So many times I’m asked, “What exactly is it that you do for a living?” I usually come up with some vague answer about working with college students. It’s so hard to put into words exactly what I, and many others like me, actually do for a living. There are few people that even realize that Student Affairs is a profession. My entire life I wanted to work in communications—public relations, radio, maybe even television— not Student Affairs. It has been a long and winding road that somehow has “sucked” me into this profession. While being continuously amazed by the students and colleagues I have been surrounded by over the years, I have learned what Student Affairs should and shouldn’t be about… It’s not about forcing students to move across the country to live in a box-sized room with someone they don’t know. Students must make that decision on their own; all we can do is help with the transition. It’s not about working on a college campus just to feel young again. Regardless of whether or not we want to admit it, we’re getting older every year while most college students remain 18-22 years old. This may require more work on our part to stay in touch with “younger generations.” It’s not about treating students like children. They’re adults and should be treated like adults. We don’t have to hold their hand or look over their shoulders; instead, we need to hold them accountable for their actions and their inactions, all the while supporting them and realizing that each one is in a different developmental stage of their life. Student Affairs isn’t about showing students that administrators have power. Just because I’m an administrator doesn’t automatically make me better than them. (continued on page 5)
A typical Friday night for a College of Charleston student most likely includes loud music, great food, and partying with your friends. January 18th, 2008 was no exception, except there was a twist. That night, hundreds of CofC students gathered in the John Kresse Arena to party for a charitable cause. The college held its 2nd annual Dance Marathon to support and raise funds for the children at the Medical University of South Carolina Children’s Hospital. In its first year, Dance Marathon had about 150 participants and raised close to $20,000. That year, Dance Marathon became the largest philanthropic organization on campus. This year’s event was no exception. Over 300 students were in attendance and the students raised more than $42,000 for the Children’s Hospital.

By raising money, the students pledge their time and energy to helping the Children’s Hospital. As a reward, a 15-hour celebration is planned, from 7:00 P.M. to 10:00 A.M. While at the event, students are constantly kept busy. Whether it be eating food from local restaurants like O’Malley’s, Chick-Fil-A, and Pizza Hut, or listening to great bands like Villa Nova, Playlist, and Not Yet Rated, students are thoroughly entertained. The participants also sang karaoke, did yoga, watched dance teams perform, and danced to a “lights out” techno party with glow sticks in the dark. Through all the mayhem, students also learned a 9-minute choreographed line dance to songs like “Shook Me All Night Long,” and “Party Like a Rockstar.”

As a surprise to this year’s event, Darius Rucker, lead singer of Hootie & the Blowfish, attended the closing ceremony in which the total amount raised was revealed while the Marathon’s theme song, “Hold My Hand”, played in the background.

Dance Marathon is held at many college campuses across the nation, including Penn State, the university at which Dance Marathon was founded in 1973. The event encourages students to do something different on a Friday night and to become involved in their community by giving back time and money to the local Children’s Hospital. Students stay up all night and dance in honor of those who cannot, and that’s something worth celebrating!
Verizon Wireless Contributes to NV Day

The College of Charleston’s Crisis Assistance Response and Education (C.A.R.E) program hosted NV Day: No Violence-No Victims on September 27, 2007 on the College of Charleston campus. “The purpose of NV Day is to build awareness of violence and crime issues that impact every community,” says Victor Wilson, Executive Vice President for Student Affairs. “We also want to offer our students, faculty and staff the information and opportunity to get involved in the effort to stop violence in our community.”

With a generous donation from Verizon Wireless, C.A.R.E. sponsored a series of activities throughout the day: a used phone drive for HopeLine to benefit relationship/domestic violence survivors; an opportunity to express the personal effects of violent crime through write-on reflection cards; and an opportunity for community and state resource providers to distribute resource information and highlight volunteer opportunities for students. Over 4,000 “NV” bands were distributed throughout campus during the day. Students were also able to register on the C.A.R.E. website to be eligible to win an eNV phone from Verizon Wireless™ or commemorative NV shirts and other prizes.

NV Day events culminated in a candlelight vigil emceed by Student Government President, Whitney Hinds, who opened the vigil by reading a reflections card dedicated to the memory of C of C alumna, Julie Jett. Julie, who graduated in May ‘03, was murdered five days after graduation in her off-campus apartment. “We will never forget you and we miss you Julie,” the card said.

Four College of Charleston students, one a recent alum, took the podium sharing their personal experiences with violent crime -- criminal stalking, murder/sexual assault of a friend, long-term childhood sexual abuse, and sexual assault. Councilman Henry Darby, founder of the Citizens’ Patrol Against Drugs, was the keynote speaker and talked about our collective responsibility to keep communities safe, and of our challenge to work together to recognize and respect the value of all individuals.

Feedback from students and members of the community who attended the vigil has been extremely positive. Two speakers have already committed to share their stories at our 2008 candlelight vigil which will again be held during September to highlight Campus Safety Awareness Month.

Higdon Center Cougar Excursion 2008

The time has come! Cougar Excursion 2008 is drawing closer, and the planning process is in full swing. So far this semester, the CE staff has conducted two full-day trainings, and a third took place at the Wild Dunes Club House on Sunday, March 29th. This year’s staff is an energetic, positive group, many of whom are CE alumni. The mix of participants from previous years and returning executive members have made for an inspirational dynamic, and everyone has been rolling up their sleeves and getting to work! The staff is heavily focusing on new programming and is brainstorming on ways to both increase participation and to make Cougar Excursion an even more valuable experience for incoming freshmen. We are very fortunate this year to have been given additional funding by former president Leo Higdon for grants to cover registration fees to increase minority participation in the program. This is an exciting time of growth for Cougar Excursion, and we anticipate 100 participants this summer! Cougar Excursion will return to Camp St. Christopher on Seabrook Island again this year for our weekend-long event from July 25th to the 27th.

For more Cougar Excursion Information see www.cofc.edu/slc/excursion.html

Community Alliance against Violence

C.A.R.E., a member of Community Alliance Against Interpersonal Violence (CAAIV), which brings together representatives from the community to address domestic and relationship violence, coordinated a petition drive for the group’s newest project. Petitions are in support of U.S. Senate bill S.1515 that would establish a domestic violence volunteer attorney network to represent domestic violence victims. Statistics consistently rank South Carolina within the top ten for domestic violence, making this effort a priority for the group. Approval of the bill would establish a pilot network through the U.S. Department of Justice in five states – one of which, it is hoped, will be South Carolina.

Petitions have been posted at the College of Charleston, Charleston School of Law, The Citadel, Trident Tech, City of Charleston Police Department, My Sister’s House, and to area businesses in Mount Pleasant and West Ashley. The petitions will be presented to the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Future Quest at the Galliard

The FutureQuest Career Fair, sponsored by the career centers of three schools: The College of Charleston, The Citadel, and Charleston Southern University, was held on February 20, 2008 in the Gaillard Municipal Auditorium.

Students and alumni from the three universities had the opportunity to talk with recruiters from organizations seeking candidates for full-time career opportunities, internships, and part-time and seasonal jobs.

Ninety organizations, representing opportunities in business / industry, government, human services, information technology, and other career fields, attended the event, along with over 600 students.

Many of the organizations scheduled interviews with upcoming graduates at the Fair, and others collected resumes to review, with plans to follow up with students at a later date.
News and Notes

Crisis Assistance Response and Education (C.A.R.E.)
National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA) Presentation

Dr. Jeri O. Cabot, Dean of Students, served as Coordinating Presenter supported by Eileen Baran and Robin LaRocque of the Crisis Assistance Response and Education (C.A.R.E.) Program for the 2008 NASPA Annual Conference - Chart a Course for Student Success, March 8-12 in Boston, Massachusetts. The presentation titled, Collegiate Victim Services: Steps to Creating a Student-Centered Program, featuring C.A.R.E. was one of approximately 300 programs selected from nearly 850 programs submitted to the conference selection committee. Over 3,000 colleagues attend the annual conference.

Student Life
Grant Awarded
The Office of Student Life has received a $6,400.00 grant from the Robert C. and Louise S. Heffron Leadership Fund to support the annual Student Organization Summit scheduled for September 13, 2008. This one-day conference experience includes nationally-acclaimed keynote speakers, educational sessions and networking opportunities for more than 100 registered student organizations on the C of C campus. The event is coordinated by representatives from the Office of Student Life, the Higdon Student Leadership Center, the Office of Greek Life and the Student Government Association.

Crisis Assistance Response and Education (C.A.R.E.)
Recertification
Eileen M. Baran and Robin F. LaRocque, of the Crisis Assistance Response and Education (C.A.R.E.) Program were approved for national recertification by the national advocate credentialing program. Both Baran and LaRocque are certified as Victim Assistance Specialists at the Advanced Level of which there are only three hundred sixty (360) nationwide.

Public Safety
Grant Awarded
The Department of Homeland Security awarded Public Safety an equipment and training grant from the Commercial Equipment Direct Assistance Program (CEDAP) for the Homeland Security Comprehensive Assessment Model (HLS-CAM), for approximately $100,000. The Department of Public Safety was 1 of 109 law enforcement agencies in the United States to be awarded this grant and only 1 of 3 in the state of South Carolina. The trained officers are able to evaluate a community’s strengths and weaknesses, identify critical infrastructure and key resources, identify threats to the community, and provide a comprehensive vulnerability assessment to assess facilities, infrastructure and events.

The Department was also 1 of 2 state agencies to receive a South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED) $123,000 Communication Interoperability grant used to purchase radios.

Making the Vision Happen (continued from page 1)

I continuously learn as much from students as they do from me, and the minute that stops, I’ll leave this profession. It’s not about getting caught up in the politics that can often rule a working environment—some decisions will be made in our favor, some won’t. Regardless, we still do the same job and support whatever decisions are made, even if they go against our opinions. It’s certainly not about making money. Nobody works in education for the salary, that’s pretty much common knowledge.

Student Affairs, in my opinion, is about taking the time to help students find their strengths and weaknesses. It’s about helping them find out what they want to do with the rest of their lives, and even more importantly, what they don’t want to do with the rest of their lives. It’s about helping them to answer their own questions—allowing them to weigh their options and make an educated, well thought-out decision. It’s about helping them realize who they are and what they stand for, and making sure they know it’s okay to be themselves. It’s about challenging them to do things they wouldn’t normally try—taking a more difficult class, trying out for a sports team, or having the confidence to apply for a leadership position or scholarship. It’s about teaching students that they are different from one another, and that’s okay. It’s about understanding that we may not come into contact with a student all day, yet every decision we make will affect at least one.

Student Affairs is about helping educate students and providing them the skills to succeed in life. It’s about challenging them to learn more, try something different, and talk to people different than themselves. It’s about getting them involved as young, overwhelmed freshmen and watching them develop into mature, talented adults. It’s about supporting them through the challenges and obstacles that they will stumble upon and holding them accountable when they make a mistake. It’s about helping a student on a campus of over 30,000 feel like a name, not a number.

It’s about the students. In the end…bottom line…it’s about the students. The minute we stray from that, it’s not Student Affairs anymore.

That’s what I do for a living.
The PAL Team (Peer Assistance Leader) Walks the Street at Night

The College of Charleston, Charleston Southern and the City have collaborated on a wonderful and exciting new program called PAL. The Peer Assistance Leaders program involves Charleston area college students assisting their peers avoid negative situations involving alcohol and crime. It stems from a desire to prevent peers from being victimized or harmed as a result of engaging in behavior which raises their risk level.

The program began on February 9th when 27 students from the College of Charleston, the Citadel and Charleston Southern participated in a three-hour orientation led by Charleston Chief of Police, Gregory Mullen and Evie Nadel, Associate Dean of Students.

The premise is simple: students come together on Friday nights (during this pilot semester) and walk the highly-traversed upper King Street corridor from 10:00 p.m. until a little after 2:00 a.m. the bar closings time. The volunteers walk in groups with the assistance of a plain-clothed Charleston Police Officer who walks nearby and a uniformed officer in a police car. The students are in bright yellow jackets with the PAL logo embroidered on the front of the jacket.

All three local news stations covered the first night and there was an excellent article in the local newspaper, The Post and Courier. The students have received only positive feedback thus far from young people who come up and thank them for being out there.

Chief Mullen and Associate Dean Nadel were invited to make a presentation to a large group at Charleston Southern recently where 170 students, faculty and their President heard all about the PAL program and ways they can serve.

Need to Just Talk? Peer Counselors Listen.

Peer Counselors have been hard at work in their attempt to spread the word about the peer counseling program on campus. On Valentine’s Day, several peer counselors gathered to give away cookies and information on the Cougar Mall. Currently, in the second year of operation, the peer counseling program is a service for College of Charleston students by College of Charleston students. The program is supported by CoC’s Counseling and Substance Abuse Services and other CoC faculty and staff. Peer Counselors have focused a tremendous amount of energy this academic year in widening the scope of awareness about the program. Their attempts to increase student awareness about this support system include such crucial efforts as working with Residence Life to provide peer counseling in the residence halls as well as the addition of an anonymous helpline.

Peer Counselors provide therapeutic listening, help with decision making and referrals to various local services and activities. All of this is offered in a confidential, non-judgmental environment. We know that some people have difficulty reaching out for help. Many people find that it is more comfortable to talk to a peer rather than a professional. Peer Counselors undergo rigorous training and are taught to completely focus on the needs of their peers. Currently, the peer counseling program is comprised of eight committed students, three of whom have been involved in the development of Peer Counseling since its origination in the fall of 2006.

Peer Counseling can be helpful for a variety of situations. For students who are stressed out about an upcoming date, feeling homesick, or experiencing a problem that they aren’t sure how to manage Peer Counselors are available to talk with. Nothing is too big or too small to talk about and everything is confidential. Their motto is “You talk, we listen.” Peer Counseling is located on the 3rd Floor of the Robert Scott Small Building and is available Monday-Thursdays from 6-9 pm. No appointments are necessary.

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
Homecoming and Habitat Blitz: Together for the Community

Homecoming broke new ground this year by incorporating a service project into the week long homecoming festivities through the One House, One Pride campaign. Students, faculty, and the greater Charleston community came together to make a family’s dream come true.

Angie Nelson, a single mother of four, has dreamed of owning her own home her entire life. This year Angie’s dream came true as the College of Charleston partnered with Charleston Habitat for Humanity to blitz build a home on Nassau Street!

With the average price for a house topping $300,000 in Charleston County, the odds of owning a home were stacked against a single mom raising four kids. At the suggestion of a friend, Angie Nelson applied for a Habitat house. Very shortly after she applied, she went in for an interview and was told that her application was accepted.

The Nelson family waited anxiously for four years to hear from Charleston Habitat in hopes of hearing that Habitat had found a plot of land to build their home.

Once building began Angie and her four children worked alongside the volunteers for two weeks to build her house from the ground up. “It’s absolutely amazing to see this come together with just a hammer and a nail,” said Nelson, amazed that she was finally a homeowner.

The Community Service Center was also amazed. “We couldn’t believe how fast the volunteer slots filled up. I think that everyone who was involved in this project felt a great sense of pride in our school when we saw just how many faculty, staff and students wanted to be a part of this project,” said Jen Repede, Community Service Center staff.

The Religious Life Council Looks Ahead

The Religious Life Council ensures the spiritual needs of our students are being met. The Council is striving to be more visible to our students and easier to access if a student is looking for spiritual development. To this end, the Council members held an all day retreat in January to work on their unified mission and goals.

The Council members represent a wide number of faiths and are thus able to provide our students with a variety of faith opportunities. The Religious Life Council is a growing organization and has tripled in size over the past five years. The groups the Council represents have been involved in many service projects sponsored by both the College and their national organizations.

... Hats Off to ...

Bethany LaPlante for publication of her article “Pre-Planning: 12 Key Questions to Ensure Successful Programs” in the March 2008 edition of the NACA Campus Activities Programming Magazine.

Ed Short for his recent selection as the South Carolina Rep to the Region 5 Leadership Team of ACUI.

Susan Payment for completion of a one year appointment as Co-Chair of the ACUI Application of Core Competencies Task Force and for now serving as member of the 2009 ACUI Annual Conference Planning Committee.

Career Center for sponsoring Alumni Mentor Program which has 550 alumni who mentor in their field.

Campus Recreation Services’ Women’s Rugby Sports Club for their undefeated season with three shutouts, and Marcus Taylor who beat out 14 competitors to win the 2008 Fitness Challenge in Silcox Gym on April 3, as well as, to Anna Gray the top female competitor.

John Campbell for the winning entry naming the new HR newsletter “Working Matters.”

the state of affairs is available online at http://www.cofc.edu/studentaffairs/about_us/newsletter.html
Annual ExCEL Awards

Student of the Year
- Michael Smallwood
- Jessica Levkoff
- Jimmy Freeman
- Kaylee Rogers
- Hallie Ritzu
- Onica Washington

Faculty of the Year
- Trevor Weston
- Laquita Blockson
- mutindi ndunda
- Robert Westerfelhaus
- Frank Morris
- Amy Langville, Sofia Agrest, and Gil Lauzon

Recipient
- Konimba Diarra
- Erika Smith
- Betty Craig
- Dance Marathon
- Yvonne Evans and The Gavalas-Kolanko Foundation
- John Davis
- Matthew McClellan
- Karen Abernathy
- Daniel Bryant and LaTarsha Ukazim
- Questin Baxter and Louester Robinson

School
- School of the Arts
- Business and Economics
- Education
- Humanities & Social Sciences
- Lang, Culture, World Affairs
- Science and Mathematics

Award
- Male Athlete of the Year
- Female Athlete of the Year
- Staff Member of the Year
- Student Organization of the Year
- Good Neighbor Award
- Unsung Champion Award
- Septima P. Clark Award
- Lucille S. Whipper Award
- Eugene C. Hunt Award
- Eddie Ganaway Distinguished Alumni Award

SALA Award Recipients

School
- School of the Arts
- Business and Economics
- Education
- Humanities & Social Sciences
- Lang, Culture, World Affairs
- Science and Mathematics

Faculty of the Year
- Trevor Weston
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- Robert Westerfelhaus
- Frank Morris
- Amy Langville, Sofia Agrest, and Gil Lauzon

Recipient
- Alan Strand for Biology Club
- Trevor Weston
- Kristina Hahn
- Whitney Hinds
- Amy Langville, Sofia Agrest, and Gil Lauzon

Award
- Cistern Award
- New Student Leader Award
- Hall of Leaders
- Advisor of the Year Award

The Presidential Legacy Awards

President Leo I. Higdon Outstanding Leadership Award
- Whitney Hinds

President Alex Sanders Outstanding Public Service Award
- Marvin Dulaney

President Dr. Theodore Stern Visionary Award
- Lynda Davis

President Dr. Harry Lightsey Humanitarian Award
- Anthony McAlister

2008 Greek Borelli Awards

Certificate of Achievement
- Mike Ladd, Sigma Chi
- Melanie Peeler, Kappa Alpha Theta
- Mark Bringardner, Sigma Chi
- Rebecca Shirer, Alpha Delta Pi
- Alex Tenhoeve, Kappa Sigma
- Anthony Spears, Alpha Phi Alpha
- Elisabeth Bischofberger, Alpha Delta Pi
- Matthew McClellan, Alpha Phi Alpha
- Lindsey Williams, Kappa Alpha Theta

Advisor of the Year
- Gabriella Oken
- Phillip Reed
- Ashley Rettenmaier
- Jasmine Utsey

New Members of the Year
- Peter Neiger
- Angelina Phebus
- William Porter

Man of the Year
- Cougar Activities Board
- Cougars Helping Enhance the Community (CHEC)
- CoFC Radio
- Comet Yearbook
- Cougar TV
- Dance Marathon
- George Street Observer
- Honor Board
- Interfraternity Council
- Miscellany Art Literary Journal
- National Pan Hellenic Council
- Off-Campus Student Assoc.
- Pan Hellenic Counsel
- Student Union for Multicultural Affairs (SUMA)
- Student Government Assoc.

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