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- Additional resources/author bio at [www.thecollegechronicles.com](http://www.thecollegechronicles.com); high-resolution images available
- Advance copies available upon request for review

## Charleston Author Kelly Owen Launches First Book of a Four-Novel series – *The College Chronicles: Freshman Milestones*

*With the Holy City serving as an historic and scenic backdrop, groundbreaking first novel explores college life in its truest form while helping redefine the burgeoning “New Adult” genre*

**CHARLESTON, S.C.** – This summer, going “back to school” takes on a whole new meaning – and literary genre.

Written by Charleston author Kelly Owen, [The College Chronicles: Freshman Milestones](#) portrays a student lifestyle in which the subjects of study range from sex and sociology to beer and biology. The first novel series of its kind, the four-part work will also feature sophomore, junior and senior editions.

Divided into chapters named after college courses, the first book chronicles freshman Cadence Cooper's journey at the fictional Charlestowne College and throughout the historic and highly decorated Holy City. Incorporating much of Owen's experiences as a student and even more as a college instructor, the book goes on sale on August 18 in paperback (\$18.99) and in all e-book formats (\$5.99). The book can be purchased at [www.TheCollegeChronicles.com](http://www.TheCollegeChronicles.com) and through all major book retailers.

“*The College Chronicles* takes readers on a journey encompassing life's lessons with Charleston serving as a living classroom,” said Owen. “Whether you are an incoming freshman, a rising junior or approaching the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of your graduation, the tales will seem familiar and engaging.”

Cadence's first-year journey begins with “English 101: The Composition of Life,” but where it ends shocks even her. Threatened with expulsion from a professor and tormented by a hellacious roommate, she struggles to survive in a realm of hookups and higher education. Just as Cadence is ready to give up the dream of a college degree, she finds romance with a rock star classmate and a position as a student photographer. With her lens focused on the campus and Charleston, a striking city that teaches its own powerful lessons, she uncovers the details of a devastating rape, a mysterious suicide, and a secret group intent on exposing a scandal that will forever change the school.

While considered “New Adult” fiction, which is typically marketed to readers who are in the 18-30 age bracket, *The College Chronicles: Freshman Milestones* delves beyond the romance-filled narratives that characterize this burgeoning genre of publishing. Its captivating and relevant storylines will also appeal to America's 60 million college graduates and those 22 million students currently enrolled in higher education courses.

For nearly two decades, Owen has shared her knowledge of literature and passion for writing with thousands at Georgetown High School, James Island High School, Trident Technical College, City Colleges of Chicago, The Citadel, Columbia College of Missouri, and College of Charleston.

Born in Georgetown, S.C., Owen received a bachelor's in English from the University of South Carolina, where she worked as a photographer for *The Gamecock* newspaper. She received her master's in English from the University of Charleston and was on the road to getting a doctorate when fate intervened in the shape of hand graffiti.

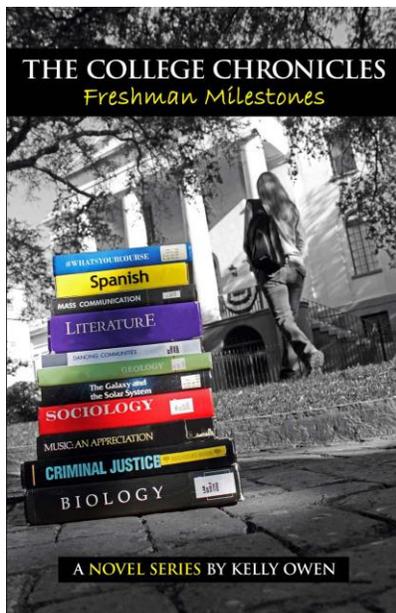
On the morning of March 6, 2009, in Room 319 of a campus lecture hall, *The College Chronicles* came to Owen via the back of a student's hand. Stressed about the in-class essay in which Owen had instructed students to write on every other line in their compositions, a young woman in the front row had scrawled "SKIP LINES" in black pen on her left hand, underlining a number of times. As she leaned her head on her hand and began to answer the questions, Owen stared at those two words.

"Suddenly, I heard a voice in my head saying 'Who the hell does she think she is asking us to remember to skip lines? Is that really important?' But the voice wasn't mine; it was my imagination projecting the voice of this student," said Owen. "As if by instinct, I grabbed a blank sheet of paper and after a short time, one entire side was filled with lines chronicling a series about college. Hours later, the story was racing out of my mind, down my arm, and to the hand that kept track of a narrative gone wild. When I got home, I opened a long-unused leather journal and wrote what will become one of the most memorable scenes in the series, but it won't be reached until the final book."

At 20 chapters, 572 pages and over 155,000 words, the book's length borders on epic territory, but has left advance readers craving more and offering positive "[evaluations](#)."

The first chapter of the book is available to read online at [www.TheCollegeChronicles.com](http://www.TheCollegeChronicles.com), where visitors can also find accompanying chapter [photography](#) taken by Owen. The author has stayed in touch with many of her former students, two of whom have recorded songs to match the first book's narrative. John Shields, lead singer of Long Miles, and Keon Masters, lead singer of Brave Baby, will perform live premieres of their songs at an invitation-only book launch on August 27, while the tunes will be available for listening and purchase at [www.TheCollegeChronicles.com](http://www.TheCollegeChronicles.com).

Owen lives in Charleston with her PR professional husband, Matt, and their two dogs: Huxley and Lyra.



### ***Need to Know***

- **Title:** *The College Chronicles: Freshman Milestones*
- **Author:** Kelly Owen
- **Publisher:** Boxer Publishing, LLC
- **Format (and price):** Paperback (\$18.99) and e-book (\$5.99)
- **Page Count:** 572
- **Website:** [www.TheCollegeChronicles.com](http://www.TheCollegeChronicles.com)
- **Twitter/Instagram:** @CollegeChron/@TheCollegeChronicles
- **Facebook:** [www.FB.com/TheCollegeChronicles](http://www.FB.com/TheCollegeChronicles)
- **Hashtag:** #WhatsYourCourse
- **Advance copies:** Available upon request for review
- **On sale:** starting August 18, 2014
- **Invitation-only Book Launch:** August 27 at American Theater, King Street, Charleston
- **Print ISBN#:** 978-0-9960617-1-1
- **E-book (Amazon) ISBN#:** 978-0-9960617-3-5