

Vacations in the Hilton Head area can teach you a thing or two.

by **Marie McAden**

# Continuing Ed, Island Style

Mike Overton, owner of Outside Hilton Head, shows how to cast a shrimping net.

**W**ant to get more than just a tan on your Hilton Head holiday? Build your vacation around a course or squeeze in a workshop on your weekend getaway. The area offers a wide array of educational programs in everything from tennis and golf to shrimping and surfing.

Here's a sampling of some of our favorites.

**Lowcountry Shrimping.** Learn how to catch shrimp like a native islander using a traditional cast net. Led by an experienced guide, participants will head out from Shelter Cove Marina to Broad Creek's salt marsh estuaries in search of deep holes brimming with shrimp. Plan your trip around the area's best

shrimp catching opportunities, from the first week in September through the middle of October.

The three-hour outing offered by Outside Hilton Head costs \$295 for up to four participants. Reserve a spot at [www.outsidehiltonhead.com](http://www.outsidehiltonhead.com) or call 843-686-6996.

**The Big Dig.** Guests of The Inn at Palmetto Bluff are invited to join Dr. Mary Socci and her archeological team on a genuine Lowcountry dig as they search for artifacts left by Native Americans, colonial settlers, plantation owners and slaves who once inhabited the bluffs. You may be asked to help map or excavate a site and document artifacts from as early as 1700 B.C. Each participant's work will be added to the official record of South Carolina's heritage. Visit [www.palmettobluffresort.com](http://www.palmettobluffresort.com) or

call Socci, 843-706-6030.

**Salt Marsh Discovery.** Get up close and personal with the critters that make their home in the Lowcountry's salt marshes. During this one-hour guided walk you'll learn about shrimp, crabs, oysters and clams and their role in Hilton Head Island's ecosystem. For a more in-depth look at "nature's nursery," cast a net into the creek to see what's living in the nutrient-rich tidal waters. The salt marsh walk is held at 10 a.m. Fridays year-round and is one of numerous educational activities offered at the Coastal Discovery Museum, recently relocated to the historic Honey Horn Plantation. Cost is \$10 adults, \$5 children. Call 843-689-6767 or visit [www.coastaldiscovery.org](http://www.coastaldiscovery.org).

**Tennis Anyone?** Improve your backspin at one of the world's top

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Travel Should Take You Places

tennis resorts. Van Der Meer Tennis Center offers a wide range of one-, three- and five-day clinics running throughout the year for junior (ages 10-18) and adult players of every level. Group classes are limited to six students per professional. Prices run from \$25 for a one-day clinic to \$428 for five-day sessions. Visit [www.vdmtennis.com](http://www.vdmtennis.com) or call 843-785-8388 for a schedule of upcoming classes.

**Italian Cooking.** Executive Chef Michael Cirafesi, of the award-winning restaurant Michael Anthony's Cucina Italiana, teaches hands-on cooking classes throughout the year in the restaurant's new demonstration kitchen. This season's schedule includes a Dec. 15 class on truffles—the fungi, not the chocolate. Class fee is \$150 and includes a three-course lunch with wine. Visit [www.michael-anthonys.com](http://www.michael-anthonys.com) or call 843-785-6272.



The Hargray Building at the Gateway to Hilton Head campus.

## Meeting a need

USC Beaufort's new campus takes off

Three years after opening a second campus on 200 acres at the Gateway to Hilton Head, the University of South Carolina Beaufort is reveling in its extraordinary success. The school, which operated for nearly 50 years from its eight-acre campus in historic Beaufort, has seen full-time enrollment increase 38 percent, making it the fastest-growing four-year institution in the USC system.

Baccalaureate degrees in the liberal arts, sciences and professions have doubled from six to 12. Among them is a hospitality management program catering to the area's \$1 billion tourism industry and a new nursing program aimed at filling the staffing needs of local hospitals.

"I continue to be astounded at how fast we're growing," says Lynn McGee, vice chancellor for university advancement. "Clearly there is a need for a four-year institution in this corner of the state."

The school's continuing education program is affiliated with the Osher Foundation, which gave the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at USCB a \$1 million endowment this past August. The institute offers unique classes, with topics ranging from couples massage to Swiss. In the last year alone, enrollment in the institute increased 20 percent to 1,200 members, most of them retirees.

Just down the road from USCB's Gateway to Hilton Head Campus, the Technical College of the Lowcountry's New River campus is experiencing the same rapid growth since its opening in 2006. Enrollment has nearly doubled from 254 to 446 students since it opened last year. — MM

## PLAY

Located just off the South Carolina coast, between Hilton Head Island and Savannah, Georgia lies Daufuskie Island Resort & Breathe Spa. This serene sea island retreat offers an unrivaled combination of civilization, relaxation and world-class amenities amidst the stunning setting of the South Carolina low country.

As an alternative to the Inn, The Daufuskie Island Collection provides a select group of private homes, villas and cottages available for weekly and monthly rental. Enjoy a home-away from home, with the added amenities of a full-service resort. Stay beach-side, course-side, or ensconced in the maritime forests. Collection properties feature fully equipped kitchens, laundry facilities, and porches. "Pantry Butler" service is available to order groceries and sundries for your stay.



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