

letter from the editor

I can still remember my freshman orientation and the feeling of my tank top sticking to my back as I sweated through its entirety; I wondered how I would ever be able to survive four whole years in a city so humid.

This, accompanied by my apprehension about taking the 'next big step' and a consistent Charleston shuffle, terrified me of what was to come upon moving into my dorm. But these expected nerves were inevitably quelled by the effervescent spanish moss that so gracefully garnishes our campus, as well as the exceptional community that was waiting for me here in the fall.

For this Orientation Issue of The Yard, we tried to capture the feeling of experiencing a summer in Charleston: uninhibited, spontaneous and most importantly: HOT. We've included multiple lists that you may find helpful as you begin navigating the College and the greater Charleston area, including our favorite food and beverage picks for a freshman budget and campus organizations that will further expand your experience as a Cougar.

You will come to see, too, that being a college student requires you to acknowledge the problems of the world around us—after all, you're in school to try and solve them! The last year has been unquestionably difficult for everyone, between the novel Coronavirus pandemic and sociopolitical upheaval. With this in mind, we've featured stories that highlight issues like the systematic racial disparities that have perpetually plagued Charleston, but also stories of human resilience like that



of our very own President Andrew Hsu. We hope that these pieces will help you see that there is still a lot of work to be done, and that your academic efforts at College of Charleston will not be in vain.

All things considered, I suggest that you soak in all that the College has to offer during your orientation sessions. I hope this magazine brings you all excitement for what is to come, and confidence that you've ended up in the right place. But most of all, I hope you make Charleston yours for the next four years.

Welcome home, Cougs,

Katie Hopewell '22
Editor-in-Chief