Experience the World

Comprehensive Campaign Planning
Strategic Priority Identification: Project Descriptions
Case for Strategic Significance:

Committed to developing competitive, global learners, the programs of the School of Languages, Cultures and World Affairs are growing rapidly. They underscore the goal of the College of Charleston, founded in 1771, to become the Southeast’s leading public liberal arts and sciences university. The School is integral to the College’s renaissance as it looks forward.

We are acutely aware that the world of the 21st century will bring major transformations to our society and our nation. Therefore, the School’s focus is to equip students with core language and analytical skills based on awareness and understanding of international and cultural issues. Our key objective across majors is to foster competence, an open and adaptable frame of mind, and the intellectual outlook needed to navigate an evolving global environment. Our commitment draws inspiration, energy and support from the College of Charleston’s location in a historic port city and in a state with many international businesses such as Boeing, Michelin and Bosch. We embrace the reality that globalization is literally at our front door.

Bottom line: our determination is to make the School of Languages, Cultures and World Affairs a center of teaching quality and recognized excellence across the disciplines, producing students at ease with, and equipped to compete in and win in, the national and global arenas.

Even now, the School of Languages, Cultures and World Affairs advances global learning at a remarkable pace. It cannot do otherwise. Though the School is recent, its new International Studies major is the College’s fastest growing major. The School enrolls more students each semester in foreign language courses, 3500, than Clemson and USC combined. The South Carolina Commission on Higher Education has cited all of our undergraduate language degrees with commendations of excellence, the only university to receive this recognition. The School ties foreign language and literature instruction to its new interdisciplinary programs, such as Latin American and Caribbean Studies, Asian Studies, and Jewish Studies.

Naming the School can only strengthen existing capacities. And it will definitely enhance its statue within the College of Charleston and beyond as the place where “students become knowledgeable, engaged citizens in an increasingly complex and interdependent world” (School Mission Statement).

Renovation of JC Long Building
At the moment, faculty in the School of Languages, Cultures and World Affairs are spread throughout six separate buildings across campus. The College has the opportunity to bring the majority of our students and faculty together in a newly renovated space designed to facilitate the pedagogy of language instruction and further interdisciplinary education. The J.C. Long building, currently home for
languages, business, and computer science faculty, has recently been reserved exclusively for modern languages faculty in the College of Charleston’s long term facilities plan. The building renovations call for additional computer classrooms, seminar rooms, a dean’s suite, a culture and cuisine laboratory, and a state-of-the-art language laboratory to give faculty and students the physical facilities they need to achieve advanced language and area studies.

**Study Abroad**
Lifelong global learners must have the opportunity to study abroad. Striving to deepen the educational experiences of our students through an examination of the languages, history and cultures of the world, the School has begun to expect international study of its students. Several majors now require study away in order to graduate and we fully expect others to follow suit. In order to realize our goal of having all students majoring in disciplines within the School experience study away, we need to provide them with a suite of scholarship opportunities including full and partial scholarships for semester study abroad. Moreover, we plan to supplement study away with international internships giving students the possibility of gaining work experience and building a professional network outside the classroom.

**Faculty research and development**
A faculty of the highest quality with readily available access to funding for research and scholarship projects is necessary to educate lifelong global learners. With a robust faculty development program in place, the School will attract and retain teachers and scholars who have the most current knowledge about language acquisition and cultural and area studies. Faculty development funds support travel to international libraries and archives, travel to present research papers at scholarly conferences, new course development, and stipends to accompany students participating in the study away programs in Cuba, Argentina, Chile, Spain and France.

**Assigned cost:** $5,000,000
Title of Initiative: Endowed Chairs in Critical or Less Commonly Taught Languages
Category: Programmatic/Endowment
Department: Languages, Cultures, and World Affairs (LCWA)

Case for Strategic Significance:
If colleges and universities are to produce lifelong global learners for the new century, their challenge is to embed the traditions and experiences of the non-Western world into the curriculum as they embraced the Western tradition in the 19th and 20th centuries. The School of Languages, Cultures and World Affairs currently offers introductory instruction in Chinese, Hindi, Russian and Arabic, and is well-positioned to expand instruction in these critical languages into a new Program in Critical Language Study. Faculty in this new Program will prepare students with the advanced cultural and linguistic competence necessary to meet the challenges of national defense and security as well as world economic competitiveness. We request funding for four faculty positions in Arabic, Hindi, Chinese and Russian.

Today, no one contests the usefulness of studying foreign languages, yet there is a profound shortage of people learning critical need foreign languages. The Modern Language Association, the foremost professional association of language educators in higher education, has noted what it calls “the nation’s language deficit.” According to the MLA, after 9/11 “the United States’ inability to communicate with or comprehend other parts of the world became a prominent subject for journalists, as language failures of all kinds plagued the United States military interventions in Afghanistan and Iraq and its effort to suppress terrorism.” Recognizing this deficit, the federal government has initiated new programs and revitalized existing programs. These include the Language Teaching Corps, Fulbright Scholarships and the National Flagship Language Initiative. If the College of Charleston can significantly increase the number of students in its language programs, particularly those studying strategic languages like Chinese, Arabic, Hindi, and Russian, they will find numerous opportunities for advanced education, including graduate education, immersion study and internships. Undergraduate education, particularly majors and minors in critical languages, is foundational for assuring that the country has a workforce of professionals with superior proficiency in critical languages.

In languages such as Arabic, Russian, Chinese, and Hindi we do not have sufficient faculty infrastructure or student interest at this time to warrant a major. In fact, only a handful of the very largest research universities in the United States and none in Georgia, South Carolina or North Carolina, offer majors in all these languages. Nevertheless, we have found a way to promote concentrated study in these less commonly taught languages. The College has new majors in International Studies and Asian Studies (proposed) that require extended study in two foreign languages and in-depth focus in area studies. Thus, a student who wants to study Chinese will couple advanced language study with courses in Chinese history, Asian religion and the like.

With support, we expect to expand the number of students taking Russian, Hindi, Arabic and Chinese courses and especially those with majors and minors built on these strategic language areas. If fully funded after three years, we expect to triple the
credit hour production in these four languages and have approximately forty students with majors/minors in these languages. At the same time, we will introduce external proficiency ratings for our students to fully assess their success with language acquisition and demonstrate their level of attainment to employers and graduate educators. We expect our students in critical language areas to be applicants for Fulbright Student Programs, for Gilman Scholarships, for graduate work in National Flagship Language Programs and for intensive language study generally.

While the primary goal of the Critical Language Program at the College of Charleston is to increase the number of undergraduate students taking courses in these less commonly taught languages, we also expect to support wider community efforts. Therefore, we will develop K-12 partnerships to establish and improve innovative programs in Chinese, Arabic, Hindi and Russian in schools across South Carolina. Specifically, we plan to establish summer teacher training sessions for classroom teachers that bring them together with highly qualified/certified language instructors as well as heritage speakers to foster collaboration and support for the integration of foreign language across content areas.

Assigned cost: $6,000,000 (four positions at $1,500,000 each)

Title of Initiative: Endowed Chair, African American Studies
Category: Endowment
Department: African American Studies

Case for Strategic Significance:
Focus on the diversity of experiences in the United States prepares students to become lifelong global learners as they develop new perspectives on cultural issues. The College of Charleston is uniquely positioned to be a leader in African American Studies. The existing academic minor, the proposed major (slated to begin in Fall 2012), faculty expertise in history, literature, theater, philosophy, religion, and political science, and the Avery Research Center all build on the rich and complex history and culture of African Americans in the Lowcountry. The ability to offer students and faculty a wide range of experiential and hands-on learning/research opportunities is unmatched by the majority of African American Studies programs in the country. Because of our location, and the resources this location offers, the College would be an attractive draw for a distinguished scholar to come to campus, teach in our program, and collaborate with regional stakeholders such as the International African American Museum and the Gullah Geechee Corridor program. In turn, the presence of a distinguished scholar holding an endowed chair in African American Studies would further establish the reputation of the College as a leader in the field and as a catalyst for research throughout the community.

Assigned Cost: Endowed Chair, African American Studies $1,500,000
**Title of Initiative:** Endowed Chair, Holocaust Studies  
**Category:** Endowment  
**Department:** Jewish Studies Program

**Case for Strategic Significance:**
The direct lessons of the Holocaust make students into lifelong global learners versed in an understanding of human rights and peace education worldwide. The College of Charleston is the only university in South Carolina that, year after year, offers students multiple classes on the Holocaust. These classes are essential, given the numbers of Jewish students at the College and the centrality of the Holocaust to modern Jewish identity. Moreover, these courses draw a large and diverse student body, the majority of whom are not Jewish. This in itself is important. Not only do Holocaust courses raise awareness of our Program and draw students into other Jewish Studies classes, but they educate a swathe of the student body - Jewish and non-Jewish - about a key episode in modern history and the Jewish experience.

Holocaust education for our students should not stop at the classroom door. Experiencing the history of the Holocaust first hand through travel to Eastern Europe impacts our students, and is essential to our curriculum. We must ensure that these programs have the resources to continue. Students respond powerfully to opportunities to engage with the raw materials of history directly. On campus, The Jewish Heritage Collection at Addlestone Library has assiduously collected and preserved testimonies and documents of survivors and camp liberators who settled in South Carolina. Not only are these resources important to scholars, but they can provide our students with a tangible link between South Carolina and the Holocaust. The Holocaust Studies Education Initiative will consolidate these resources and make them more accessible to our students and the public. It will also strengthen public awareness and participation by initiating a program of visiting speakers and public lectures, giving an academic dimension to community programming on the Holocaust.

**Assigned cost:** $1,500,000

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**Title of Initiative:** Endowed Chair, Classics  
**Category:** Endowment  
**Department:** Classics

**Case for Strategic Significance:**
Classics, a multidisciplinary course of study embracing all aspects of Greek and Roman civilizations, not only provides sound preparation for pre-professional and graduate careers but also prepares students as lifelong global learners steeped in the historical cultures that shaped Europe, Asia and Africa. The Department of Classics and the Lowcountry of South Carolina have been at the forefront of education in classics for 200 years. A Charlestonian, John Izard Middleton, born in 1785, was one of the founders of classical archaeology in the United States. He spent a good part of his adult life traveling in Europe. Attracted to the remains of ancient sites, particularly those in Latium, he made observations and sketches of the sites he visited in 1808 and 1809. In 1812, he published, Grecian remains in Italy: a description of Cyclopian walls,
and of Roman antiquities. Basil Gildersleeve, the premier American philologist, attended the College of Charleston in 1845, prior to receiving degrees from Princeton and the University of Göttingen. His effects upon the discipline were enduring. Long-standing editor of the American Journal of Philology (amongst other offices), he set the tone for classical scholarship in 19th and 20th centuries. His Latin grammar is still in press.

Today, the Department is the largest Classics program in the state, standing above peers in terms of the numbers of student enrollments and variety of courses. Two new endowed professorships, in philology and archaeology, that celebrate the accomplishments of Middleton and Gildersleeve, will allow the department to continue to break new ground. They will contribute to the College of Charleston through their excellence in classroom teaching while they further national prominence in the field as researchers of distinction.

**Assigned cost:** $1,500,000

**Title of Initiative:** Endowed Chair, German and International Business  
**Category:** Endowment  
**Department:** Interdisciplinary

**Case for Strategic Significance:**
Typically producing more majors than any other German program in the state, the German program at the College of Charleston has a decade-long record of success educating students for business careers. Its graduates, lifelong global learners, have excellent language and cultural skills that prepare them to prosper both in the United States and abroad and with German businesses specifically.

German multi-billion dollar investment has transformed the Southeast and particularly South Carolina into a vibrant and booming business location. There are 665 German companies located in the Southeast: South Carolina, North Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi and Tennessee including the big three German automotive manufacturers – BMW, Mercedes-Benz and Porsche. South Carolina boasts the presence of 125 German companies alone (21,975 employees). Germany is the Port of Charleston’s largest customer. The holder of this chair will be uniquely positioned to foster ties with the vibrant community of German businesses in the Southeast.

An endowed chair in German and International Business gives the department the staffing it needs to develop a German business language track in the School’s new language and business minor. The German program, along with those in Spanish and French, will have a minor for students who need to conduct business with the full understanding of the complexities of a foreign culture.

**Assigned cost:** $1,500,000
Title of Initiative: Visiting Writer/Professor, Hispanic Studies
Category: Endowment
Department: Hispanic Studies Program

Case for Strategic Significance:
The Department of Hispanic Studies, committed to linguistic competence that produces students who are lifelong global learners, seeks a visiting Writer in Residence. A Writer in Residence puts students in direct contact with an accomplished, renowned artist and allows them to step into the mind of the artist to better understand what inspires the creative process. Accomplished writers, such as Isabel Allende, Mario Vargas Llosa, and Carlos Fuentes, are not just “word artisans” but researchers who mine many disciplines, history, psychology, science and literature, to create their pieces. Courses taught by the Writer in Residence afford students the opportunities for fully developing their cultural competencies.

Each year, nearly 6,000 students populate Spanish courses at the College of Charleston. With a combined count of over 450 Hispanic Studies majors and minors, the program is one of the largest and most comprehensive undergraduate programs in the Southeast. The department also houses the College’s programs in Portuguese and linguistics, and faculty supports numerous interdisciplinary programs, including Latin American and Caribbean Studies and International Studies.

The program also offer a wide variety of study abroad opportunities, sponsors a Spanish House (residence) for qualifying students of Spanish, and enables numerous extracurricular activities that include the Portuguese and Spanish Clubs, the National Collegiate Hispanic Honor Society, the Hispanic Latino Club, Portuguese and Spanish Conversation Tables and various other opportunities.

Assigned Cost: TBD

Title of Initiative: Named Directorship, Carolina Lowcountry and Atlantic World Program
Category: Endowment
Department: project coordinator: LCWA; interdisciplinary

Case for Strategic Significance:
Designed to sponsor research and intellectual activities devoted to exploring the Carolina Lowcountry and its relations with the broader world, the Program in the Carolina Lowcountry and the Atlantic World is a key initiative in the College’s ongoing effort to provide international and interdisciplinary perspectives for students, faculty and the wider community. The Program agenda is twofold. First, it seeks to promote the study of this important American culture hearth, both in its formative period and in its subsequent development. Second, by focusing on the broader Atlantic World, the Program moves beyond the tight confines of regional studies to facilitate an understanding of the interactivity among many regions, nations, and peoples.

The Carolina Lowcountry and Atlantic World Program has organized and hosted a variety of public scholarly conferences, many of which have commanded considerable national, even international, attention. And, in 1997, in association with the University
of South Carolina Press, the Program established a book series that publishes monographs, collections of original essays, and scholarly editions of significant primary sources for the study of the Carolina Lowcountry and the Atlantic context in which it developed.

An endowment provides the salary support for a faculty member to devote the time during summers to lead the Program in the Carolina Lowcountry and Atlantic World. Currently the director position is an “add-on” to regular faculty duties with minimal compensation.

**Assigned cost**: $500,000 (endowed) or $20,000/year for five years

**Title of Initiative**: Director, Jewish Student Life

**Category**: Endowment

**Department**: Jewish Studies Program

**Case for Strategic Significance:**
The Jewish student body at the College of Charleston is an integral and active participant in the larger campus community. The Yaschik/Arnold Jewish Studies Program aims to serve and connect students with an interest in Judaism, both academically and socially.

The centerpiece of Jewish student life, the Jewish Student Union/Hillel, engages students through a full complement of charitable, social, religious, and cultural programming. Students participate in community service through their work at the soup kitchen, Beach Sweep, Carolina Youth Development Center, and Habitat for Humanity. Social activities like the popular weekly Meet-to-eat dinners and Shabbat dinners, First Year Students of Hillel (FYSH) outings, and Passover meals offer occasions to visit casually with friends. Other events including weekly Shabbat observances, holiday festivities, and Yom Kippur Yoga develop religious and cultural connections. Additionally, the Jewish Student Union/Hillel works with other college Hillel groups throughout the Southeast traveling for Alternative Spring Break and twice yearly trips to Israel through Birthright Israel.

Over the past decade Jewish student life at the College has grown tremendously. With the completion of the Sylvia Vlosky Yaschik Jewish Studies Center in October of 2002, the College of Charleston has recorded more than a fifty percent increase in enrollment of Jewish students, which is now conservatively estimated at 8 percent of the student body. The larger Jewish student presence has translated into greater participation in Jewish student life and has made greater demands on the resources and programming of Jewish student life activities.

In order to better meet current needs and provide for future growth, a full-time Director of Student Life for the Yaschik/Arnold Jewish Studies Program is needed. An endowment of $1,000,000 will enable the Program to hire a Director of Jewish Student Life, providing the impetus to develop and grow Jewish student life at the College of Charleston.

**Assigned cost**: $1,000,000
PROGRAMMING INITIATIVES and SCHOLARSHIPS

Title of Initiative: International Scholars Program
Category: Programmatic/Endowment
Department: Interdisciplinary

Case for Strategic Significance:

The International Scholars program sits at the pinnacle of the College of Charleston’s strategic plans for internationalizing the educational experiences of students. Fully prepared to face the today’s challenges, the program’s graduates will occupy some of the very highest positions in government and the private sector. As alumni, these lifelong global learners will return as mentors, donors and role models to ensure that all College students have the global competencies they need to prosper in the 21st century.

Under the general direction of LCWA and the Honors College, the International Scholars program combines the rigorous and challenging academic experience of honors study with the B.A. in International Studies and a second major in selected areas. The program customizes the Honors College experience, emphasizing language study, mentored relationships, and study abroad. International Scholars develop a curricular program and an undergraduate research agenda that reflects an understanding of global issues and international perspectives.

In their first year at the College, International Scholars reside together in a specially selected residence hall. They enjoy a true learning community with Honors Residence Advisors, optional lectures and seminars in the evenings, and other related Honors social activities. In May, at the conclusion of their freshmen year, International Scholars participate in a three week study abroad experience. Led by a faculty member from International Studies, rising sophomores have the opportunity to expand their world view as they focus on a several global issues and build an informed perspective toward other cultures and peoples during their “May Away”.

At the commencement of their sophomore year, International Scholars are matched with mentors whose past experiences facilitate additional learning opportunities for students. The mentoring program combines personal and professional discovery with career services to better prepare the International Scholars to enter the global workforce upon graduation.

The International Scholars program is at the heart of the College’s effort to distinguish itself through the strength of international academic opportunities and immersion experiences in other cultures.

Philanthropic opportunities associated with the International Scholars program include operating support for the program and a competitive stipend for the director. Additionally, the program needs scholarship support for the “May Away” experience, semester study abroad requirements during the junior year, and internship opportunities abroad. Finally, recruitment scholarships to entice the best and brightest to join the program will help ensure its success and reputation.
Assigned Cost:
$3,000,000 (name the program and director position)
$1,000,000 (study abroad scholarship support)

Title of Initiative:  Endowed Carolina Identities Conferencing and Speaker Series
Category: Endowment
Department: Interdisciplinary

Case for Strategic Significance:
The Avery Research Center, the Carolina Lowcountry and Atlantic World Program and the African American Studies Program bring together diverse programs across the university in a unique forum, Carolina Identities. Celebrating the variety of Lowcountry historical and cultural experiences by elevating recognition from the scholarly and lay communities, Carolina Identities exists to further an appreciation of the extraordinary influence that the peoples of this region have had on national and international developments and to place these experiences in the wider global context. While Carolina Identities focuses on the diversity of experiences in the region, it nevertheless situates students and scholars as lifelong global learners who have developed new perspectives on cultural issues.

Most often this is accomplished through conferences and speakers series that bring scholars to campus regularly to address various ethnic, racial, religious, class and gender experiences that inform our understanding of the economic, social and political history of the region.

The conferences and speakers organized under the auspices of Carolina Identities are key elements that present visions of the region’s complexities and connections. They offer students, scholars and the community access to the College’s rich intellectual resources so they might better understand the place of the Lowcountry’s peoples in the context of global contact and exchange. Likewise, they promote the study of the region beyond the classroom and the monograph to assure that Lowcountry history is seen, heard, read and interpreted in both the popular and academic worlds.

Assigned Cost: $1,000,000 (endowed) or $50,000/year for five years

Title of Initiative:  AVKAT Project
Category: Programmatic
Department: Classics, interdisciplinary

Case for Strategic Significance:
The AVKAT Project provides international research opportunities for students and faculty essential to developing the skills of lifelong global learners. In the last decade, navigation systems have become central sources of clarity for millions in an increasingly complex global environment. Whether embedded in the car dashboard, mounted on the front windshield, or securely situated in the palms of the world’s working citizens, navigation systems, to a large degree, direct the modern world.
The value of Geographic Information Systems is not confined, however, to convenient directional use. Scientists at the College of Charleston employ GIS technology in their respective fields of study to accelerate the process of critical data identification and collection. The AVKAT Project - the latest example of classical archaeology at the College of Charleston and a partnership between the College of Charleston, Princeton University, and Trent University of Canada - is an interdisciplinary endeavor designed to chart and document civilization shifts in Turkey from the Byzantine period to present day. Archaeological at its core, AVKAT scholars, with College of Charleston professors assuming the technological lead, survey sections of the Turkish landscape for pieces of its important and volatile past. Information collected provides insight on the periodic rise and fall of indigenous communities and the factors that nurtured growth and precipitated collapse.

Classical archaeology at the College of Charleston is an interdisciplinary, experiential learning opportunity designed for undergraduates who utilize cutting-edge technology to unearth clues inexorably linked to the evolution of modern society. Research conducted through AVKAT, in fact, has proved instrumental in the ongoing effort to unearth the fate of several of history's most venerable civilizations. It is a program that epitomizes the College's commitment to personalized training and serves as a profound example of the various ways that CofC professors personally connect with their students. Investigations in classical archaeology, perhaps most importantly, provide a prism through which to appreciate the potential of the College of Charleston. As the College points towards an envisioned future marked by exciting research and intellectual innovation, the AVKAT Project proves that such a future is not only achievable, but that it may be closer than it currently appears.

Rooted in Charleston, Reaching for the World

At the moment, classical archaeology suffers from a minimal ability to assist students in their effort to afford the cost of these high-impact experiences. Students are typically responsible for airfare and room and board which equal a cost, collectively, in the $5,000 range. Scholarships are thus needed to ensure that the program directors are able to grow this important endeavor through the recruitment of students best suited to fully capitalize on this most unique opportunity. Support academic ingenuity, student-research, and globally important science by sponsoring a scholarship in classical archaeology.

Additionally, the program suffers from a limited ability to assist students and faculty in their efforts to improve upon methods of analysis and the communication of those results to the wider world. Dramatic advancements are being made, but hampered by a financial model that is inconsistent and advantageous. Support is thus needed to ensure that the program directors are able to grow this important endeavor through a consistent stream of funding - typically $4,000 per academic year for student support and related expenses. Support academic ingenuity, student-research, and globally important science by contributing to the classical archaeology fund.

Assigned Cost: TBD
Title of Initiative: Holocaust Studies Education Initiative
Category: Programmatic
Department: Jewish Studies Program

Case for Strategic Significance:

The direct lessons of the Holocaust make students into lifelong global learners versed in an understanding of human rights and peace education worldwide. The College of Charleston is the only university in South Carolina that, year after year, offers students multiple classes on the Holocaust. These classes are essential, given the numbers of Jewish students at the College and the centrality of the Holocaust to modern Jewish identity. Moreover, these courses draw a large and diverse student body, the majority of whom are not Jewish. This in itself is important; not only do Holocaust courses raise awareness of our Program and draw students into other Jewish Studies classes, but they also educate a swathe of the student body - Jewish and non-Jewish - about a key episode in modern history and the Jewish experience.

Holocaust education for our students should not stop at the classroom door. Experiencing the history of the Holocaust first hand through travel to Eastern Europe impacts our students, and is essential to our curriculum. We must ensure that these programs have the resources to continue. Students respond powerfully to opportunities to engage with the raw materials of history directly. On campus, the Jewish Heritage Collection at Addlestone Library has assiduously collected and preserved testimonies and documents of survivors and camp liberators who settled in South Carolina. These resources important to scholars and provide our students with a tangible link between South Carolina and the Holocaust. The Holocaust Studies Education Initiative will consolidate these resources and make them more accessible to our students and the public. It will also strengthen public awareness and participation by initiating a program of visiting speakers and public lectures, giving an academic dimension to community programming on the Holocaust.

Assigned cost: $500,000

Title of Initiative: Center for Southern Jewish Culture
Category: Programmatic (Current Use)
Department: Jewish Studies Program and Library

Case for Strategic Significance:

With more than 300 years of vibrant Jewish life, Charleston is the natural home for a Center for Southern Jewish Culture. The proposed Center will build upon this rich local history as well as the successes of the Jewish Heritage Collection and the Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina to promote teaching, research and publication on the culture and history of Southern Jews, a field in which the College of Charleston has already earned national acclaim.

The discipline of Southern Jewish history has blossomed over the last half century. The new Center aims to educate and expose the fascinating paradoxes of Southern Jewish life to a broad Jewish audience across the United States. The Center will not
only reach those drawn to scholarship, but make Southern Jewish history accessible and exciting to all.

The new Center will serve as a hub both for scholarship and public education. Its impressive archives, a leading repository for the history of life in Jewish South, will continue to collect oral histories, documents and artifacts and make these accessible through digitization. In addition, the Center will offer lecture series, walking tours, seminars, academic conferences.

**Assigned cost:** $1,500,000
**Title of Initiative:** Jewish Studies Center Expansion  
**Category:** Capital  
**Department:** Jewish Studies Program  

**Case for Strategic Significance:**  
The Sylvia Vlosky Yaschik Jewish Studies Center was completed in 2002 as a privately funded three-story facility with Jewish Studies occupying the first and second floor, and the College leasing the third floor from Jewish Studies Center, Inc., the 501 (c) (3) corporation which built the Center. Jewish Studies has grown enormously since the completion of the Center, now with three new tenure track positions in Jewish Studies and Hebrew, over 700 Jewish students, Jewish Studies classes in the Center throughout the day, and student and community programming that fills the building for many evenings and weekends. The demand for the facility is rapidly outstripping the available space.

Expanding the Center would address a variety of needs. It would provide space for a kosher (vegetarian and vegan) dining facility in the central “Jewish” location on campus in the same building as our offices and classes, and within a block of the Jewish fraternity and sorority. The Center will cement its position as a social center for Jewish life on campus, and would also attract many students, Jewish and non-Jewish, to our Program. The expanded Center would provide additional office space and classroom space for our faculty and students. It would add useful integrated space for the growth of our JSU/Hillel. And it would give the School of Languages, Cultures, and World Affairs a suitable and attractive presence on the expanded third floor.

**Assigned cost:** $1,000,000  

**Title of Initiative:** Italian House/Casa Italiana (Renovations at 9 Glebe)  
**Category:** Capital  
**Department:** Italian Studies Program  

**Case for Strategic Significance:**  
The Italian Studies program seeks support to develop an “Italian House and Community Heritage Center” at the College of Charleston. Much like the Jewish Studies Center, the Italian House would be a facility serving faculty, students and the wider South Carolina Italian community. In the words of the program Director, Dr. Massimo Maggiari, “we would like to host Italian cultural programming (films, lectures, festivals and continuing education initiatives) in an environment that inspires our students and, at the same time, connect them with the local Italian community—especially the new Italian business presence. We need a space to showcase the Italian culture.”

As one of the largest programs in the Southeast, with nearly 700 students in classes each year, Italian Studies is committed to linguistic and cultural competence that produces students who are lifelong, global learners. It offers an undergraduate minor in Italian Studies and a successful summer study abroad option.
Italian Studies at the College of Charleston has a proven record of fundraising having attracted significant support from the Olivetti Foundation and the Mediterranean Shipping Company, Mount Pleasant’s second largest employer. And there are additional opportunities. An Italian American Chamber of Commerce opened November 12 in Mount Pleasant and is promising new investors and exciting projects for this area and South Carolina. Moreover, South Carolina is home to over 100,000 Italian Americans and 1500 Italian residents.

Dr. Maggairi continues, “we can promote partnership between our students and this emerging and vibrant Italian reality. We would like to do the Italian way, in the right place, with the right ambiance. We have a story to tell them. This story is also their story, their history. We want to answer their questions and needs in a setting that speaks with the charm and soul of Italy and South Carolina together.”

**Assigned Cost:** $1,000,000