Not familiar with geocaching? The simplest description is a scavenger hunt using GPS to zero in on the targets, or “caches”. Tourists and locals alike enjoy this as a fun way to explore the city.

**I Want to Try**
Brand new to geocaching? Try this simple exercise first, found on the last page.

**Game Storyline**
You are a young enterprising real estate agent rummaging through the musty attics of your listing of old Charleston homes and uncover a beautiful antique steamer trunk. Thinking of all the potential artifacts it may contain, you are genuinely disappointed to find only loose papers, and not even those of an itinerant poet like Edgar Allan Poe but a lab researcher of all things.

Undeterred you read on and quickly figure the papers belonged to a long-forgotten immunologist who did play a significant role in the last great pandemic of 1918. As you leaf through the fragile pages you are amazed at the disciplined effort spent identifying countless viral strains. THERE! Your excitement at this point cannot be contained. You clearly see mentioned today’s virus among the references. Can it be that the genetic code is listed here? The pages are not in the trunk. This just can’t be! Instead lying before you are a series of clues that may lead you to the coveted information.

Can you work through the clues to locate the code to unlocking the mysterious but desperately needed details? The fate of many now rests in your hands. Time to get cracking!

**Let’s Play – Phase 1**
On the next page is the game grid with 25 geographic locations in the Charleston peninsula for you to find. All are below Calhoun Street. At each location a statement is made that requires you to answer TRUE or FALSE.

Your first task is to identify which of the cells are TRUE since these will be used to derive the final geographic coordinates which will lead you to the hidden container holding the potential cure. Put on a good pair of walking shoes before you start.

**Adventurer or Navigator?**
Those that consider themselves adventurers like to throw caution to the wind and go it on their own. In that case, the grid on the next page is all you need. The geocoordinates are listed for each of the caches. Navigators on the other hand love working with a map to better move about snapping up those targets. If so, take along the special map found in Google Maps.

Either way is acceptable and is one way you can control the level of difficulty.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>D</th>
<th>E</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>32.77947  -79.94478</td>
<td>32.77775  -79.94224</td>
<td>32.78071  -79.9447</td>
<td>32.78283  -79.94377</td>
<td>32.77474  -79.93013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>This magnificent mansion once overlooked the Ashley River.</td>
<td>A rare example of the Eclectic architectural style from the early</td>
<td>Founded in 1865, this was the first accredited</td>
<td>Only 5 grand columns of the portico remain to mark this</td>
<td>Un-American? The Confiscation Act of 1782 was used to seize</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Now an old hitching post with a lion's head stands out front on</td>
<td>20th century.</td>
<td>secondary school for African Americans in Charleston.</td>
<td>this magnificent museum commonly regarded as &quot;America’s First</td>
<td>this property and then auction it away from its owner.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>the curb.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Museum&quot;.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>32.77804  -79.92925</td>
<td>32.78336  -79.93185</td>
<td>32.77977  -79.93072</td>
<td>32.77823  -79.92936</td>
<td>32.77458  -79.92851</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>This spot was frequented by English sailors of the 1800's who</td>
<td>One of the nearly 2000 ft. deep artesian wells around town that</td>
<td>This silent sentinel from the 1880's continues in its original</td>
<td>The first known congrigants of this church gathered just</td>
<td>Along one of the fences is a reminder of just where you stand here</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>trolled this red-light district.</td>
<td>supplied water to many.</td>
<td>role of early detection.</td>
<td>after 1700.</td>
<td>on earth, 79° 55' 43&quot;.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>32.77675  -79.92690</td>
<td>32.77906  -79.92963</td>
<td>32.77241  -79.93215</td>
<td>32.77291  -79.92945</td>
<td>32.7769   -79.92662</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Claims to be the 2nd oldest liquor store in the country.</td>
<td>Mrs. Maria Christina Faber was born in 1711.</td>
<td>Beautiful ironwork for the front fence incorporates a clever</td>
<td>Here you will find 4 curiously odd, seemingly out of place,</td>
<td>Among its storied past, this site served as the guard post for</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>deterrence for those few with fleeting thoughts of trespass or</td>
<td>stone bollards sunken into the ground and all leaning to the west.</td>
<td>early colonists of SC in 1680.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>32.77746  -79.93609</td>
<td>32.77007  -79.92913</td>
<td>32.77475  -79.93561</td>
<td>32.777    -79.93062</td>
<td>32.78553  -79.9325</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>An example of grocery stores from days long past, this one being</td>
<td>Stede Bonnet, the Gentleman Pirate, and others &quot;hung out&quot; here</td>
<td>The Rev. Wm. Otis Prentiss, a former rector, is not buried here.</td>
<td>Interestingly enough, Washington did not tour Charleston during</td>
<td>Another Charleston surprise. This splendidly &quot;old&quot; house was</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>just shy of 100 years old.</td>
<td>when it was better known as Oyster Point.</td>
<td></td>
<td>his presidential swing through the southern states in 1791.</td>
<td>built in time for the 3rd Spoleto Festival back in 1979 and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>32.77393  -79.9342</td>
<td>32.77761  -79.92891</td>
<td>32.77511  -79.92705</td>
<td>32.7735   -79.92847</td>
<td>32.7752   -79.93029</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>These beautiful and fortified gates were originally designed for</td>
<td>Served as a not so clandestine Cold War meeting spot for KGB</td>
<td>This line of bricks, known as a redan, is a decorative element</td>
<td>This gate by famed Charleston blacksmith, Philip Simmons, was his</td>
<td>No surprise that a large ropemaking company might dwell in this</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>the City's Guard House but never used for that.</td>
<td>agents, earning it the name the Pink House.</td>
<td>added by stonemasons when building cobblestone streets of the</td>
<td>final piece in a long, fascinating career.</td>
<td>early bustling seaport. The lane was used for making the long</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>era.</td>
<td></td>
<td>ropes needed by the sailing vessels of the day.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Final Phase

1. Naming the L-Shaped Cell Structures
Your grid is filled with the TRUE and FALSE answers. To decipher the final coordinates, note any combination of 3 adjacent TRUE cells that form an “L” shape. It makes no difference what orientation the “L” assumes. There are likely other TRUE celled structures that do not meet the L-shaped criterion. These can only lead you astray and are of no help. The different L’s will be named starting with the structure closest to the top as L1. Other L’s will be referred to as L2 and L3 based upon their position when viewing the grid from left to right.

2. Naming the Cells
The individual cells that form an L are referred to by their position around the structure. The middle cell that anchors the other two is termed “O”. The other two cells are referred to using the cardinal points on a compass, N-S-E-W.

3. Referring to the Rows and Columns (R, C)
One last bit of housekeeping to get everything in order. Rows in the grid are already identified with a number, but the columns are labelled with a letter. Substitute these numbers instead: A=6, B=7, C=8, D=9, and E=0. Now each of the 25 cells in the grid can be referred to by its row and column designation using only numbers. For example, the very first cell in the upper left corner of the grid is (row 1, column 6).

4. Final Coordinates or Putting It All Together
Now let’s see if we can figure out the missing decimal digits for the latitude and longitude of the final cache. Each of the missing decimal positions has a clue that will yield a single digit. In the first position for latitude your clue is L2-EC. Interpret that as the number corresponding to the column of the East cell in structure L2. Insert that digit into the appropriate box and figure out the others. Luckily, the number for the last decimal is already provided.

Latitude:  
32. [ ] [ ] [ ] 3  
L2-EC L1-EC L2-SR

Longitude: -79. [ ] [ ] [ ] 3  
L3-WC L3-WR L3-OR

You now have the coordinates to where the final cache is stashed. Once you arrive at the location some searching will be necessary. The cache is a small metal container. Look inside for your answer.

Some caution is urged. Given the public location and the time of day, people may be present. Exercise your best degree of stealth as you search for the container. It is poor practice to tip off or otherwise involve them in your secret assignment. Once you have opened the container, sign the log, reseal it, and place it back carefully so that the seekers that follow may enjoy the same excitement you experienced.
I Want to Try – Instructions

If you can find this campus location and name the person associated with it, you are ready for this event. Use your phone’s GPS app and travel to these coordinates: 32.782820 -79.937657.

No GPS app? Download “My GPS Coordinates”. Make sure to set yours to the DD system.

All smart phones read GPS satellite signals and many come with a built-in app but the geocode readout is likely in Degrees-Minutes-Seconds (DMS), 32° 46' 58.2" N  79° 56' 15.6" W.

For this game, the Degrees-Decimal system (DD) is used where you will see the minutes and seconds translated into decimal form, 32.782820 -79.937657. Incidentally, both geocodes refer to the same location on campus, the spot you were to go find. Stuck? Type those coordinates into Google Maps to check it out.

Once you have the app up and running, move around the campus until the GPS readout on the app matches the geocoordinates you are seeking. You need to appreciate that there is some error involved with computing your position and the GPS readings from your phone. Where we live, the fourth decimal point in a GPS reading puts you within 8 meters of the spot you are seeking. The fifth decimal point moves you to within 1 meter, but as you can see, the ability of the phone GPS to lock in on the 5th and 6th decimal points are difficult. No worries. In the type of searching we are doing, getting close is more than good enough. If you are within 24 feet of the object you will no doubt see what it is you are seeking.

Good luck out there and don’t forget this is supposed to be fun. If you find yourself struggling, send an email with “GPS” in the message line to campusrecreation@cofc.edu.

After the Tour

Here are several resources sure to be of amazing help. Some offer only beautiful pictures that will pleasantly remind you of your tour earlier in the day while others provide the additional detail needed to satisfy your curiosity.

https://www.charlestonfootprints.com/charleston-blog/
https://www.charlestonmuseum.org/
https://charleston.pastperfectonline.com/
https://www.findagrave.com/
https://glimpsesofcharleston.com/
https://www.historiccharleston.org/research/photograph-collection/
https://www.scpictureproject.org/