Making the Vision Happen

I like challenges. I cannot explain why, but I just appreciate the process of being challenged, working hard toward clarity, and, ultimately, finding a solution. It really does not matter if it comes from inside of me or if someone else sends it my way, I still like being challenged. Some of the most interesting challenges often require us to come up with the answers to questions that are not so easily solved. Within this line of thinking, I want to challenge you with a question I will share at the end of this article.

Many of us have spent a major part of our professional (and sometimes personal) lives caring for our students. One of the reasons we do this is because of our commitment to, support of, and belief in that entity we call student development. It matters not whether we work in Student Affairs, Academic Affairs, or somewhere else on campus, we all have the concern for our students as our utmost priority. After all, and as the proverbial statement says, “They are the reason we are here!” There can be little question regarding the belief that we hope to see an increased amount of growth in our students from the time they come to us compared to when they are leaving. Again, we hope to see student development come to fruition within our students. Of course, this process of personal maturity comes their way at so many different times and in so many different ways.

Even though this process of student development is something that every student encounters, I often times feel that I am too concerned about them. But, let’s be serious. Why should I worry about a group of people that can handle j-pegs, ipods, cell phones, and about 300 other types of technology? Not sure why it is that I remain so concerned, but I am.

My concern for my students stems from the fact that I see our students living in a country where they are sometimes surrounded by a student culture that displays a growing lack of trust in our leaders, an increase in the use of drugs, feelings of apathy, a growing sense of undeserved entitlement, a growing tradition where no one wants to take responsibility for their actions, and an obvious absence of civility. This is not to say that life for our students is not worth living; I refuse to believe that things are that bad. But, it’s just reality, and they are acutely aware of it. The years students spend within our hallowed walls of academia remain the best times of their life. Conversely, it remains imperative that we keep considering what is it that we are sending out into this “real world.” I often tell parents at Orientation (to counteract the notion that the college will change their son/daughter) that, for the most part, we are taking what they send to us. I suspect, after graduation each year, the world is saying the same thing to us.

So, herein lies my challenge to all of us. With all these issues that surround our students, have we taken time to seriously consider one important question: What are we developing them into? Have we ever really stopped to think about the students that leave our campus and what have we developed them into while simultaneously pushing them forward to take on the world? Are we producing good citizens? Have we taught life lessons that are necessary for

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MLK Challenge Participants Make Their Mark With Service

When asked “How will you make your mark?” College of Charleston students responded with service. On the morning of January 15, 148 students and 26 faculty and staff commemorated the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. by participating in the College’s Fourth Annual MLK Challenge.

Fifteen teams planned, designed, created, built, painted, cooked, entertained, and raced the clock while completing community service projects throughout the greater Charleston area. Each team was provided with $75, a van, and six hours with which to complete a service project benefiting the local community. In total, the teams collected over $3,976 in donated items and funds. "I love this event because it dispels all of the excuses people give for not serving in their community. With only six hours, very little money, no specific skills or planning, these teams accomplish major tasks," said Lauren Collier, Director of Service-Learning / Student Involvement.

Organized by the Office of Service Learning and Cougars Helping Enhance the Community (CHEC), the MLK Challenge kicked off a weeklong observance of Dr. King’s legacy. The day of service concluded with a vigil featuring tributes to Dr. King, musical performances from the College of Charleston Concert Choir, and MLK Challenge team presentations. Learn more at http://www.cofc.edu/~servicelearning/.

The Teams

**Determination**  
*Crisis Ministries*  
Team Determination prepared and served lunch for the Soup Kitchen. After cleaning up, the team entertained the kids with games!

**Dignity**  
*Cannon Street YMCA*  
Team Dignity was able to solicit and purchase items from the children’s wish list, including computer games, double-dutch jump ropes, and playground balls.

**Diversity**  
*Water Missions International*  
Team Diversity assisted in these efforts by assembling water treatment systems to be sent to disaster areas and developing countries.

**Dream**  
*St. Mathew’s Community Outreach Center*  
Team Dream planned the center’s annual afternoon tea party, which raises money for the center’s program during the Spoleto Festival.

**Equality**  
*Ronald McDonald House Charities*  
Team Equality created a “home away from home” for the families by giving the place a thorough cleaning and collecting much needed outdoor supplies such as rakes, clippers and weed-eaters!

**Freedom**  
*Carter-May Home/St. Joseph Residence*  
Team Freedom brightened the resident’s day by painting walls and hosting a good old fashioned cookout!

**Greatness**  
*Upward Bound*  
Team Greatness transformed Upward Bound’s playground into a safe and clean play area. The team replaced broken glass and trash with kid-friendly, no-skinned-knees wood chips!

**Harmony**  
*The Sustainability Institute*  
Team Harmony attended an energy-saving conservation presentation and then weatherized (taped, applied caulkling, changed light bulbs, etc.) the homes of three deserving families in the historic Liberty Hill neighborhood.
Honor
My Sister’s House
Team Honor spread the word about this valuable resource throughout the rural community. The team even secured public announcements on local radio and TV stations!

Humanity
The Early Childhood University (ECU)
The children’s learning facility was rejuvenated by Team Humanity as they gathered more than $550 in supplies for ECU’s literacy building program, including a circle-time rug and large selection of arts and crafts supplies.

Peace
James Simons Elementary School
Team Peace transformed to reflect its lively students’ school spirit with colorful murals in the halls and sidewalks. Murals included the schools’ mascot jaguar and inspirational words that commemorated the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Perseverance
Charleston Clemente Course at Trident Tech offers a college-level, humanities course for free to the homeless, the poor, or the disadvantaged of Charleston. Before Monday the course was missing the important technological element of education for students, but Team Perseverance managed to collect an amazing $1800 worth of pc’s, printers, and computer supplies for the course!

Power
Boys and Girls Clubs of the Trident Area
Team Power contributed by putting on a carnival of games and contests for the kids! The team collected $320 in in-kind donations, including more Andolini’s pizza than the little guys could eat.

Triumph
The PINK House Learning Center
Team Triumph created a Zen garden, a peaceful area for the children to relax and reflect. The team turned the PINK House yard into a green space with nearly $600 worth of donated plants and trees!

Unity
Pet Helpers
Team Unity proved to be quite the pet helpers themselves by obtaining nearly $300 in pet toys, dog biscuits and cleaning supplies to help keep many adorable animals alive, healthy, and happy! The team even managed to squeeze in a few dog walks as well!

More photos are available online at http://www.cofc.edu/~servicelearning/events/MLKchallenge/.
Higdon Student Leadership Center Launches Second Year

The Higdon Student Leadership Center began its second year of leadership development programming in early August with the start of a new initiative, Cougar Excursion, followed by the new Freshmen Leadership Seminar, a new class of Leadership CoC, and participation in the Annual Student Leadership Summit. The Center will officially be renamed as the Leo and Ann Higdon Student Leadership Center at a dedication ceremony on March 19. Below are brief synopses for each mentioned program.

**Cougar Excursion**
August 4-6, 34 students attended the inaugural year of this three day leadership retreat for 31 incoming first-year students. The retreat was held at Camp Bob Cooper, located in Summerton, SC, and was led by two Higdon Student Leadership Center administrators and 17 upper-class student leaders who served as counselors and small group facilitators.

**Freshmen Leadership Seminar**
As part of the Freshman Seminar course curriculum, this experience was designed to prepare, teach, and empower a select group of students to become involved, successful, and productive student leaders in the College of Charleston community. There were two sections with a total of 52 participants. These students met three times a week to learn more about themselves and their own leadership styles, develop leadership skills, participate in leadership activities, create a vision or a service project for campus, and meet other student leaders and administrators, all representing 87 clubs and organizations together in the Stern Student Center on a Saturday in the early fall. In partnership with the Office of Student Life and the Student Government Association, the Higdon Center played an active role in helping to produce this annual one-day conference. They sponsored Nancy Hunter Denney, a nationally renowned speaker on today’s college circuit as the keynote speaker for the event. Educational sessions covered topics such as money matters, social host responsibilities, facilitating inter-group dialogue, leadership vs. followership, time management, dealing with difficult people, and managing upwards.

**Leadership CoC**
Overall, the program had a solid semester. The staff of the Higdon Student Leadership Center decided on a group of 30 students or less for this year’s program. Because of the decision to make the program smaller, that number was met with 26 invitations to join Leadership CoC. Of those 26 invitations, 25 students accepted and have participated in all required programs each month. Focus is placed on learning with an open mind, challenging traditional ideas of leadership, challenging thoughts and practices of others, sharing leadership ideas and experiences and reflections on past experiences and experiences in specific programs.

Please visit the web site at [www.cofc.edu/slc](http://www.cofc.edu/slc) for more information on programs sponsored by the Higdon Student Leadership Center.
News and Notes

Center for Disability Services
In October, the Center for Disability Services hosted Dr. Christopher Lee, a nationally recognized advocate, author, speaker and leader in the field of learning disabilities and adaptive technology. Dr. Lee spoke on “Learning Disabilities — Trends and Issues for Post-Secondary Institutions.” In February, the Center hosted Lottie Koster, Director of Behavioral Programming at Carolina Autism. Ms. Koster presented on “Understanding the Needs of Individuals with Asperger’s Syndrome & High-functioning Autism.”

Counseling and Substance Abuse Services
Christiana DeGregorie began working at Counseling and Substance Abuse Services this fall. She recently graduated from Georgia School of Professional Psychology with a PsyD in Clinical Psychology. She is originally from New York and earned her undergraduate degree at Furman University. She has counseling experience gained from working at Texas Woman’s University and Oxford College of Emory University.

The College of Charleston celebrated the 11th anniversary of the Laura Griffin Memorial 5K Run/Walk & Health Expo on January 13. The race began at 8:00 AM at the corner of George and Meeting streets. Following the race, a Health Expo was held in the Silcox Gym. The Laura Griffin Memorial 5K Run/Walk is dedicated to healthy lifestyles, the prevention of substance abuse, and pedestrian safety. Laura Griffin, former Director of the Office of Substance Abuse Prevention at the College of Charleston, died January 22, 1996 as a result of a hit-and-run accident on the Battery. Race results and more information available at: http://www.cofc.edu/lauragriffinrun.

Health Education
The Health Education office of Counseling & Substance Abuse Services was awarded a $1000 grant from New Morning Foundation in September 2006. The award will be used to promote awareness of Emergency Contraception among the students at the College of Charleston. Laura Lindroth, Health Educator, will lead this initiative.

Residence Life and Housing
Work continues on two new residences planned to open in fall 2007. Liberty Street Residence Hall is a 439-bed Freshmen residence hall located at the corner of St. Philip and Liberty Streets. A new cafeteria will occupy the first floor space and residents will occupy floors 2-7. George Street Apartment Community is a 199-bed full apartment-style complex geared toward upperclassmen independent living. Privately leased retail space will be on the ground floor (tenants still to be determined) and residents will occupy levels 2-5. For more information visit Residence Life & Housing online at http://reslife.cofc.edu.

Welcome President Benson
The College of Charleston community officially welcomed new President and First Lady, George and Jane Benson on February 1. President Benson is the 21st president of the College of Charleston. Before coming to the College, President Benson served for eight and a half years as dean of the Terry College of Business at the University of Georgia.

“I had the pleasure of working with President Benson for several years while we both worked at UGA,” said Victor Wilson, Senior Vice President for Student Affairs. “Thus, I am excited about him being with us at CofC while continuing his tradition of excellence in all he accomplishes. He has been and will remain an advocate for our students and their needs, so I am glad to have him at the College and as a part of our community.”

Student Affairs
In August, the Division of Student Affairs welcomed Patrice A. Prince as the new Associate Vice President for Student Affairs. Ms. Prince previously worked at Northeastern Illinois University located in Chicago. “She has a wealth of multicultural and student life experience, strong administrative skills, and experience as a faculty member,” said Victor Wilson. “There is no doubt she will continue to help us reach our goals for the betterment of the Division of Student Affairs, the College, and the student body as a whole.”

Student Life
The Office of Student Life has received a grant in the amount of $4,664.00 from the Louise S. and Robert C. Heffron Leadership Award Endowment of the Coastal Community Foundation. The endowment was begun by the family and friends of Mr. and Mrs. Heffron, in their honor, to advance opportunities for leadership development among the College’s students and faculty members. The grant will be used to support the annual Student Leadership Summit. This is the third year that Student Life has received this generous gift.

In October, Student Life appointed Bethany LaPlante to the position of Assistant Director of Student Life. Ms. LaPlante recently received her M.A. in College Student Development
News and Notes

from Appalachian State University. During her graduate career at Appalachian State, Ms. LaPlante advised the Appalachian Popular Programming Society, taught Freshman Seminar and assisted with the coordination of Orientation programs. As an undergraduate at Central Missouri State University, she served as the secretary for the Campus Activities Board and was also a student representative on the Central Region Leadership Team for the National Association of Campus Activities (NACA). She will be advising Cougar Activities Board, Student Organizations Review Board and the SGA House of Representatives.

The Theodore S. Stern Student Center and the College of Charleston campus will serve as the host site for the 2007 ACUI Region 5 Conference, November 1-3. The Association of College Unions International is a non-profit higher education organization that has existed since 1914. ACUI is a network of nearly 1,000 member institutions from urban and rural campuses, four-year and two-year schools, large universities, and small colleges.

Student Media

The Office of Student Life and Student Media are pleased to announce the launch of two new online multimedia initiatives. Student Life has begun podcasting the upcoming week of student activities in an effort to create another channel through which students can learn about what is happening on campus. The podcast can be found at http://feeds.feedburner.com/CofCStudentActivities. Cougar Television, the student run television station, has started posting video online from its popular news and comedy shows. Clips of Cougar Television can be found online at www.cofc.edu/~ctv.

Making the Vision Happen

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survival? Did they gain a good work ethic while under our tutelage?

I will probably always love a challenge and will, more than likely, remain overly concerned about my students. In order for any of us to make our vision happen, we need to keep challenging ourselves to not only dedicate our time to student development but to also keep asking frequently “what are we developing them into?” If not us, then who? There is no doubt that this is an amazing and daunting challenge, but our students and the world they soon will conquer deserve no less.

Homecoming 2007

Monday, February 19
Women’s Basketball vs. Western Carolina
Game Time - 7:00 pm

Tuesday, February 20
CAB Comedy Showcase
Featuring Dave Russo
8:30 pm - Craig Cafeteria

Wednesday, February 21
Grilled Cheese Extravaganza & Pep Rally
5:00 pm - 8:00 pm on George Street

Thursday, February 22
Men’s Basketball vs. The Citadel
Tailgate 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm
Game at 7:00 pm

Friday, February 23
Senior Class Event

Saturday, February 24
Homecoming Concert featuring SUGARCULT
Doors @ 8:00 pm at The Music Farm
Career Center Offers New Name With Same Great Services

On January 2, the Office of Career Services officially changed its name to the Career Center. Center Director, Denny Ciganovic explains that “the name change better represents the multitude of programs and services the Center provides to all Schools, majors and class years as well as being the ‘starting point’ for employers who want to connect with our students for all types of employment and internships.” Under the new moniker, the Career Center will continue to provide the same great services to the College community. The Center’s web address will remain the same: www.cofc.edu/~career, however the email address has changed to careercenter@cofc.edu. For those unfamiliar with what the Career Center offers, the following summaries highlight some of the available programs and services.

Career Fairs
The Center will hold two career fairs this spring. The first is for Education graduates on March 5. Approximately 150 will be out in spring doing their clinical practice. We expect to have 50-60 school districts from South Carolina and surrounding states attending and recruiting our graduates. The second is FutureQuest, scheduled for February 28 in the Gaillard Auditorium. This joint fair between the College, The Citadel and Charleston Southern is expected to draw more than 90 employers and 700-800 students from the three schools. This is the seventh year for FutureQuest and the response from recruiters continues to be positive.

Assessment
The Center offers several assessment tools for students interested in learning more about themselves. These include the Strong Interest Inventory, Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI) and SIGI -3. One or more of these instruments are often taken by students and the Strong and Myers-Briggs require an interpretation by our career counselor. The SIGI-3 is an extensive computer-based career guidance system but it does not require a professional interpretation. Starting this year, we converted to completely online versions. The online versions offer several advantages over the paper-based one and students need only contact the Center about the procedures for taking them.

Student Employment
Our student employment area continues to refine its training for our campus-based employers and student employees. We serve approximately 120 departments who hire students. Last year the College had close to 1,800 students working on campus. Kristine Barry has created four online training sessions for students with the topics of customer service excellence, phone etiquette, confidentiality, and workplace essentials. All supervisors are asked to either require or strongly encourage their student employees to do these to maximize their awareness of the issues and be the best ambassadors possible for the departments and the College.

Job Location and Development
A unique program called Job Location and Development (JLD) is part of our Student Employment Program. The JLD Coordinator works closely with the off-campus employer community to generate part-time and summer positions for our students. Last year we had 1,702 part-time positions posted in our office and 172 students getting employed through the service.

Job Searches
CISTERNonline is our “one stop” for students to find full time, part time, summer positions, internships, and mentors as well as create and save resumes for their job search. CISTERNonline also supports our on campus recruiting program by requiring all candidates to submit and have their resume approved by the office and in sending “batches” of qualified candidates to employers as part of their pre-selection process or in response to an advertised job opening at their firm. All students have a password and username and have 24/7 access from anywhere in the world. Last year, we had over 2,200 seniors and alums “registered” in CISTERNonline and over 90,000 hits. CISTERNonline is located at http://cisternonline.erecruiting.com/.

Internships
The Internship Coordinator in the Center works very closely with a wide range of employers to promote internship opportunities with their organizations. The College and employers continue to place increased value on students participating in internships as part of their overall college experience. This includes those for credit through the students’ major academic department and those for non-credit which help a student explore an area of interest and gain valuable insight and experience. This past year, we had approximately 700 students participate in both credit (the majority) and non-credit internships. The office also offers students a structured non-credit internship option that earns the student a Certificate.

In the Classroom
The Center is proactive in visiting classes, clubs, and on and off campus organizations to acquaint students with our services and programs. Last year the staff collectively made 199 class/group presentations to a total of 4,314 participants. These sessions help us greatly to acquaint students with ways we can be of assistance to them during their career at the College.
First Annual Dance Marathon Raises Hopes and Heartrates

The College of Charleston’s first annual Dance Marathon was more than a success; it was the start of something monumental on campus. From the kickoff at 7:00 pm on Friday, February 9, the excitement and enthusiasm were enough to make anyone hopeful for the 15 hours ahead. MUSC contact Ann Taylor Guill and Dr. Lyndon Key kicked off the event with an introduction to MUSC, explaining the importance of Dance Marathon donations and what those donations would be used for. Students heard from patient fathers Dave Kreber and ABC news anchor Dean Stephens, each telling his story and experiences with MUSC. The highlight of the first hours of the marathon were the special appearances by MUSC patients Graham Walker, age 5; Amy Patterson Crawford, age 6; and Brandon Peek, age 12. The kids danced and played, showing College of Charleston students the real purpose behind the Marathon to get them through the hours ahead. As the night progressed, acts came one after the other to keep students awake and excited. Between acts, students were entertained by huge inflatable games donated by CAB, rounds of dodgeball, music, food, a station to decorate Valentine’s Day cards for patients at MUSC, and intense lessons of the Marathon Morale Dance, taught by executive board member Jessica Williams. Students enjoyed the cool sounds of the popular local band The Secrets, followed by Hypnotist Michael C. Anthony. By 2:30 am fatigue was starting to set in, but Myrtle Beach band Not Yet Rated revitalized everyone with covers of popular hits to sing along to. At 6:00 am we were joined by a fitness instructor from Eco Fitness, whose calming yoga-stretches awakened our bodies and prepared us for the last four hours of the Marathon. By 8:00 am the arrival of 80’s cover band McFly was much needed. Dancers were fading fast as the sun started to rise, but McFly gave one last boost to get through to the closing ceremonies at 9:30 am. As the closing ceremonies began, Assistant Executive Director, Kristina Hahn, announced the winners of the Marathon awards: team “Shaggin’ for the Kids” won the banner competition; members of the Crew team won the award for most spirited team; Lauren Caldwell won the award for most money raised as an individual, and the Alpha Delta Pi sorority team “Pi Princesses” took home the Miracle cup for the most money raised as a team. Then the Executive board announced the grand fundraising total: $20,122.81. Cheers and smiles spread through the room, and an ecstatic board filed off the stage to the sounds of Hootie and the Blowfish’s “Hold My Hand” to give all the participants hugs. Exhausted and emotional, participants filed out one by one, overwhelmed by the experience and anxious for next year’s Dance Marathon. “As their advisor, it is exciting and a privilege to be a part of such a large effort and exhibition in servant leadership,” said Michael Duncan, Director of the Higdon Student Leadership Center. “Our goal is to make Dance Marathon the largest student philanthropic event at the College of Charleston.”

Learn more about Dance Marathon at http://stu.cofc.edu/~dancemarathon/.