



Traditions from the CofC Traditions App

[Walk or Run Across the Ravenel Bridge](#)

The “new” Cooper River bridge connecting Charleston to Mount Pleasant opened in 2005 and is named for CofC alumnus Arthur Ravenel Jr. '50 who served in the SC General Assembly and the U.S. Congress. Its majestic design has become an icon for the city. Locals not only commute over it daily for work, they go for walks and runs across it while taking in a beautiful view of Charleston's harbor.

[Visit the Halsey Institute of Contemporary Art](#)

Have you visited the Halsey Institute of Contemporary Art yet? The HICA is a non-collecting art institute within the School of the Arts at the College that displays artwork regularly. Student artwork is featured in the Hill Gallery right outside of Halsey. Stop by to support the beautiful collections and artwork from your classmates!

[Pore Over the College’s Rare Audubon Portfolio](#)

In Special Collections of the Addlestone Library, tucked within a glass display case, sit two books illustrated by the most famous bird painter of all time, John James Audubon. Completed in 1838, this unparalleled work of 435 hand-colored folio plates illustrates 1,065 birds in four leather-bound volumes. Only 120 complete sets are known to exist in the world and the College’s pages are turned once daily.

[Visit the Turtles in Stern Center Garden](#)

Stern Garden is one of the most relaxing places on campus, featuring a quaint pond and beautiful plant life. Throughout each year, you can find turtles swimming in the pond or sunbathing. Not only is this a great location to study and unwind, but a great place to enjoy nature as well.

[Convocation](#)

Remember Convocation, the annual celebration where we gathered with fellow incoming students and faculty to celebrate the start of a new scholastic year? We walked through the arch at Porter’s Lodge into the Cistern Yard and signed “The Book.” This signified our membership into the College’s 250-year-old liberal arts and sciences community.

[Visit the Avery Research Center for African American History and Culture](#)

The Avery Normal Institute was completed in 1868 and was Charleston’s first free secondary school for African Americans. It was acquired by the College of Charleston in 1985 and since then, the Avery has served as a source of community pride and outreach on African American issues. Its mission is to preserve African American culture and tradition and to bring diverse constituencies to the College. Tours are offered throughout the year."

Get to Know Historic Charleston

The Sottile House (c. 1890) sits on the corner of Green Way and College Way, formerly known as Green Street and College Street. These streets were open to vehicular traffic until the 1970s when the College added them to its campus as pedestrian ways. Next door, toward Coming Street, is the Knox-Lesnes House (c. 1846).

Cheer for the Cougars at a Women's Sporting Event

With eleven different sports teams of talented women at CofC, there are plenty of opportunities to cheer on our athletes. From volleyball, sailing, softball, tennis, cross country, soccer, equestrian, and more, make sure our Cougars know we support them!"

Pull an All-Nighter in Addlestone Library

Opened in 2005, the library is named for CofC alumna Marlene Addlestone '64 and her husband, Nathan. It's the preferred place to hunker down and get work done by students, especially at crunch time. Night after night, students congregate in study rooms and around tables to study, write papers, and encourage each other through grueling assignments. It would be difficult to find a Cougar who graduates without staying in the Addlestone until closing time or even sunrise during exam week!

Visit the College's First Classroom

The President's House at 6 Glebe Street was constructed in 1770 as the parsonage of St. Philip's Church. It is named for Bishop Robert Smith, who lived in the home and was the first President of the College. He held the first classes on the ground floor of his home. This classroom is often in use for meetings and events today. College rings spend the night in the classroom before they are presented to students at the annual ring ceremony in order to instill each ring with the spirit of the founder and original students.

Memorize the Translation of the Greek Inscription above the Porters Lodge Gate

As you pass through the historic arch at Porter's Lodge to enter Cistern Yard, notice the Greek inscription above the center gate. It translates to "Learn to Know Thyself." As College of Charleston students, we find ourselves accepting this challenge again and again and will maintain this habit the rest of our lives. Immediately following spring commencement, the College's newest graduates exit Cistern Yard through this gate to enter the world as alumni.

Donate to the College

Donations help foster and promote the core purpose of the College of Charleston in both current students and alumni. Students who donate \$17.70 or more, within a fiscal year become members of Committed to Charleston (C2C). Alumni who donate by February 1 receive early-access to and \$10 off tickets to A Charleston Affair. Please donate here: <https://cofcday.cofc.edu/>

Attend a Cougar Countdown Event

Cougar Countdown offers students a wide array of activities and events designed to help them stay positive and productive during Final Exam Week. Activities include yoga, massages, pancakes, puppies, Peer Counseling, and more!

[Show Your Pride at Homecoming](#)

Our Homecoming Week is held annually in the spring in conjunction with Cougar Basketball and includes a week-long calendar of events, including royalty elections, a parade, a tailgate, pep rallies, a service project, and a Spirit Cup Challenge for campus student organizations.

[Participate in the CofC Ring Ceremony](#)

The College of Charleston ring design dates back over a hundred years and is the same for men and women. Since ours is a school ring, rather than a class ring, students may order theirs upon earning 30 hours toward a degree. The signet ring features the College seal and may be custom engraved inside. Rings are presented by the College President at the annual ring ceremony held each year in conjunction with Family Weekend.

[Choose Your Favorite Skeleton](#)

Dinosaurs? Sabre tooth tigers? Sharks? No, it's not a horror film, it's the Mace Brown Museum of Natural History, located in the School of Sciences and Mathematics Building. With skulls and bones proudly presiding over the corner of Calhoun and Coming streets, the museum includes fossils that are as many as 50-million-years-old. Admission to the museum is free.

[Enjoy Cistern Yard](#)

Looking for a great place to study or relax? Look no further than the heart of campus. In Cistern Yard, students enjoy a parklike setting of green grass under live oak trees draped with Spanish moss. It's the site of our convocation and commencement ceremonies, A Charleston Affair and Spoleto Festival performances, but for our time on campus, it's our very own secret garden.

[Visit the Alumni Welcome Center at Towell Library](#)

Towell Library was designed by George E. Walker and constructed from 1854-56 on the West side of Cistern Yard as the College's first stand-alone library building. The building is named for alumnus Edward Emerson Towell '34, a much-revered chemistry professor, Dean, and Interim President of the College. This National Historic Landmark is one of the great treasures of the College and the City of Charleston. Portraits of distinguished alumni and founders are on display throughout the building.

[Cheer for the Cougars at Three Sporting Events](#)

With 19 NCAA athletics teams, there is bound to be a sport you'll enjoy. Support our nearly 400 student athletes, who represent our College and make us proud. Whether it's basketball or volleyball at TD Arena, baseball, soccer, tennis, or softball at Patriots Point, or one of our other teams, make sure our classmates know we support them!

[Get to Know Clyde](#)

College of Charleston students voted to change the school's mascot from the Maroons to the Cougars during the 1970-1971 school year. Clyde the Cougar is beloved by young and old and is represented in two statues on campus.

[Celebrate Graduation at A Charleston Affair](#)

Since 1900, the CofC Alumni Association has held an annual alumni celebration honoring the graduating class. A Charleston Affair hosts nearly 4,000 guests each year, from Calhoun Street to Wentworth

Street, and St. Philip Street to Coming Street. Enjoy a live band under the oaks in Cistern Yard, a DJ in Cougar Mall, delicious food, and delectable beverages while mingling with classmates and alumni.

[Visit Randolph Hall](#)

Designed by architect William Strickland and built in 1828-29, Randolph Hall is the oldest college classroom building still in use in the U.S. Named for the 13th president of the College (Harrison Randolph, who served from 1897-1945), Randolph Hall served as the main academic building on campus for many years. In 1854, architect Edward Brickell White designed wings to add to the East and West sides of the building to accommodate the College's growth. The main meeting area, located on the second floor, is called Alumni Memorial Hall. Many of the College's formal ceremonies and announcements take place here.

[Meet the President of the College](#)

The College has an impressive list of Presidents who have led the way in educating young people in the liberal arts. Starting with Robert Smith in 1790, the first Bishop to the Episcopal Church in South Carolina, to Glenn McConnell '69 in 2014, former Lieutenant Governor of South Carolina and President Pro Tempore of the S.C. Senate for years. Our current President is Andrew T. Hsu, and the theme of his inauguration was ""Tradition and Transformation"". Students love to see the President around campus and hear what he has to say.

[Translate the Latin Phrase above the Alumni Gate](#)

The gate leading from Calhoun Street into Cougar Mall is designated as the ""Alumni Gate."" The Latin phrase above the gate reads, ""Haec olim meminisse iuvabit,"" taken almost verbatim from Virgil's epic poem, The Aeneid. The phrase represents the notion that our time at our alma mater, though challenging, will offer some of the most fulfilling, life-shaping experiences we'll ever have.

[Visit Your Freshman Year Residence Hall](#)

Which residence hall did you live in your freshman year? We have 11 residence halls on campus, including McAlister, Liberty, McConnell, Berry, and more. Visit the building where you made some of your very first college memories.

[Vote!](#)

The College has a proud tradition of creating outstanding citizens and government leaders. Regardless of our political outlook, it's important to participate in a democracy. Whether it's voting in national, state, or local elections, or for SGA officers here on campus, let's make sure our votes count.