Making the Vision Happen

The Division of Student Affairs at the College of Charleston has raised $1.4 million for programs and initiatives that will directly serve students and keep them engaged in the campus community. The eight grants will be used to further the division’s mission of facilitating the cultural, social, emotional, physical, ethical and intellectual development of all students.

“We are working hard to develop relationships that will benefit our students, especially in these times,” said Victor Wilson, executive vice president for student affairs. “These new resources will help us to focus on specific issues as well as to meet the changing needs of our students.”

The McNair Scholars Program Grant of $1.1 million over the next four years will establish one of three McNair Scholars programs in the state. It will provide support and funding for students interested in attending graduate school and completing their Ph.D. This program is housed in the Office of the Executive Vice President for Student Affairs.

Public Safety received a $100,000 grant that was used to purchase new radios so officers are better able to communicate with local emergency response agencies in the event of an emergency.

The Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Grant is a total of $200,000 for three years and will be used by Counseling and Substance Abuse Services (CASAS) to prevent and reduce underage and high-risk drinking and the related social harm on campus and in the surrounding community. The goal of the grant is to unify College and community leaders and advocates to jointly plan and support evidence-based policies, programs, and enforcement.

The Crisis Assistance and Response Education (CARE) program received $8,000 from Verizon Wireless for the first NV: No Violence - No Victims Day. The funding allowed CARE to develop NV Day as an annual campus-wide event that has grown into a student-run program that includes petition signing, NV wrist bands, a toy drive and candlelight vigil.

continued on page 8
More than 100 students swarmed downtown Charleston on Saturday, October 24 to collect litter for Dash for Trash. More than 10 student organizations were represented and over 900 pounds of trash were collected (and that doesn’t include tires or recyclables!). Some of the litter items collected include tires, a headboard, rugs, a box spring and even extra shopping carts!

Beta Alpha Psi earned the most points of the day collecting several grocery carts full of litter. Student Alumni Associates had two teams with one team winning the most recyclables award and the other receiving the team spirit award.

Since 2003 the College of Charleston Center for Civic Engagement and Keep Charleston Beautiful have co-sponsored Dash for Trash. This annual event was started along with the “clean sweep” initiative for colleges to contribute to keeping their communities clean. Dash for Trash gives students the opportunity to help clean up downtown Charleston while enjoying some friendly competition with other students. Dash for Trash is aimed at preventing future littering through increased awareness of Charleston's anti-litter laws.

To learn about more of our volunteer opportunities and events visit our blog: cofcvolunteer.blogspot.com.

Jazz Legends Entertain Student Cleanup Crew

Pictured below are the nearly 60 College of Charleston students who gathered together on September 12 for the Elliotborough Cannonborough Neighborhood Cleanup. The Result? Students picked up bags and bags of trash and recyclables and had the chance to interact with other College of Charleston students. Students also received free gallery admission to Eye Level Art’s Gradual Lean event featuring Charleston jazz legends Quentin Baxter, Charlot Singleton, Lee Barbour and Kevin Hamilton that night.

New Bonner Leaders Already Hard at Work

All 16 of our outstanding Bonner Leaders have been placed with their service sites and have started working with their non-profit organizations. Bonner Leaders will be working with a variety of community partners including: Metanoia, Carolina Studios, Boys and Girls Club, Charleston Museum, WINGS for Kids, Florence Crittenton and City of Charleston Recreation. This year our Bonner Leaders will be doing a variety of work, from tutoring at after school programs to working with affordable housing, and even helping students write, record, and perform their own music. We are excited to have all of our students placed and are eager to watch them make a difference in the Charleston community.

The Bonner Leader Program at the College of Charleston is now embarking upon its second year, connecting the College of Charleston to over 80 campuses around the country. The Bonner Leader Program is a prestigious service-scholarship program that provides students with the opportunity to work in non-profit organizations around the Charleston area while developing leadership skills and supplementing their income.

This year’s selection process was very competitive. Twelve students were selected to provide leadership in the Charleston community and promote a culture of service and civic engagement on campus.

In exchange for their service work, these students receive a stipend in their financial aid package, which helps them afford their college education.

Email Bonner@cofc.edu for more information.
In October, nine students went rock climbing up to the top of Crowder Mountain, outside Charlotte, NC. The College of Charleston Campus Recreation Services Department has been going here for over five years for camping and rock climbing. Campus Recreation Services (CRS) introduces students to life time activities like rock climbing, sea kayaking and surfing.

The High Ropes Course is a safe activity that allows individuals a chance to tackle what appears to be very challenging obstacles while 35 feet high in the air. No previous climbing experience is necessary.

The value of Campus Recreation? Exhilarating, challenging, rewarding and plain fun!

Students Rise to the Challenge with Campus Recreation

“Sure I was scared, but I am glad I did it!”

On the weekend of October 24-25, eight students participated in a CRS sponsored sea kayak/camping trip on Lake Marion. The group camped right at the edge of the water on one of the many islands in the lake.

Campus recreation activities give students a chance to develop an interest in something they could continue to do for a lifetime and shape students in positive ways.

Why are Campus recreation activities important?

1. Participation in recreational sports programs and activities correlates with overall college satisfaction and success.

2. Users of campus recreation activities programs and activities are happier than light users and non users.

3. Recreational sports programs and activities were the fifth (out of 21) most significant determinant of college satisfaction and success for heavy users, ranking higher than internships, student clubs and entertainment.

The Higdon Student Leadership Center presented its 3rd Annual Fall Leadership Conference on Saturday, October 17, 2009 to a record number of 220 students.

This free one-day conference, themed “On Track with Leadership” was for any College of Charleston student who wants to increase their skill base or leadership knowledge. This annual event had attendance numbers far exceeding that of the past two years so it seems that many students are looking for ways to increase their skill base or leadership knowledge. Specific efforts were directed at including many of our Greek organizations which helped to increase the overall attendance as well.

This year, the conference was open to Charleston Southern University, Trident Technical College, and The Citadel students for a minimal registration/materials fee. The conference featured educational sessions in the morning, lunch, and a keynote speaker.

This year’s keynote speaker was Mr. Rick Barnes. Rick has been involved professionally with higher education for more than 20 years. For his keynote address, “Lead Your Way to the Top”, Rick went beyond the basic concepts of leadership and focused on how to deal with organizational internal issues and specifically how individual members can share in the process of leading the group through these. Presented in his usual interactive style and by combining the right amount of humor to the seriousness of the topic, Rick was able to have the participants challenge themselves as he shared and discussed these principles of leadership. Rick also presented a break-out session for our Greek Life population called, “Leading with Your Letters.” This presentation focused on how to get Greek organization members motivated to examine the issues facing them in today’s college environment. He gave strategies to deal with hazing, risk management, recruitment, and retention challenges, which these organizations are confronted with, by mixing story-telling with solid motivational advice.

As one participant stated in their evaluation, “I’m so glad that this experience was afforded to me at the college. This conference was great, very informative, and fun.”

National Collegiate Alcohol Awareness Week

In October, college and university students on more than 1,000 campuses, across the country participate in National Collegiate Alcohol Awareness Week (NCAAW). During the week of October 19th-24th College of Charleston participated in this large scale prevention program for the first time. Students have the opportunity to participate in a variety of events, all designed by a committee comprised of representatives from Counseling and Substance Abuse Services, Greek Life, Athletics, Residence Life, and Student Activities to reinforce personal responsibility and respect for current state laws and school policies when it comes to the consumption of alcohol beverages.

Observance of NCAAW served as an opportunity to provide information, assistance, and awareness of healthy lifestyle habits and decisions regarding alcohol. The week of events was a huge success and was made possible only through the collaboration of several departments on campus.

The College plans to continue hosting NCAAW each year. Plans for next year include guest speakers, experts in the field of prevention services, as well as engaging student led activities.
McNair Scholars Program Launched

The College of Charleston has been selected as one of three South Carolina colleges or universities to host the Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program. The goal of the McNair Scholars Program is to increase the number of students from underrepresented segments of society who will ultimately earn a Ph.D. degree, thereby adding to the diversity of higher education faculty. The four-year renewable TRIO grant from the U.S. Department of Education provides $220,000 in federal funds each year to help 25 low-income, first-generation college students, and/or undergraduates who are from a population group that is underrepresented in graduate education, prepare for and succeed in doctoral programs.

The College of Charleston McNair Scholars Program will provide special opportunities to academically promising undergraduate students who have an interest in attending graduate school and completing their Ph.D. Each year, 25 undergraduate students will receive special preparation for doctoral programs. Preparation will include a summer research experience, service learning, coursework, a workshop series and advising to prepare these students for successful completion of graduate degrees.

Services provided under the McNair Scholars Program include the opportunity to engage in academic research, mentoring, academic advising and non-credit workshops, as well as assistance with securing admission to, as well as financial support for, enrollment in graduate level and doctoral programs. Students will receive a stipend linked to the accomplishment of specific academic milestones. Once they have successfully completed the program, they will be eligible for special graduate scholarships and fellowships at universities across the country.

To be considered for acceptance into the McNair Scholars Program, students must be College of Charleston undergraduates who have earned at least 60 credit hours, have a 2.75 GPA or higher, and plan to pursue a Ph.D. They must also be low-income (as defined by the U.S. Department of Education), first-generation college students or be from a population group that is underrepresented in graduate education.

The College has hosted TRIO’s Upward Bound program for more than 30 years.

For more information contact:
Carrie Ben- Yisrael
843-953-5660
413 Stern Center
McNair@cofc.edu

Dr. Ronald E. McNair, Astronaut

Ronald Ervin McNair was born October 21, 1950 in Lake City, South Carolina. He attended North Carolina A&T State University in Greensboro where he graduated magna cum laude with a B.S. degree in physics in 1971. In 1976 at the age of 26, he earned his PhD degree in physics from the prestigious Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The second African-American to fly in space, McNair became an astronaut in 1978 and spent over 192 hours in space over the course of two flights. Known for his work in laser physics, McNair received many honorary doctorates and commendations for his academic and professional work. He was also a fifth degree black belt in karate and an accomplished jazz saxophonist. Out of a poll of 1,000 applicants, McNair was selected to board the 1984 flight of the shuttle Challenger. On his second flight aboard the shuttle in 1986, McNair and six other members died in the Challenger explosion. Created in his honor, the Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program seeks to increase faculty diversity by preparing TRIO-eligible students for doctoral studies. The Program includes faculty mentoring, support activities, and research experiences.

Officer Receives Commendation from Charleston Police

Sgt. Larry Walton of Public Safety received a department commendation from the Charleston Police for his investigative work leading to a full confession from a suspect in a strong-arm robbery. Sergeant Ronald Hall recommended Sgt. Walton for the award with these remarks: “Without the diligence exhibited by (Sergeant) Walton, specifically, his familiarity with the available video overages and his continued review of the available video, this subject would not have been positively identified and arrested.”

the state of affairs is available online at http://studentaffairs.cofc.edu/about_us/newsletter.html
Bonner Leaders Serve Over Winter Break

Thirteen College of Charleston Bonner Leaders will travel to New Orleans over winter break to work with nonprofit organizations that focus on HIV/AIDS issues. In just the past two months, the students (16 total) have completed 1,900 hours of service and leadership training. The Bonner Leaders Program is in its second year at the College and has already helped dozens of nonprofit organizations in the Charleston area.

“I have learned how to see the big picture in every issue,” says Shanell Ransom, a freshman at the College. “With a one-day service project most people are unable to see the causes of the problem. In the Bonner Leaders Program, having a service site helps me to analyze the cause of problems and work to find a solution. I have met numerous people who care about the community as much as I do.”

The Bonner Leaders program offers students four-year scholarships that pair real-life work experiences in area nonprofit organizations with powerful leadership development training and education that help students transition from volunteers to leaders in their community.

This year, Bonner Leaders are working in many different nonprofit organizations and focusing on various social justice issues. Several students are working with after-school programs tutoring, designing lesson plans, teaching entire classrooms and serving as mentors to children in the Charleston area. Other Bonner Leaders are planning events, working with affordable housing issues, designing websites, and creating publicity for area nonprofit organizations.

“Through Bonner, I have made new friends, gained new insight into different issues around the Charleston area, and learned more about the world of nonprofit management,” says Jessica Branton, a sophomore majoring in sociology and secondary education. “I have also learned to continue to put myself in positions that are not within my comfort zone and expose myself to a variety of people and environments. I have to communicate with professionals in my nonprofit, as well as the children I teach. I am constantly learning about time management and classroom organization skills that can benefit my future career as an educator.”

The Bonner Leaders will be planning the second annual Engage and Empower awareness week for the College of Charleston. During the week there will be a series of five student-planned awareness events that focus on different social justice issues. The campus community will not only learn about a variety of important issues, but also help Bonner Leaders as they develop into leaders.

For more information, contact Stephanie Visser at 843.953.5854.

Cougar Media Launches New Website

On October 15, 2009 the Cougar Media Network launched its new website, CisternYard.com. The site brings together the online content of the student newspaper, radio station, and television station and is designed to offer a rich, full-featured user experience and serve as the flagship product of the College of Charleston’s student media organizations. The site reflects the continued convergence strategy initiated by the Cougar Media Network organizations in January of this year. CMN has engaged in online publishing as an important aspect of student media; the launch of a new portal represents the dedication of the organizations to continue their innovation as they grow. The site offers a number of new services, including up-to-the-minute news from the George Street Observer, music and programming from CofCRadio, and news and entertainment reporting from Cougar Television. The new site also allows individuals to connect through Twitter, Facebook and blogs while still providing a news outlet for students. CisternYard.com received its first advertisement in mid-November, posting ads for the Cougar Countdown program to be held during final exams.

Copeland Chairs New Media Committee

Assistant Director for Student Media Organizations Mandi Copeland was recently appointed Chair of the New Media Committee for College Media Advisers (a national organization devoted to supporting student media professionals and their campus operations). In her role, she will be responsible for assembling a group to review educational session proposals for workshops related to New Media for the Spring National College Media Convention in New York City, the Summer Advisors Workshop and the National Fall College Media Convention in Louisville, Kentucky in October of 2010. The committee is charged with providing sessions on various topics within New Media, ranging from Basic New Media 101 to the “How To” of using the most advanced technology and equipment in an ever-growing field. She will also be responsible for coordinating presenters for the sessions and will include fellow advisors, local experts and students as facilitators to offer a wide range of perspectives to participants.

The state of affairs is published by the College of Charleston, Office of the Executive Vice President for Student Affairs, 66 George Street Charleston SC 29424 to share information regarding Student Affairs programming and other student development efforts on behalf of students. Please contact the office for permission to reprint items that appear in the state of affairs newsletter at studentaffairs@cofc.edu.
Leadership CofC Goes into 5th Year with a Bang

Leadership CofC is a unique opportunity for juniors and seniors to learn about leadership from members of the Charleston community, as well as each other. In the 5th year of the program, 55 students were selected from a large, competitive applicant pool and interview process. The students are brought together monthly over dinner at different venues in the community. After dinner, guests are brought in to discuss various issues and topics of leadership with the students.

The first program of the fall semester was meant to introduce the students to each other. One student stated that it “is essential to get to know the other members of Leadership CofC for networking purposes and I enjoyed it”. With the beautiful Ashley River as the backdrop at Lowndes Grove, students were led through team-building activities by Adventure TeamWorks. They enjoyed a delicious southern style dinner and got to know one another. The second program was a new concept for Leadership CofC, introducing the students to proper business and dining etiquette. Cynthia Grosso of the Charleston School of Protocol and Etiquette, Inc. proved to be a great teacher during this program and the students learned more than they could imagine. One student confirmed the need for such a program saying “I feel so professional and ready to engage with other people in the community to practice and perfect my skills”. Our November program focused on Leadership in the Medical Field with special guests Heather Woolwine, Media Relations Director from MUSC, Dr. Bob Freeman, creator of the North Charleston Harvest Free Medical Clinic, and Dr. Thaddeus Bell, founder of Closing the Gap in Health Care. These guests spoke on the importance of integrity and honesty as a leader. We also bring in other guests to have discussions with the students during dinner at the William Aiken House on King Street. To close out the semester, the students had a social event to continue to get to know each other better and network amongst themselves.

The spring holds just as many interesting and challenging programs for this select group of students. Programs focus on different aspects of leadership, such as leading by example, creating a vision, encouraging others. Different themes for the programs will include education, politics, and lastly a military focused program aboard the USS Yorktown. Leadership CofC has grown every year, and this year especially has shown a great increase in the quality of students in the program. We are excited about a wonderful year.

For more information, please visit our website http://spinner.cofc.edu/slc/leadershipcofc.html.

Awards of Note

Residence Life Department earned four of the six “best of” awards given out by the South Carolina Organization for Resident Education.

Buist Rivers named the Residence Hall of the Year.

Dance Marathon named Philanthropy of the Year.

Teresa Smith, Director of Multicultural Student Programs and Services (MSPS) was appointed to the Haut Gap Neighborhood Planning Team. The Office of MSPS is serving as their partner for the next three (3) years.

Dr. Susan Payment Elected to ACUI Board of Trustees

Director of Student Life, Dr. Susan Payment was recently elected to serve as an at-large member of the Board of Trustees for the Association of College Unions International (ACUI). She will begin her two-year term of office in March 2010. Payment has enjoyed serving in a variety of volunteer positions with ACUI during more than 15 years of involvement with the organization.

Miscellany Literary Magazine is Gold Crown Finalist for Second Time

The Columbia Scholastic Press Association has picked the Miscellany for their Gold Crown Finalist status in 2010 and 2007.
Making the Vision Happen
(continued from page 1)
Student life has received $6,000 from the Robert C. and Louise S. Heffron Leadership Fund to support the Student Organizations Summit Series for the 2009-2010 academic year. Through a series of 10 workshops, student organization representatives and advisors will have the tools they’ll need to effectively lead their organizations.

The $4,000 Alliance for Full Acceptance Grant will be used by the Office of Multicultural Student Services and Programs to implement Safe Zone training for faculty, staff and students. The program will help to promote a sense of community with lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered, queer and questioning (LGBTQQ) students and teaches others about the importance of outreach.

A $2,000 gift from a College of Charleston parent will be used to further support programs and other efforts designed to increase student development services for College students.

The Center for Service Learning received a $10,000 grant to be used for their highly successful Bonner Leaders program. The grant funded orientation, a first and second-year service trip, local summer service internships and an intern.

Ann and Lee Higdon gave $5,000 to the Hidgon Student Leadership Center to offer scholarships to incoming minority students to attend the Center’s weekend leadership retreat, Cougar Excursion. The retreat helps students to begin the transition to the College and since its inception has increased minority student participation by 21%.

For more information, contact Marjorie Thomas at 843.953.4844.

Safety is a Serious Matter
Student safety is always a concern, especially in urban campuses. The College of Charleston’s President P. George Benson and Charleston Mayor, Joe Riley have taken student safety very seriously with the formation of the Clean Slate Committee. The purpose of the committee is to create innovative recommendations to help students feel safe on campus, as well as, city streets. Members of the committee were Charleston City officials, College of Charleston staff and students. Student’s involved were Joe Kampman – Senior, Kayla Dunbar – Senior, Jessica Mitsch – Junior, Sarah Cawood – Sophomore, Terrell Davis – Sophomore, Matt Cruse – Sophomore, and Jamar Brown – Sophomore.

The committee’s completed recommendations were presented ahead of schedule before the Fall 2009 semester, to both President Benson and Mayor Riley.

Here are some of the recommendations being implemented: 1 – Implementation in August of a free Shuttle service for students on Friday and Saturday nights from 11:00 am until 3:00 am. 2- A joint patrol consisting of both Department of Public Safety Officers and Charleston Police Officers is being developed with the hope of implementation in the spring. 3 - A greater variety of late night alternative activities for students. 4 - An apartment safety consulting service involving Department of Public Safety Officers and Charleston Police Officers. 5 - A committee consisting of College of Charleston students, Public Safety Officer and Charleston Police Officers looking at Charleston lighting and shrubbery to make City streets safer for pedestrians and runners.

Cougar Shuttle
We are very pleased to announce a new program, the “Cougar Shuttle”. The shuttle service provided gave safe transportation service to 4000 of our students during its pilot program from September 19, 2009 through December 12, 2009.

Cougar Shuttle is a 14 seat passenger van dedicated to just our students for rides anywhere in downtown Charleston. This program is a direct result of recommendations made by students to the Clean Slate Committee which was a group of College of Charleston students that worked with city and college officials during the summer of 2009 to address important safety issues on or near campus. The Administration has decided to continue the Shuttle Service for one year and will be available to our students every night from 11:00 pm until 3:00 am.

Alums Get Career Help
Over the past year, the Career Center has served an increasing number of our alums who have been impacted by the bad job market. This is in addition to its work with undergraduates.

Services provided are career counseling including assessments, help with job strategies, resumes and marketing tools. Grads are shown how to connect to employers via CISTERNonline and other ways, and are helped with the selection of and application to graduate/professional schools and sharing of helpful information/web sites.