Blanton Park. As guests began to arrive at 5:30 p.m., the festivities moved to the patio in front of the Singleton Building where conversations bubbled with excitement for the evening. Hors d'oeuvres were served by Aramark, while live music played by Coastal Carolina University alumnus Marcus Cannon filled the background. During this time, Charles Gray '20 held interviews in the Dawsey Conference Room, and professional photos were taken by director of photography Judy Johns.

The reception flowed into the Singleton Ballroom at 6:30 p.m. for dinner. Inside, the ballroom was decorated with white flowers in vases adorned with the 25th anniversary seal and teal and bronze table sashes, and a slideshow of past and present Wall Fellows played in the background. Dinner was served and conversations continued among guests.



Director of the Wall Fellows program Gina Cummings (far left wearing a black and white dress) with the Wall Fellows classes of 2020 and 2021.



The Wall Fellows 25th Anniversary seal was created by CCU's Office of University Marketing and Communication.



Charles Gray '20



Brian Crawford '21 (in a tuxedo) mingling with his family and guests at the Wall Fellows Induction Ceremony.

# Induction summation (cont.) by Emily Towne



The ceremony began at 7:30 p.m. as the Class of 2021 joined director Gina Cummings on stage with Trevor Greene '19 and Lainey Malone '17. Greene and Malone opened the ceremony by recognizing individuals in the audience who make the program possible. Then, they welcomed Barbara Ritter, Ph.D., dean of the Wall College of Business onto the stage. In her speech, Ritter encouraged the Class of 2021 and those in attendance to have ferocious grit, and reminded us that our strength in character is what makes us who we are and defines our individual paths.

The new inductees were sworn in and signed the code of conduct for the Wall Fellows program, as each was recognized individually for their successes as students and members of the Coastal Carolina community. The board of visitors, faculty mentors, honorary Wall Fellows, alumni, and the Class of 2020 lined the edge of Singleton Ballroom and greeted the newly inducted class, congratulating them for their accomplishments.

Next, Erica Evans and I addressed the audience with speeches focused on authenticity, trust, persistence, and luck. We were grateful for the opportunity to share our experiences in the program and welcome the Class of 2021 into the Wall Fellows family. The evening concluded with words of encouragement and wisdom from director Cummings.

The Wall Fellows program has an impact on the lives of those who have participated as members, mentors, and advisers. The opportunity to be part of the program's mission has been a blessing for me and my classmates, and we look forward to working with, and encouraging, the Class of 2021 for the next semester and a half.

Warmest regards,  
Emily Towne '20



Mayleigh Flanigan '21 signing the code of conduct.

# Alumni tailgate wrap-up by Allie Mitchell

This year, instead of the usual alumni brunch, the Wall Fellows hosted an alumni tailgate during Homecoming. This year's alumni tailgate team included Erica Evans '20, Anaiya Moore '21, and Brian Crawford '21. The team created a space where alumni could interact with current Wall Fellows and other attendees in a casual environment.

Those in attendance received nifty giveaways such as cups and coasters; ate scrumptious food; and mingled with one another on a personal level. "The induction weekend gave me, as well as other current Wall Fellows, a chance to connect with our alumni," said Erica Evans '20. "We were able to engage in conversations, as well as interact on a more personal level at both the tailgate and football game. It was exciting to cheer the Chanticleers to victory while talking with alumni about their experiences in the Wall Fellows program."

-Allie Mitchell



# What does it mean to be a Wall Fellow? by Nicholas Santaniello

The Wall Fellows program is an intense leadership-development program geared toward helping members obtain personal and professional success after college. During the annual spring retreat, new members are matched with a member of the senior class who will serve as their mentor during their time in the program. The mentors do more than provide project assistance; they provide friendship, guidance, and support.

The program has taught me more than I anticipated during the few months I have been a member. The Class of 2021 entered the program thinking it was merely a prestigious program that teaches students how to be better leaders during and after college; however, the program is more than that. We are also learning the importance of community, giving back, and working together to achieve goals. We are all driven, but we get along well and are able to help each other navigate a multitude of situations.

-Nicholas Santaniello '21



(From left): Austin Johnson '20  
and Patrick Dempsey '19.

Wall Fellows classes of 2020  
and 2021.



# Recruitment plans and efforts

The Wall Fellows began their marketing and recruiting efforts in October. Members spoke with sophomores about the program and the open application process. This year, they are using social media more to inform the University community about the program, and a Snapchat geotag, an electronic tag that assigns a geographical location to a photograph, video, or social media posting, etc., will go live at the beginning of the spring semester! The recruitment team also interviewed Wall Fellows alumni and other influential individuals at the Wall Fellows Induction Ceremony; this footage will be compiled for a promotional video.



Wall Fellows Class of 2020.



Wall Fellows Class of 2021.

# Semester reflection by Allie Mitchell



(Left to right): Austin Johnson '20, Ryver Morrow '21, Zak Gardiner '20, Charles Gray '20  
Nick Santaniello '21, Sam DiFiore '21, and Brian Crawford '20.

Empowered leadership demands the process of contemplation because it helps individuals learn from the past, apply necessary changes to the present, and make wiser decisions in the future. With the fall semester coming to a close, three Wall Fellows reflect on semester highlights; their favorite learning experience; and future changes during the spring semester.

**Ariana Monroe '21:** “I really enjoyed learning about off-the-grid and self-sufficient communities. One of my current projects is titled ‘Communities of Tomorrow.’ The project focuses on what comprises a community and how these communities can work efficiently.”

Monroe finds the process of learning about different world perspectives and lifestyles intriguing and a crucial part of refining her leadership skills.

**Ryver Morrow '21:** “I would like to make more time for self care and try not to push myself to the maximum every week. This semester has helped me understand how to better maximize my time.”  
Wall Fellows director Gina Cummings often reminds the fellows, “Everyone has the same 24 hours in a day.”

Morrow has noticed the challenges he faced this semester helped reveal capabilities he didn't know were possible.

**Austin Johnson '20:** “This semester has provided many opportunities to bond and foster relationships with the Class of 2021.”

One of his key learnings from this fall includes, “Learning how to say no, and as a motivated and enthusiastic individual, it is hard to say no sometimes.”

-Allie Mitchell

# Project update: Teal Goes Pink

Teal Goes Pink (TGP) is an inclusive student-led organization that focuses on female empowerment at Coastal Carolina University. Their mission is to provide a safe space and build a community in which young women are able to share both personal and professional experiences.

In order to foster positive changes and growth within our members, TGP holds biweekly meetings and plan events centered around meaningful topics relevant to issues faced by women today.

On Sept. 23, TGP held its first event at C3 Coffee where women were invited to network and mingle in a powerful setting. This was a time filled with laughter and relationship building.

TGP's ultimate goal is for members to move forward with confidence and the necessary knowledge to uplift and empower both themselves and those around them.



TGP participants visit Bruster's ice cream after the September event at C3 Coffee.



# Awards and announcements

On Oct. 3, senior Wall Fellows Erica Evans, Morgan Goodall-Scott, and Emily Towne presented research from their Iceland consulting project at the Southeastern chapter of the Institute for Operations Research and the Management Sciences (INFORMS) and won Best Student Paper at the conference. Congratulations, ladies!



(Left to right): Gina Cummings, Emily Towne, Morgan Goodall-Scott, Erica Evans, and Mark Mitchell, Ph.D.

Congratulations to Kristin Slovick '20 and Kiley Decker '20 for being selected to attend the MIPIM International Real Estate Conference with FIABCI in Cannes, France, during spring break. The Wall Fellows are very excited for you!



Kristin Slovick



Kiley Decker

# Awards and announcements (cont.)

Congratulations to five outstanding Wall Fellows selected to represent the University as presidential ambassadors. The ambassadors are student leaders who host presidential and University functions. They also assist in planning special events and network with distinguished University and community leaders; engage with alumni and donors; and serve as liaisons between the Office of the President and students.



Anaiya Moore '21



Allie Mitchell '21



Charles Gray '20



Nick Santaniello '21



Ryver Morrow '21

# Internships

On Sept. 11 and 18, the Wall Fellows spoke with Dan Adams, member of the Wall Fellows board of advisers; David Doerring, lecturer in the Department of Management and Decision Sciences at CCU; and Samuel Wathen, Ph.D., professor in the Department of Management and Decision Sciences at CCU about their Summer 2019 internships.

The Wall Fellows described the companies they interned for; their responsibilities as interns; what they liked and disliked about their internships; and details about their future plans for internships or careers.

## Favorite quotes from the Wall Fellows

We asked our classmates what quotes inspire them, and their responses are shown below.

**Nicholas Santaniello '21:** "Success doesn't just find you. You have to go out and get it."

- Unknown

**Lucia Zats '20:** "The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams."

- Eleanor Roosevelt

**Erica Evans '20:** "Many will want it. Few will earn it."

- Slogan of shoe company New Balance

**Ryver Morrow '21:** "If the mind is willing, the flesh could go on without many things."

- Sun Tzu, "The Art of War"

# Summer 2019 Internships

Ernst and Young, LLP

Turner Construction Company

Where Food Comes From

Waccamaw Community Foundation

Home Shop Properties

The Boston Bruins

Siemens Digital Industries

Wyndham Destinations

Walmart

Edward Jones

Primerica Life Insurance

The POWER of Elderberries

Calabash Nautical Gifts

SiteTech Systems

Harris Teeter

Distinct Distribution

Rural medical clinic in Guatemala



Erica Evans '20 interning for a rural medical clinic in Guatemala.

# Internship spotlight: Morgan Goodall-Scott

During the summer, Morgan Goodall-Scott '20 interned in Atlanta with Turner Construction in the human resources department. At Turner, Goodall-Scott conducted research; assisted with recruitment and career development processes; presented her findings to senior management; coordinated National Intern Day activities; assisted with filing personnel forms and information; and wrote and responded to emails.

Her favorite aspect of the internship was the opportunity to cultivate connections with her supervisor, coworkers, and fellow interns. A fun activity for the interns was a weekend-long company softball tournament in Ohio; it was a great way to meet people from different departments.

Goodall-Scott describes Turner as an organization that fosters growth and learning and one that has a family atmosphere where employees truly care about each other. This internship solidified her interest to work in human resources at a corporation.

A piece of advice she gives regarding internships is to take advantage of being in new surroundings and ask for suggestions on places to visit.



# Internship spotlight: Samuel DiFiore

This past summer, Samuel DiFiore '21 interned with Home Shop Properties and the Boston Bruins.

DiFiore was a marketing intern at Home Shop Properties for five weeks from May to June 2019 where he focused mainly on a new housing development titled Marbella Lofts. In this position, he used regression analysis to compare their unit prices to the competitors prices. One of his most challenging tasks was learning the ins and outs of local governments and the processes behind building new apartment complexes.

After completing his internship with Home Shop Properties, DiFiore completed another five-week internship with the Boston Bruins. During his work with the Bruins, DiFiore was a communications intern working with media marketing and player development. His tasks included transcribing interviews, digitizing media clips, and leading media to specific players. DiFiore says his favorite part of this internship was digging through incoming players' social media profiles and creating presentations on how to improve their social media pages to spread a positive message. He interned with the Bruins from June to July 2019.

One lesson DiFiore learned from his internship with the Bruins was that every task is important to the overall synergy of the company.



# Fundraising update



The Wall Fellows program has impacted many lives through the generous support of alumni, community members, and believers in the mission of the program. The Wall Fellows utilize their skills to be resilient leaders while making positive impacts on their communities. This is proven true each year when they are placed in high-level careers after graduation, such as working on Wall Street or at the White House.

We are currently holding a fundraising campaign to raise funds for the program, and the Wall Fellows board of advisers pledged to match up to \$9,000 to the program. Every dollar you pledge will be doubled by the board's generous offer! Our fundraising goal is 100 percent participation from Wall Fellows alumni, and donations of any amount count toward the goal and is greatly appreciated. If you are willing and able, please consider donating to this program that has impacted more than 140 Coastal students, their families, friends, and communities.

Visit [coastal.edu/wallfellows/give](https://coastal.edu/wallfellows/give) to donate.

Thank you for your consideration. Contact Eric Rivenbark at [erivenbar@coastal.edu](mailto:erivenbar@coastal.edu) or 843-349-2010 if you have questions about donating.

# Alumni feature: Krystin Dean '06

by Allie Mitchell



Krystin Dean '06 is a proud member of the Wall Fellows family. She earned her bachelor's degree in English and dramatic arts from Coastal Carolina University (CCU) and her master's degree in journalism from the University of Lincoln in Lincoln, England. Dean works remotely as a communications consultant for Georgia Family Connection Partnership, an Atlanta-based nonprofit that brings together more than 3,000 partners in all of Georgia's 159 counties working toward better outcomes for children, families, and communities.

Her work is focused on the Get Georgia Reading Campaign, which aims to ensure all children in Georgia become proficient readers by the end of third grade. Her projects are diverse and include managing print pieces, writing, editing, branding, media relations, web, and social media. She previously served as director of communications and marketing at Young Harris College in Georgia. Dean and her husband, Scott, a fellow CCU alumnus and photographer for the University, have two children, Skyela and Holden. Through her church, Dean volunteers with homeless outreach and REACH ministry, which empowers underserved youth along the Grand Strand.

We were able to sit down with Dean for a brief interview while she was in town for the Wall Fellows Induction Ceremony in November.

## **Like the current Wall Fellows, you love to travel. How did find time to travel post-graduation?**

"I am from a small town in Ohio, so traveling overseas always seemed like a dream until I came to CCU. I was extremely blessed to travel to Germany and Slovakia with the Wall Fellows, and to take a five-week backpacking trip through 20 cities in Europe right after graduation that culminated with my engagement to Scott on the Cliffs of Moher in Ireland.

When Scott and I earned our master's degrees together in England, we maximized down time with trips to Scotland, France, and Egypt. During the five years I worked in higher education, I was able to travel across the U.S. for conferences in big cities like San Francisco, Austin, Boston, and New Orleans. Scott and (later on) the kids came with me, and we factored in extra days to spend time sightseeing. Now, I work from home and set my own hours, so it's easy to make travel plans, whether it's a few days in New York City or a 10-day trip to England like we did last month. It also helps having friends overseas to visit and parents who are happy to babysit."

## **What are two of your favorite memories from your time at Coastal? One involving "work" and one involving "play."**

"It was an honor and joy to serve as editor of TEMPO Magazine, and my favorite memory of that was our cover shoot for an edition that focused on our writers' eclectic passions. We featured all writers on a foldout cover (a first for TEMPO) wearing red and black. It was so cool to look around the room and witness this experience for students who would never meet otherwise." (Interview continues on next page.)

# Alumni feature: Krystin Dean (cont.)

by Allie Mitchell



“Also, the photoshoot was a lot to orchestrate, but we pulled it off. Our photographer at the time, who is also coincidentally my husband, nailed it.

Double majoring in theatre meant I got to perform in two plays with Scott. One of them, titled “second.,” was written by Coastal Carolina University alumnus Neal Utterback. He came to campus for the show, and I participated in a writing workshop with him. It was amazing to have both of my majors merge like that. Doing theatre also led to my favorite tradition, which was hosting ‘family dinner’ every Sunday evening for 10 or more of our fellow theatre majors. It was such a great way to start each week bonding and sharing a home-cooked meal prepared by Scott.”

**Many students struggle with the transition from college to the professional world. How was the transition for you? What tips do you have for building a network and staying in-tune with interests post-graduation?**

“Quite honestly, the transition was hard. I felt like I did everything “right”—three internships, solid work experience, leadership roles, double major, and a master’s degree. Then I started applying for jobs, and nothing happened. When it became clear the online application route wasn’t working, Scott and I embarked on a job-hunting road trip. We stopped in Conway and met up with my longtime CCU mentor, Nelljean Rice, Ph.D. She told me former Coastal Carolina University president Ron Ingle, Ph.D., was serving as interim provost at Young Harris College in Georgia. There was a job opening in the Office of Communications and Marketing there, which seemed like a stretch for someone who didn’t major in either. I applied any way and ended up working right across the hall from Ingle.

Whenever I have to make a big life decision, I know I can call Rice, and she helps me make the best choice. Having people like her and Ingle in my corner more than one decade after I graduated says a lot about the strength of CCU’s connections. Sometimes you have to seek them out, and sometimes they find you. One of the reasons I love CCU so much is the mentors who have impacted my life are people who never taught me, like Richard Collins, Ph.D., who helped Scott and me choose where to study in England and visited us while we were over there. That’s not something you find at every university.”

**College is a very future-focused time in the education system—much more so than middle or high school. What were some ways you slowed down and enjoyed the present?**

“I’m not sure I did! Coastal has so much to offer, and I couldn’t say no to any of the opportunities that came my way. I thought I would minor in theatre and ended up double majoring. I thought I would write for the TEMPO and ended up being editor for two years. From the Student Alumni Ambassadors to the Wall Fellows, every experience led me to new friends, challenges, celebrations, and memories I still treasure. I got to write, perform, travel, make connections, and live each day to the fullest. CCU was the perfect home for me, and it still feels like home.”



# Project update: Food Insecurity

The Food Insecurity Project is a new project created to raise awareness of the CINO Pantry around campus. In addition, the Wall Fellows want to destigmatize the understanding of those who use and need the resources found in the CINO Pantry. Project member Kiley Decker says, “We are also planning to add drop boxes around campus for students to donate non-perishable food items.”

The Wall Fellows also participated in Hunger and Homeless Awareness Week, which took place in November. This event focused on raising awareness about homeless students around campus. The team helped distribute free cans of soup in the Lib Jackson Student Union building and volunteered at an Oxfam Hunger Banquet, an event focused on understanding different social classes around the world.

The Wall Fellows are currently working with CINO Pantry to plan events and begin brainstorming plans for the Spring 2020 semester.



(Left to right) Lucia Zats '20, Kiley Decker '20, Charles Gray '20, and Mayleigh Flanigan '21.

# Upcoming events

The 2019-2020 academic year is halfway through with new projects and upcoming events. Find some of the event dates below:

Class of 2020 Domestic Trip to San Diego – Jan. 4-11, 2020

Interviews for Wall Fellows Class of 2022 – January 2020

Contact director Gina Cummings at [gcummings@coastal.edu](mailto:gcummings@coastal.edu) if you would like to get involved. Please follow our social media accounts for regular updates.



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From left to right: Emily Towne; Erica Evans; Kiley Decker; Morgan Goodall-Scott; Kristin Slovic; and Lucia Zats.