Making the Vision Happen

As with most institutions around the country, we just recently celebrated commencement on our campus. On Sunday, May 13, we sent out into the world another crop of highly educated, motivated, and determined young women and men ready to tackle their new challenges. Since we have our commencement exercises outside, it was quite unfortunate that a line of uninvited rain clouds decided to join us as well. Fortunately, the wet weather did nothing to dampen my spirits or the spirits of our graduates and their families.

This year’s commencement was a little different. For the first time in College of Charleston history, I was allowed as the Senior Vice President for Student Affairs to shake the hands of each graduate walking across the stage. In the past, the President, Chairman of the Board, Provost, Dean, and Department Chair were allowed this honor. I made the request to join this group of greeters because it seemed apparent to me it was a great way to represent my division to convey all we had done in the life of each of these students while they were here at the College under our care. After shaking approximately 1,579 hands, my own right hand was a little sore, but it was worth every handshake. There were numerous students I knew well enough to give them a big hug. Others got a hearty handshake accompanied with “Good luck! Keep in touch.” These actions were done with drenched clothes and an attempt to look through the falling rain. Yet, no matter these smiles, I began to feel even better because of our role in getting those graduates to that stage. As I looked at students coming toward me, I saw the same faces that were once in the hospital holding my hand, homesick beyond belief, crying over a broken heart, confused over what to do with their life, involved in judicial cases, victims of crime, etc. No matter the past hurdles, they were there to get their degree. It was most comforting to know that, with our help in some way, they had made it to this milestone in their life. Nothing on that rainy Sunday could dampen their pride in themselves. In that same vein, nothing could dampen my love for them and my pride in being able to assist them in their development over the past few years.

It has often been said that we can learn some of life’s greatest lessons when least expected and where we most definitely would not expect education to occur. I learned during commencement this year on that very stage that I will never again underestimate the awesome and unique meaning of a handshake or a hug. In this case and on that very day, it was more symbolic than anyone could have imagined.
A Gold Mine to Be Found in Departing Students’ Discards

The old saying is true, “One man’s trash is another man’s treasure.” The College of Charleston Office of Service-Learning and Keep Charleston Beautiful saw lots of potential treasure in the items that students threw out when they left for the summer during the Fifth Annual Move Out, Help Out project, held April 28 - May 3. In previous years, an estimated 25,000 pounds of reusable material has been collected.

The Move Out, Help Out project runs during the week of finals and concludes as residence halls close, giving students and downtown residents an easy way to donate and recycle the items they no longer want. The event begins with a community drop-off station open to the public to collect donations. Local community service agencies are invited to rummage, without the sale, through collections for items to meet the needs of their missions, clients, and offices. All remaining items are donated to Goodwill Industries for resale to support its job training programs.

As a new component this year, “scavenging” volunteers canvassed neighborhoods surrounding the College of Charleston campus to collect furniture and other large items. Reusable goods were donated while all other items were removed by the City of Charleston’s Sanitation Department in conjunction with Town and Gown’s Spring Clean.

Move Out, Help Out impacts the goals of keeping the streets clean and safe while recycling and reusing bulky items that would otherwise end up in landfills. As a result of Move Out, Help Out, trash becomes treasure and students help to keep Charleston beautiful—even at the end of the semester.

Students Enjoy Alternative Spring Break By Helping Others

Spring Break is often associated with Cancun, the Bahamas, and 200,000 college students partying the night away. While these trips can be fun, the Alternative Spring Break program at the College of Charleston encourages another way to enjoy spring break – by helping those in need.

Alternative Spring Break (ASB) was created at Vanderbilt University several years ago, but has reached universities across the nation and around the world since. The program’s aim is to provide an “alternative” to typical spring breaks. Trips are also alcohol and drug free. Student leaders at the College of Charleston go so far as to have their participants sign a contract stating they will abide by the alcohol and drug policy for the entire trip, even if they are of legal drinking age.

The program began three years ago at the College of Charleston, and participation has grown ever since. Trips have ranged from local to international locations, including the Dominican Republic and Jamaica. Projects address issues including environmental concerns, orphan outreach, community building and women’s issues. The variety of projects displays the diverse nature of the program. This year, projects included environmental issues in San Francisco, orphan relief in the Dominican Republic and Jamaica, a multi-service trip to Atlanta, women’s issues in New York City and Hurricane Katrina Relief in Waveland, Mississippi.

The planning process for an ASB trip begins in September, with a leader training session. Students learn what it takes to be a leader, how to pick a project, fundraising and financial techniques, and other important aspects every project leader should know. Leaders then pick their participants based on qualities and characteristics that would best suit their trip. Weekly meetings are held with all participants to cover topics such as logistics and reflection. These meetings also help team members to get to know their fellow trip mates.

The ASB program at the College of Charleston has been a proven success since its beginnings in 2004. The stories participants bring back from their experiences encourage others to participate and lead even more trips; and the program is constantly expanding. With the successes the College of Charleston has seen thus far, the influence on the campus is bound to affect every student sooner or later. Learn more about ASB online at cofc.edu/~servicelearning/.

www.cofc.edu/studentaffairs
College Hosts Rally to End Sexual and Domestic Violence

Members of the College of Charleston community united to show their support against sexual and domestic violence in a rally prior to the 22nd Annual Take Back the Night March held on April 19. The pre-march event, sponsored by SGA, involved speakers from such campus organizations as the all-male peer education chapter of One in Four, Public Safety, Center Stage, VOX, and NOW. Many community organizations such as Darkness to Light, Dee Norton Lowcountry Children’s Center and People Against Rape were there to add a solemn reminder that sexual and domestic violence is, for too many, a reality. Students, faculty, staff and community members participated in an “open mike” session in the Cistern Area amidst a backdrop of expressive t-shirts designed by survivors of violence participating in the Women’s Studies Clothesline Project. Marchers, many wearing specially designed shirts from a class project, and No Violence-No Victims wristbands provided by C.A.R.E., left the Cistern in silent reflection walking collectively to Cannon Park for a candlelight vigil and closing ceremonies.

College of Charleston Students Join S.A.F.E.R. Campaign

On April 3, in recognition of April as National Sexual Assault Awareness Month, College of Charleston students got S.A.F.E.R. The Sexual Assault Facts and Emergency Resources (S.A.F.E.R.) campaign, designed by the College’s Crisis Assistance Response and Education (C.A.R.E.) Program, worked in partnership with members of One in Four, the Student Government Association, Residence Life and Housing, Student Judicial Affairs, student volunteers from the Department of Physical Education and Health, Peer Health Educators, and Counseling & Substance Abuse Services to distribute awareness brochures, pocket-sized resource cards, and lollipops labeled with fast facts on sexual violence. Tables placed throughout campus and within residence halls provided easy access to information vital to building awareness, promoting safety and providing critical resources in the area of sexual assault. Students who picked up their information received a S.A.F.E.R. sticker and a chance for numerous prizes to include an iPod nano. The S.A.F.E.R. campaign will be part of Welcome Week August 18-25.

C.A.R.E. and Pre-Law Advising Host Education Workshop

The 7th Annual Continuing Legal Education Workshop hosted by Crisis Assistance Response and Education (C.A.R.E.) and Pre-Law Advising was held January 5 for attorneys participating in our Attorney Assistance Program. Those attending the day-long event received free continuing legal education credits approved by the South Carolina Bar Association as a “thank you” for their generous volunteer work with our students. The Honorable Judge Linda Lombard, the Honorable Judge Joseph Mendelsohn, Solicitor Deborah Herring-Lash and Allyson Haynes of the Charleston School of Law served as presenters. Established in 1999, the Attorney Assistance Program brings together over forty attorneys who are graduates and friends of the College who offer limited free legal services to our students. For more information on our Attorney Assistance Program go online to www.cofc.edu/studentaffairs/atrnyastprgrm.
Higdon Student Leadership Center Presents Annual S.A.L.A. Awards for Student Activism and Leadership Achievement

On April 18, sixty guests, including College of Charleston students, faculty, family, and friends gathered at the Blacklock House gardens for the third annual Student Activism and Leadership Achievement (S.A.L.A.) Awards, hosted by the Higdon Student Leadership Center. The ceremony was presented by HSLC director Michael Duncan, along with Victor Wilson, Senior Vice President for Student Affairs.

The S.A.L.A. Awards are an effort to recognize members of student organizations, faculty, and staff who have contributed their time, energy, and leadership abilities towards making our campus and the surrounding community a better place. Areas of distinction include: Advisor of the Year, the Cistern Award for outgoing seniors, the New Student Leader Award for first-year students, and the Hall of Leaders. The recipients of these awards are nominated by faculty advisors and members of student organizations.

The Advisor of the Year Award was presented to Dr. Jim Ward for his work with the Historic Preservation Club.

Recipients of the Cistern Award included Sara Banks, Jacqui Barry, Wesley Boling, Erica Creed, Chris Itteilag, Ronisha Mayes, Patrick McShay, Marquitta Scott, Andrew Shealy, and Brianne Steiner.

The four New Student Leader Awards were presented to Dionna Everett, Mary E. Jackson, Jamie Shafer, and Molly Spence.

The 2007 Hall of Leaders included the following students and organizations: Jennifer Repede for Cougars Helping Enhance the Community (CHEC), Don Gamble for CofC Radio, Megan Mercer for Comet Yearbook, Julie Goodman for Cougar Television (CTV), Katie Abney for the George Street Observer, Amanda Burns, Whitney Hinds for the Student Government Association (SGA), Maura Hassenfuss for Cougar Activities Board (CAB), Jennifer von der Heiden for the Honor Board, Ashley Rettenmaier for the Panhellenic Council, Brady Quirk-Garvin for Off-campus Student Association (OCSA), Cierra Rogers for Student Union for Minority Affairs (SUMA), and Alexandria Russell for Black Student Union (BSU).

The HSLC would like to congratulate all award recipients for a job well done, and to extend its deep appreciation to all those who helped to make this year’s S.A.L.A. Awards a tremendous success.

Leadership Center Dedication

The dedication ceremony for the Ann and Lee Higdon Student Leadership Center was held on Monday, March 19, at 69 Coming Street. A reception followed the ceremony in honor of Ann and Lee Higdon and their generous service as the 20th President and First Lady of the College of Charleston. 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.
News and Notes

Crisis Assistance Response and Education (C.A.R.E.)
S.C.O.R.E. Conference Presentation
In February, Eileen Baran and Robin LaRocque presented at the South Carolina Organization for Resident Education (S.C.O.R.E.) 2007 Conference geared toward Resident Assistants and leaders/members of Resident Housing Associations from across the state. The presentation, entitled Listening to the Voices of Victims: A Perspective That May Help Shape Response, Support, and Programming Within Residence Life, offered victims’ views of why college students (males as well as females) do not report the crime to police or seek assistance.

According to its mission statement, “SCORE is an organization that develops, plans, initiates, executes, and encourages programs and communication which promote the public interest and the social welfare of resident students across the state.”

Career Center
Student Employee of the Year Reception
On April 11, Student Employment Programs at the Career Center hosted the annual Student Employee of the Year Reception. Student employees who made a significant contribution to their department during the past year were nominated by their supervisors. Blaik Pulley from the Academic Advising and Planning Center was selected as the Student Employee of the Year from among 30 nominees. Brittani Ingle from Accountability, Accreditation, Assessment and Planning received the runner-up award. The winners received a $300 and $150 scholarship check respectively.

Welcome
In June, the Career Center welcomed Heather Scarboro to the position of Career Advisor. Heather is a native of Claxton, Georgia, and is a graduate of Georgia Southern University with a Master of Education in Instructional Technology.

Center for Disability Services
Getting the Job
With the guidance of the Career Center, the Center for Disability Services (CDS) has implemented three initiatives to increase employment opportunities for students with disabilities. CDS students have the opportunity to meet with recruiters from the Workforce Recruitment Program sponsored by the Department of Defense with support from other federal agencies and with representatives from SPAWAR (Space and Naval Warfare) Systems Center which supports the missions and objectives of the Department of the Navy and the Department of Defense. In addition, CDS is collaborating with the Director of the Communication Department for internships to promote appropriate and successful internship experiences.

Student with Disability Wins Award
The Access and Equity Multicultural Student Award was presented to James Alexander Jackson. This award is based on academic achievement, leadership, and concern for others. In addition to excelling academically, Alex is employed as a student worker at the Center for Disability Services, is a DJ for CofC Radio, and is a volunteer at the Medical University of South Carolina.

Greek Life
New Director Named
On June 18, Victor Wilson announced that Kassie Kissinger will join the College of Charleston community as the new Director of Greek Life. Kissinger comes to the College from Valdosta State University where she worked as Assistant Director of Student Life for Greek Life. Her first day at the College will be August 6. Wilson stated in the announcement, “13% of our student population is Greek, so we look forward to Kassie joining us to strengthen our programs for Greek students at the College of Charleston.”

Religious Life Council
Souper Bowl
Students from six faith-based organizations associated with the Religious Life Council on campus participated in a “Souper Bowl of Caring” in February. The event is a national program initiated by students on college campuses. The idea stems from all the hype around the “Superbowl.” Students host events amongst their peers and have large soup bowls at the events. They all put in money in the bowls to go to a local charity. College of Charleston students put in $438 of their own money and donated it to the Lowcountry Food Bank. Over $6 million dollars was donated in the United States alone. Peter Hyatt from the Baptist Campus Ministry was the leader behind the College’s first effort.

Student Affairs
Baccalaureate Service
Baccalaureate was held on May 12 at St. Matthew’s Lutheran Church on King Street. City Councilman and Charleston Police Department Chaplain Jimmy Gallant gave the message. Sr. Vice President Victor Wilson introduced Dr. P. George Benson, President of the College of Charleston who gave a welcome. Mr. Wilson also sang “I Bowed on My Knees and Cried Holy!” Readings were made by student leaders and student members of faith-based organizations.

Town/Gown Spring Clean
The Town and Gown Committee and the City of Charleston joined forces for the first ever Town and Gown Spring Clean on May 19 and 26. The City of Charleston added
News and Notes

two special trash pick ups on those days and the College paid for the additional service. The extra pick ups provided students more opportunity to clean out their apartments before moving away for the summer or after graduation. Local neighborhoods benefitted by a reduction in the volume of student discards at the curb. Volunteers from the College’s Move Out Help Out Committee and the City’s Keep Charleston Beautiful followed the trucks those mornings and took all usable household goods and furniture to charitable organizations.

Student Health Services
College Health Association Meeting
On April 13, Student Health Services hosted the 11th Annual South Carolina College Health Association Meeting. Presenters included staff from the College of Charleston, Lander University, Medical University of South Carolina, Spartanburg Methodist College and the University of South Carolina. The annual meeting provides college health professionals with educational presentations and an opportunity to meet with their counterparts from all over South Carolina.

Student Life
Honoring Fallen Firefighters
In response to the tragic loss of nine Charleston firefighters on Monday, June 18, 2007, the Office of Student Life set up remembrance boards in the lobby of the Stern Student Center. College of Charleston community members stopped by the lobby and added personal thoughts, words of encouragement, and remembrances on these boards. In addition, donation boxes were set up in the lobby. All donations collected were given to the City of Charleston Fireman’s Fund. Student Life staff delivered the remembrance boards and any additional cards to the Charleston Fire Department.

ACUI Doin’ The Charleston
The Stern Student Center at the College of Charleston will serve as the primary venue for the 2007 Association of College Unions International (ACUI) Region 5 Conference, attracting student activities and college union professionals and student leaders from campuses throughout Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Kentucky and Tennessee. The conference will include keynote speakers Marsha Herman-Betzen, ACUI Executive Director, and Lincoln Johnson, current ACUI President, as well as educational sessions on current topics related to the field, tours of the historic College of Charleston campus and new facilities, and opportunities to explore and enjoy the city of Charleston.

Find out more, including educational session proposals and registration at www.cofc.edu/acui2007/.

The State of Affairs is published by the College of Charleston, Office of the Senior Vice President for Student Affairs to share information regarding Student Affairs programming and other student development efforts on behalf of students. Please contact the office for permission to reprint an article that appears in the State of Affairs newsletter.

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Student Media
Student Employer of the Year
On April 11, CE Huffman, Assistant Director for Student Media Organizations, was recognized as the Student Employer of the Year by the College of Charleston Career Center. CE was nominated for this honor by the student employees that he supervises in the Student Media Annex. The award acknowledges his hard work, mentorship and ability to serve as a positive role model for others.

Welcome Week
Welcome Week 2007 is scheduled from Saturday, August 18, through Saturday, August 25. Welcome Week celebrates the beginning of the fall semester with activities designed to help students become familiar with College opportunities and services. View the calendar of events at http://www.cofc.edu/~welcomeweek/.

Student Employer of the Year award from the Career Center.
Former Honor Board Executive Passes Gavel and Reflects

If you had asked me at the start of my college career about what I thought my four year experience was going to be, I would never have guessed the roller coaster ride that I am finishing up now. Within the first two weeks of living in the residence halls one of my roommates was removed for drugs, a second was going down a path that would eventually have him expelled from the college and a third would be kicked off a sports team and return back home. All of this signaled to me that I had to get involved with activities on campus to meet other students. One of the organizations I stumbled on was the Honor Board. So I filled out an application, interviewed and was accepted. Joining the Honor Board was an exciting time for me. I was able to meet a diverse set of students who showed me different aspects and walks of life. In the spring of my freshman year the chairman approached me and asked me to run for the chair position. I was a bit hesitant since I would be running against a rising senior who had been on the Board for three years and served as a deputy chair for a year. However, I applied and was selected for the position. Becoming the Chairman as an underclassman would present me with many challenges and hardships that I would overcome. Nonetheless, with the help of those around me I was able to find my niche and discover a family that was there supporting me with every move I made.

“Nonetheless, with the help of those around me I was able to find my niche and discover a family that was there supporting me with every move I made.”

Patrick McShay ’07

The Honor Board has grown over the last few years as we try to become more proactive and create policies that will help deter students from making bad decisions. We have added the sanction option of XF, failure due to academic dishonesty, increased the sanctions for alcohol and drug violations with minimum sanctioning to help create a more fair and consistent outcome for all of our cases. Even with these changes, we still maintain our practice of treating every student’s situation individually and profess that no two cases are the same. Running the Honor Board is a task much too large for just one person. It takes roughly 50 student, faculty and staff volunteers and a team of dedicated full time employees to move nearly 75 cases through the judicial process each year. It is a team effort to coordinate and hear all of these hearings, and thus, the additional help of two deputy chairs is crucial. With national cheating averages increasing throughout higher education and our focus on drug and alcohol cases at the College of Charleston, it is imperative that we have proper leadership running our Honor Board. That is why after three years of dedication I am so excited and proud to pass the gavel off to Jennifer von der Heiden and her two deputy chairs, Daniel Burkard and Tiffany England. With Jennifer’s commitment over the past two years and serving tirelessly as deputy chair for a year, I am eager to see the positive changes and advancements that she will be able to bring to the Board. I have full confidence and faith in this leadership and am highly impressed with the vision that these remarkable leaders have for the Honor Board’s future.

Patrick McShay ’07

The State of Affairs is available online at http://www.cofc.edu/studentaffairs/about_us/newsletter.html
Annual Borelli Awards Ceremony Recognizes Greek Leaders

On March 23 the annual Borelli Family Greek Life Awards were presented at a ceremony held in historic Alumni Hall on the College of Charleston campus. The following chapters and individuals were recognized for their achievements:

**Panhellenic**
- Most Comprehensive Scholarship Program
  - Chi Omega (Zeta Gamma)
- Most Comprehensive Scholarship Program
  - Kappa Alpha Theta (Zeta Lambda)
- Most Comprehensive Community Service
  - Delta Delta Delta (Alpha Nu)
- Most Outstanding Philanthropic Collaboration
  - Phi Mu (Alpha Kappa)
- Best Philanthropic Event
  - Kappa Delta (Zeta Sigma)
- Most Improved Scholarship
  - Zeta Tau Alpha (Eta Lambda)
- Most Comprehensive Community Involvement
  - Alpha Delta Pi (Zeta Sigma)
- Chapter Development
  - Phi Mu (Alpha Kappa)

**Interfraternity Council**
- Most Comprehensive Promotion of Leadership
  - Sigma Chi (Iota Epsilon)
- Best Philanthropic Event
  - Sigma Nu (Iota Rho)
- Most Improvement in One Year
  - Delta Epsilon Pi (Chi Omicron)
- Greek Involvement
  - Pi Kappa Alpha (Lambda Kappa)
- Most Comprehensive Scholarship Program
  - Sigma Phi Epsilon (Zeta)

**Panhellenic and Interfraternity Council**
- Academic Achievement
  - Sigma Delta Tau (Delta Eta) and Sigma Phi Epsilon (Chi Omicron)
- Best Overall Chapter
  - Sigma Delta Tau (Delta Eta) and Sigma Nu (Iota Rho)

Panhellenic New Member of the Year
- Kristin Abott (Alpha Delta Pi Zeta Sigma)

IFC New Member of the Year
- Mark Bringardner (Sigma Chi Iota Epsilon)

Greek Man of the Year
- John Whitehead (Sigma Chi Iota Epsilon)

Greek Woman of the Year
- Ashley Rettenmaier (Alpha Delta Pi Zeta Sigma)

Learn more about Greek Life at [http://www.cofc.edu/greeks/](http://www.cofc.edu/greeks/)

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