Making the Vision Happen

Although the hot weather is upon us, this is an amazing time of the academic year. Many of us are preparing for the onslaught of questions, fears, and confusion from our new students and their parents. Yet, within that large number of those students new to the college campus, there are many students of color forging ahead and accepting the challenges of being a student of color on a predominately white campus. I won’t deny that a student of color on a predominately white college campus faces a struggle. Above and beyond the worries, woes, and apprehensions that beset all college students, the student who represents an ethnic category has to deal with an increased fear of isolation, and the role of always being different. I was terrified when I matriculated at the University of Georgia and, for the most part, remain a little scared today. Though I enjoy it immensely, my job reminds me every day that the exact opposite of black is white. Because society expects certain things of blacks and whites, this realization can be somewhat unnerving to a man of color.

But enrolling a student of color at a predominantly white campus can be a blessing to both the student and the university community. Most important is presenting a small piece of cultural diversity to all students. Students of color have the best credentials to teach the inherent benefits of plurality. Because struggles as well as benefits will greet students of color on a predominately white campus, they need a road map to their new academic environment. Most of us have had the foresight to realize that in order for our overall vision to happen we need to put forth mechanisms to insure that the individual and personal vision of each student of color need to happen as well. In this line of thinking, please allow me to share my suggestions for the Top Ten Tips for Students of Color at Predominately White Institutions:

Number 10: Accept the fact you will have challenges. They will be a part of your unique situation from day one, but as you’ve heard before, that which does not kill us makes us stronger. Meet these challenges head first.

Number 9: You should take pride in being a vessel of knowledge. No one knows you and your heritage better than you. Share your knowledge with others. You are sharing one of the greatest subjects people can learn.

Number 8: Make sure you jump right in during those opportunities to educate others – there will be many teachable moments. Use them as often as you can. It will benefit you as well as those who need the lesson.

Number 7: Don’t let anyone of any race make you feel you shouldn’t be proud of your college. Your reservoir of pride is as large as anyone else’s. Keep reminding yourself many students of color have made the same decision. You are just as intelligent and worthy of feeling pride and being happy.

Number 6: Encourage others to study and read about your heritage – you can’t tell them everything. There will be times you’re too tired, too frustrated, or...
The Student Leadership Center is one of the newer departments within the Division of Student Affairs. The Center began taking shape with the hiring of a Director and the securing of a facility. The Farr House, a historic house formerly used as a residence hall, was selected and renovated to become the new Student Leadership Center. With a building and a Director in place, work began on a mission statement to guide the development of leadership initiatives and programs. Through student focus groups, research from other colleges and universities, and discussions with faculty and administrators at the College, the following mission statement evolved.

The mission of the Student Leadership Center is to provide programs that create opportunities for student involvement and learning through individual and group leadership activities. These activities are designed to develop responsible student leadership on campus and in their communities while promoting positive citizenship. The goal of assisting students in their overall development is an integral part of the leadership efforts implemented within the Center.

By the fall of 2005, the Center launched five leadership initiatives and programs with an approximate combined participation of 71 undergraduate students. In addition, a student organization called Dance Marathon was started which brought 17 committee members into the Student Leadership Center weekly to plan their 15-hour event to raise money for MUSC Children’s Hospital.

The Student Leadership Center, along with the Department of Student Life and the Student Government Association co-sponsored the Student Leadership Summit, a one-day conference on campus for student organization representatives and advisors. Additionally, workshops and presentations were conducted for the National Pan-Hellenic Council fall retreat, Career Services staff, the Women’s Athletic Coaches, Orientation Interns, and sections of Freshman Seminar classes.

Current Student Leadership Center initiatives and activities are described in more detail below.

Leadership Seminar
Thirty-three students completed Leadership Seminar, a ten-week, non-credit, co-curricular experience that emphasizes leadership not as a position, but rather as a process epitomized by distinct skills and characteristics. Topics for the inaugural Seminar included defining leadership, models of leadership, servant leadership, time management, values clarification, active listening, diversity awareness, etiquette and professionalism, and diversity awareness. Students had the opportunity to learn about these topics in an informal environment that was conducive to candid and open discussions. Also, these students applied what they learned in a culminating service project.

S.T.A.R. (Students Taking Active Roles) - The S.T.A.R. Program served as an optional continuation of the Leadership Seminar. Out of the original 33 Seminar students, 12 chose to participate. The S.T.A.R. students met once a week for 6 weeks beginning in February 2006. They met for approximately 90 minutes every Wednesday evening in the Student Leadership Center’s Resource Library. The program began with a Challenge Course that emphasized teamwork and critical thinking skills. The curriculum then focused on sessions dealing with followership versus leadership and conflict resolution. The culminating activity for S.T.A.R. students was the planning and implementation of a Black & White Forum, a Leadership & Race Symposium made possible through a partnership with the Black Student Union.

Leadership CoFC
In its inaugural year, this program provided an opportunity for 37 junior and senior student leaders to meet monthly with each other, as well as local and state leaders, to discuss and become aware of issues facing them as future leaders of society, communities, and corporations. This group was chosen through an application and group interview process. Once selected to participate, students met once a month for seven months, with each meeting focusing on
the theme, “Leadership for a Lifetime.” Monthly programs ranged from a Low Ropes Challenge Course, to a conversation with state leaders, including Lieutenant Governor Andre Bauer, and Governor Mark Sanford’s Chief of Staff and Director of Cabinet Affairs. Students also met with business leaders from the worlds of banking, financial management, non-profit, and the City of Charleston Chamber of Commerce. Students were also challenged by a program on Multicultural Leadership presented by Victor Wilson, Senior Vice President for Student Affairs.

Student Leadership Summit

This annual one-day conference brought 146 students and eight advisors representing 99 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 Student Leadership Center played an active role in helping to produce this annual one-day conference and sponsored Professor Joe Martin, a nationally renowned speaker on today’s college circuit as one of two keynote speakers at the event. Other educational sessions covered topics such as money matters, social host responsibilities, professional dress and etiquette, event planning, diversity awareness, and marketing.

S.A.L.A. Awards

The Second Annual S.A.L.A. (Student Activism and Leadership Achievement) Awards Ceremony and Reception took place on April 19, 2006 at the Blacklock House. The Student Leadership Center presented nine New Student Leader awards, 14 Hall of Leader awards, 13 Cistern awards, and one Advisor of the Year award.

Cougar Excursion

Approximately 80 incoming freshmen students will attend a 3-day leadership retreat August 4-6, 2006. Cougar Excursion helps students begin transitioning to the College of Charleston. Participants begin their College experience through interaction with other incoming freshmen, as well as student leaders and administrators. Activities include:

- Interacting with first-year students
- Getting involved in on-campus activities
- Participating in leadership initiatives
- Developing leadership skills and strategies to ensure a positive and productive first-year experience

This program is organized and implemented with five Executive Board members and twelve counselors, all of whom are undergraduates.

Plans for the 2006-2007 academic year include the fall implementation of two sections of Leadership Seminar, in partnership with the Office of New Student Programs’ Freshmen Seminar class. The classes will be taught by Michael Duncan and participants will receive two general education credits upon completion. Leadership CofC will be executed using a new curriculum with a maximum of 45 juniors and seniors. We will continue to co-sponsor the fall Student Leadership Summit and present the annual SALA Awards in April 2007. In addition, the Student Leadership Center will help implement the first Dance Marathon at the College on February 9-10, 2007, benefiting MUSC Children’s Hospital. The LeaderShape Institute® at the College of Charleston will be added to program offerings in the spring of 2007. The premise behind The LeaderShape Institute® is that everyone has the potential to be a leader and should lead with integrity. Students selected for this six-day leadership training experience will return to campus empowered with the tools to make their “visions” reality and to make an impact in life and society. Cougar Excursion will be expanded from 80 to 200 available slots for incoming freshmen to attend.

Finally, workshops and presentations dealing with leadership issues for niche populations on campus will be conducted throughout the year as needed and requested.

It is hard to believe that the Student Leadership Center has completed its first year of programming and leadership initiatives. We have had great success in our first year of programs, and we have much to look forward to in the coming year!
College of Charleston Students Charter One in Four Chapter

If you were on campus the weekend of January 14-16, you may have noticed the large RV parked on the promenade with its bold message, “NO MORE” and the number 4 with the single word, “one,” enclosed in its center. The One in Four RV Tour was back at the College of Charleston.

This year-long tour is a nationwide program sponsored by the National Organization of Men’s Outreach for Rape Education that, by invitation, brings to campuses a strong message -- women are not alone in wanting to end rape. National statistics show that one in four college women nationwide will experience sexual assault or rape – an unwanted and unexpected part of the college experience. “The RV tour and educational outreach are designed to teach men how it feels to be victimized, how to better define consent in their own intimate encounters and how to work towards changing social norms related to sexual assault,” says John Foubert who designed the One in Four concept. The national organization and subsequent tour have a two-fold mission to educate men (and women) about sexual assault and rape, and to charter college and university chapters of NO MORE so that the education program will be continuous.

In October 2004, the founders of the tour - four William and Mary grads – spent two days at the College of Charleston. Their presentations addressed how men can work together to prevent rape and sexual assault, and how to help someone who is a rape or sexual assault survivor. This time, however, the tour facilitators representing James Madison, the College of William and Mary and University of Virginia were not on campus to offer presentations. Eight College of Charleston men along with Dr. David Mann (Political Science), who was instrumental in mobilizing the eight and who volunteered to serve as advisor, were undergoing a two-day training and chapter development workshop. The training opportunity, funded by the President’s Office and C.A.R.E., was an intensive fifteen hours of challenging discussions on alcohol, consent, gender roles, and how they all relate to sexual assault. In spite of the long days and intensive curriculum, the Virginia grads were impressed. They wrote in their daily trip blog, “This particular group deserves a special shout out for the undisputed best discussion ever on the strengths and weaknesses of The Men’s Program. For these eight guys- who barely knew each other- to speak so openly from the very beginning was quite promising. Our collective psyche couldn’t have asked for a better opening to the new semester.”

Having completed the training and a review by the national organization, these students now represent the 18th chartered chapter of One in Four in the U.S. and the first chapter represented in the Carolinas. They are in good company! Central Michigan, College of William and Mary, Huntingdon College, James Madison University, Kent State University, Lynchburg College, Messiah College, Memorial University of Newfoundland, Northern Illinois University, Randolph Macon College, Rhode Island College, Santa Clara University, University of Redlands, University of Virginia, Washington and Lee University, Washington University in St. Louis and Yale University comprise the list of nationally-recognized chapters. We are proud of this accomplishment, and prouder still of the commitment these College of Charleston men have made to work towards ending sexual violence.

The new College of Charleston chapter members are busy organizing and recruiting potential new members, getting recognized as an SGA/approved organization, and practicing their roles in delivering the Men’s Program. The group will begin offering programs to College of Charleston groups to talk about rape and sexual assault this semester. A chartering ceremony for the organization was held on February 23 where the newly elected chapter president, A. J. Meelan was presented the national charter by Victor Wilson.
News and Notes

Career Services
Reneé Patchin, formerly the Career Advisor in Career Services, now has the title of Career Counselor and has assumed the responsibilities formerly held by Boyce Cox who retired in December 2005. These include career counseling and assessments, liaison to the School of Education, Academic Advising and Alumni Relations.

The office is pleased to welcome our new Career Advisor, Mary Beth Redmond, who started with us on June 5. Mary Beth is just completing her masters in counseling/student personnel services at Clemson and has been very involved with the Leadership Program and Center and Student Government Association. She will be our primary drop-in advisor for students with quick questions and needing someone to review their resumes and cover letters.

Linda Robinson, Coordinator, Recruiting and Technology Programs, attended our state group’s (SCACE) annual meeting in Myrtle Beach May 9-12. Linda was co-chair of the Registration Committee and has been nominated for the Secretary position for the 2006-07 year.

Kristine Barry, Student Employment Coordinator, conducted a session entitled “Supervising Your Students” for campus employers on April 18 as part of Human Resource’s Office Professional Workshops series. She also represented the office at a career day held on April 4 at Morningside Middle School in North Charleston.

Jessica Lyles, JLD Coordinator, handled this year’s National Student Employment Week events with assistance from Kristine Barry on April 9-15. The project included a nomination and selection process of both student employees and student employers. The winners and nominees were all acknowledged at a special reception on April 12. This year, there were 30 students nominated and 14 employers.

Susan Gourdin, Internship Coordinator, has been working closely with the other School/Departmental based internship coordinators to coordinate efforts, share information, do some joint planning and prepare a collective annual report to be shared with the President/Provost.

Annette Van Hannegeyn, Office Manager, will be attending two half-day courses in late May at Trident Tech on topics related to Supervision.

Ebony Chestnut, Receptionist, recently joined the administrative professionals group and attended the annual conference of the SCCPA (South Carolina College Personnel Association) in late April.

Denny Ciganovic, Director, assumed the role of chair of the senior year committee in January and worked closely with the class officers and a large number of other offices on campus to plan and hold a number of events including Senior Week.

In March, the Office of Career Services held two career fairs. The fair for Education was attended by 50 school systems. The other fair, FutureQuest, was attended by 104 organizations. FutureQuest is a joint effort with The Citadel and Charleston Southern University.

Office of Intercultural Programs
The College of Charleston’s First Model UN Conference was held March 24 through March 26. Stephanie Bunker from the United Nations Headquarters in New York City spoke at the Opening Ceremony. Approximately 36 nations were represented by students.

Service-Learning
The old saying really is true, “One man’s trash is another man’s treasure.” The Office of Service-Learning held its fourth annual Move Out, Help Out April 29 – May 6, 2006. Do you realize how much STUFF college students accumulate? And, where does that STUFF end up when it comes time to move out of residence halls and apartments at the end of the semester?

The College of Charleston Office of Service-Learning and Keep Charleston Beautiful again teamed up to recycle and reuse items that would otherwise flood the landfills and clutter the streets. The Move Out, Help Out project was developed in 2003 and won a Keep America Beautiful Innovation Award for Waste Reduction. Through collaboration with the Masters of Environmental Science Student Association (MESSA), Residence Life, and, this year, the Recycling Committee, central collections boxes in each residence hall and a community donation station provide easy ways to donate and recycle the items students no longer want.

The Move Out, Help Out collections are being sorted this summer and will be sold when students return to campus during the Trash or Treasure Sale. All proceeds from the sale will benefit the Alternative Break programs for the upcoming year.

Student Affairs
In June, Victor Wilson announced Patrice Prince as the new Associate Vice President for Student Affairs. Patrice brings a wealth of multicultural and student life experience, strong administrative skills, and experience as a faculty member to the College of Charleston. Patrice comes to us from Northeastern Illinois University located in Chicago. Her first day is tentatively scheduled for August 2006. 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.

News and Notes

Student Affairs and Public Safety
This spring, the Division of Student Affairs and the Department of Public Safety launched the Silent Witness reporting system, a mechanism by which any member of the campus community can anonymously report criminal behavior and serious policy violations. Once completed and submitted, the online form is sent electronically to Public Safety. Public Safety reviews the reports and collaborates with other offices about appropriate responses. Currently, over 150 colleges and universities successfully utilize Silent Witness programs. This system is not intended for emergencies. Reports of emergencies should always be directed to Public Safety or 911. The site is part of the mission to enhance student, faculty and staff safety and quality of life on campus. The College of Charleston’s Silent Witness form can be found online at www.cofc.edu/publicsafety/importantnumbers/silent.php.

Student Health Services
The renovation of Student Health Services is complete and the office has relocated to 181 Calhoun Street, behind the Robert Scott Small Library. The renovated space adds more exam rooms, more space, and allows the staff to offer more services. Please call us at (843) 953-5520 if you need directions. You can also visit us online at http://www.cofc.edu/~stuhealth/.

Student Life
The Department of Student Life welcomes Ed Short as the new Assistant Director for Center Services at the College of Charleston. Ed recently completed his M.Ed in Counseling with an emphasis in higher education administration from Clemson University.

Making the Vision Happen

(continued from page 1)
just plain sick of teaching. Don’t turn away those who thirst for knowledge about you. Just point them in another direction.

Number 5: As questions and fears arise that you cannot answer, take time to read and find the answers to your questions. There is never anything wrong with learning about who you are. In fact, this acquisition of self-knowledge doesn’t end with college, but often begins there.

Number 4: Try to interact with others who are like you. They’re struggling too! This is the best way to disintegrate the feeling of increased loneliness many students of color report feeling on predominantly white campuses.

Number 3: You must accept the fact that there may be preconceived notions about you before you set foot on campus. There may be some people who don’t want you there. Don’t worry, your rights are secure and the price for these rights has been paid already.

Number 2: Branch out! Go thou and do likewise!

Not only should you help educate others about your culture, but also make sure to take time to learn about others and their customs. You will never have more opportunities to learn about yourself and others than during your college years. It may be risky, but take the risk!

Number 1: In efforts to be accepted, under no circumstances sell your race short! It will be tempting to ignore who you are, but it will cause much pain in the long run. No matter how much you feel different, there will always be someone (probably more often than you think) who likes you just the way you are.

Every situation is different. The bottom line is simple; legally, everyone has the right to attend the college of his or her choice. Realistically, it’s not always so easy for students of color. Yet, if utilized properly, the intrinsic lesson students of color offer, just by being there, can make a world of difference for themselves, the people they encounter, and the college as a whole.

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The Department of Public Safety began transitioning from traditional policing to “Community Oriented Policing” (COP) during the spring 2006 semester. The goal of the program is to bring our campus police officers closer to the campus community. The focus of the DPS program is to prevent crime by forming partnerships with the various segments of the campus community, i.e.: students, faculty and staff, to resolve issues before they become a problem, and where a problem already exists, to form a problem solving partnership to identify with possible solutions. Another facet is that COP attempts to build a stronger bond of trust between the community and our campus police.

“The reason for initiating the program is to bring more positive interactions between the students, faculty and staff and our campus police officers,” states Public Safety Chief Paul V. Verrecchia, “What we have found is that most of the interaction the community has with our officers is of a negative nature. Either someone has been caught doing something wrong, was injured or was the victim/witness of a crime,” Verrecchia said. “To address the problem DPS, has implemented a couple of new programs to increase the number of positive contacts between the police and campus community members.”

First, the department has changed its structure. The campus has been divided into two (2) separate areas; north--Team #1 and south--Team #2. A police lieutenant is responsible for the management of each area. Each lieutenant is in essence responsible for all police activity within his area. The two areas are divided into two patrol zones. Each patrol zone is assigned a shift with a police sergeant as supervisor. These patrol zones are then divided into 3 or 4 “beats” to which a community police officer (CPO) is assigned. Each officer has committed to be assigned to his/her “beat” for a period of at least two years. This provides for a great deal of continuity within that area. It also give the members of the community a police officer to whom they can identify, get to know, and ultimately feel comfortable approaching with problems.

Each CPO is responsible for all community policing activities within his/her “beat” and is given wide latitude in accomplishing the mission of reducing or eliminating crime and addressing quality of life issues. Currently, DPS has four CPO’s assigned to specific “beats” however as the department moves forward with its community policing program, more will be assigned to “beats” until all areas of campus have their own community police officers.

The area managers are Lieutenants Christopher Gadsden (Team #1) and Nestle Grimes (Team #2). The community police officers are Master Public Safety Officers Randolph Cowart (Stem Center beat) and Sidney Nelson (Addlestone beat), and Public Safety Officers Jose Perales (McAlister beat) and Lester Klvana (Craig beat). (Sergeant Ronald Conyers is currently filling in for PSO Klvana, who is currently on injury leave.)

The second program implemented is the “Meals with Students” Program. Under this pilot program a campus police officer takes a meal break in one of the campus dining facilities and must sit with students. The purpose is for the officers to engage the student(s) in conversational topics on a professional level that could range from safety issues, to academic issues, to even personal advice. “This type of program is very successfull at other colleges in the country,” Verrecchia said. “Oftentimes students have serious questions about their safety or other issues of concern to them; yet with their busy schedules, they also oftentimes just put off asking those questions. Or they are just hesitant to approach a uniformed police officer. The relaxed atmosphere of a meal provides the students with the opportunity to talk to an officer and ask any question they would like,” according to Chief Verrecchia.

“The members of the department are very excited and receptive about community policing. It is our hope the campus community is equally as excited and receptive,” Chief Verrecchia said.
Senior Class 2006 Continues Tradition By Leaving Their Mark

The Class of 2006 continued a College of Charleston tradition by giving a bronze seal to be installed in the Stern Student Center. The Class of 1990 conducted the first senior class gift campaign at the College. Each year since the senior class has made a gift to the College.

Approved by the Board of Trustees in 1843, the seal features two Latin phrases meaning, “Knowledge Itself Is Liberty” and, “She Cares for Her Temples, Customs, and Rights.” The woman seated in the center has been described as a personification of Charleston herself, and is shown presenting a laurel wreath to a young man holding a diploma who stands in front of a classroom building. The seal is inlaid in the floor of the lobby of the Stern Student Center.

The Class of 2006 hopes to instill a new tradition on campus by asking all students to avoid stepping on the seal until they graduate. Similar traditions are practiced on campuses throughout the world as a sign of respect and commitment to a student’s home institution.

To view a complete listing of previous senior class gifts, visit the Institutional Advancement site online at http://ia.cofc.edu/seniorgift.htm.

The bronze seal is inlaid in the floor of the Stern Student Center along with a marker recognizing the seal as a gift from the Senior Class of 2006.