Student Affairs Publication Receives Awards

A Student Affairs publication, Division of Student Affairs Committed to the Overall Development of Exceptional Students, received the CASE District III Special Merit Award in the Visual Design/Design for Print category. This is the second award received for the publication. It won two International Davey Awards – a silver in the category of Art Direction/Graphic Design and a silver in the Photography category. Kris Adams of the Division of Marketing and Communication designed the publication.

The Davey Awards honor big ideas and creativity that are generated by smaller organizations that operate without stratospheric budgets. Davey entries are judged by members of the International Academy of the Visual Arts, “an invitation-only body consisting of top-tier professionals from a ‘Who’s Who’ of acclaimed media, advertising and marketing firms.” Some of the members include executives from organizations such as Condé Nast, Michael Kors Inc., Disney, Microsoft, HBO, MTV, Polo Ralph Lauren, and many more.
Chief Installed as President-Elect

College of Charleston Director of Public Safety, Paul Verrecchia, was officially installed as the President-Elect of the International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Officers Association (IACLEA) at the 52nd Annual Conference in St. Louis. He will serve as President-Elect until June 2011 when he will rise to the IACLEA Presidency on June 20th at the 53rd Conference in Charlotte. In addition, Chief Verrecchia was presented with the “President’s Award” at the conference. The President’s Award is given annually by the IACLEA President to an individual that has demonstrated leadership and performed outstanding work on behalf of the Association.

Student Health Services to the Rescue

One of our brilliant nurse practitioners, Bridget McLernon Sykes, was at the gym at MUSC when someone fell off the rowing machine and had heart failure. Bridget immediately started chest compressions ordered others to call EMS, and directed others to get the automatic electronic defibrillator. The patient was successfully shocked and survived. We are proud of you Bridget!

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Staff Development Activities

In its first year, the Student Affairs Staff Development Committee has definitely been busy creating great programs and events for our Student Affairs Family. Under Victor Wilson’s leadership the Division of Student Affairs has long had a tradition of development and service to our staff. The SASD Committee is co-chaired by Kassie Kissinger (Greek Life) and Michael Duncan (HSLC) and is comprised of hardworking members of four sub-committees: Here’s a short update on the new Staff Development Opportunities that have been created for Staff by Staff:

1. The Awards and Recognition Subcommittee led by Libby Cole developed a great way to recognize staff members on the Kudos Blog, as well the Staff Spotlight page. This sub-committee also has successfully put on the 1st Salute to Student Affairs event last Spring and is currently working on this great Awards Banquet for the spring! (Please visit our Staff Spotlight and Staff Kudos web pages: http://studentaffairs.cofc.edu/about/staff-recognition/staff-spotlight.php)

2. The Special Events Subcommittee led by Mandi Bryson collected supplies from each Student Affairs Department and delivered 25 baskets to the Ronald McDonald House for the Helping Hands Program. On January 6th the Special Events Committee hosted a New Year’s Resolution Drop In entitled “A New Year to Live, Learn. Grow.” Attendees recorded their New Year Resolution. This resolution will be revisited later this year to determine success.

3. The Orientation Subcommittee led Mary Pat Twomey has helped to prepare all new hires for the Division by holding a Fall orientation, as well as, welcoming new employees.

4. The Young Professionals Subcommittee led by Rachel Marsh has been busy helping the Student Affairs “newbies” get a step ahead by offering fun and informational Lunch and Learns every third Thursday of the month in Stern. Topics have included “Your First 90 Days” and “Speed Networking” and the “History of CofC.” The committee is also busy working on a mentoring program to engage young professionals with some of our seasoned staff.

5. The Education and Communications Subcommittee is busy working on developing some great communications and education tools for our division. Led by Carrie Ben-Yisreal, the committee has also been developing workshops for the upcoming Student Affairs Conference, and a website for resources for continued staff development. (Please visit our Staff Recognition and Development web page: http://studentaffairs.cofc.edu/about/staff-recognition/index.php)

Living and Learning Communities Help Charities

Every College of Charleston Living/Learning Community participated in charitable events this holiday season. The Block on Bull Living/Learning Communities collected more than $2,000 for HALOS to provide gifts for abused and neglected children involved with Charleston County Department of Social Services.

Barnes & Noble at College of Charleston donated matching items for each gift the students collected. The Environmental and Outdoor House presented the most money to HALOS.

The McConnell Residence Hall Living/Learning Communities collected more than 150 teddy bears for Debi’s Kids and were invited to the December 4, 2010 Stingrays hockey game to present the donations. The most teddy bears were collected by The Arts Living/Learning Community.

Living/Learning Communities at the College of Charleston are growing in popularity. They are purposeful attempts to integrate in-class learning with out-of-class experiences. Students who participate in Living/Learning Communities have similar interests and want to participate in extra-curricular events that connect them with each other and community organizations.

The Block on Bull Living/Learning Communities are the Women’s and Gender Studies House, Outdoor Education and Environmental Awareness House, La Maison Francais, Casa Hispanica, and the Health Professional House. McConnell Residence Hall Living/Learning Communities are Pre-Professional Health, International, Communication, and The Arts.

Living/Learning Communities at the College of Charleston were launched in 2008 and 2010 was the first year that McConnell Residence Hall was composed entirely of Living/Learning Communities.

A main goal of the Communities is to support all ages of residents in their extra-curricular learning with themed academic and social programming that helps students develop relationships with each other and faculty, helping them learn critical skills like studying, coping and critical thinking, and to engage the students in the life of the campus and community.

Students in the Living/Learning Communities are already looking for charities to support in spring 2011.
What’s Happening in the World of Student Life?

The SGA Funds Student Video Rentals

The SGA has allocated $1,500 to create the “SGA Video Library” to be launched in the Spring of 2011. Funds from the Marlene and Nathan Addlestone Library and the Friends of the Library will be combined with the SGA funding to allow students to rent movies for three day periods from the Marlene and Nathan Addlestone Library free of charge.

Quilts Help Commemorate World AIDS Day

For the second straight year, the Office of Student Life, in collaboration with Counseling and Substance Abuse Services, Multicultural Student Programs and Services, and the Addlestone Library sponsored panels from the NAMES Foundation AIDS Quilt to commemorate World AIDS Day on December 1. The panels were displayed in the Addlestone Library Rotunda from November 29-December 6. Information on the history and interesting facts about the quilts were provided in the rotunda. There was an opportunity for the College faculty, staff and students to leave messages in a signature book. The AIDS Quilt display was in conjunction with several events hosted by the College of Charleston to commemorate World AIDS Day. Some of the quilts are displayed below.

First Concert at Arena

Grammy Award winning artist, Jason Mraz, performed at the College of Charleston on September 22, 2010. This was the first concert experience to be held in the Carolina First Arena. Nearly 3,400 students and community members enjoyed the show and are already asking, “When is the next concert?” The event was sponsored by the Office of Student Life, Athletics, Cougar Activities Board and the Student Government Association.

Day of Caring for Lowcountry Food Bank

Cans of food weighing 872 pounds were collected during a drive held September 6-13 in the lobby of the Stern Student Center. This amount will provide 71 meals to individuals in need who are served by the Lowcountry Food Bank. The drive was held in conjunction with the Day of Caring. Students that attended the annual Student Organizations Summit were also invited to donate and Zeta Tau Alpha was awarded $100 for contributing nearly 200 individual items.

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What’s Happening in the World of Student Life? continued

Veterans Day Events
The Office of Student Life sponsored several Veterans Day events to honor those who have served and still serve to preserve our freedom.

Veterans Day Ceremony
On November 11th, The West Ashley High School Color Guard presented the Stars and Stripes for a brief ceremony at the Glebe Street entrance to the Stern Student Center. The program honored those who have served and included remarks by Leroy Lewis, the Director of Upward Bound and Pre-College Department, regarding his memories of his Air force experience and the significance of Veterans Day to him.

Message Board
A display featuring the names of veterans within the College of Charleston community was displayed in the Stern Center lobby throughout the week and students, faculty, staff members and visitors were invited to leave messages to individual veterans, as well as, general messages of thanks. The notes were distributed to the veterans on-campus and sent to members of the armed forces currently on active duty.

Soldier’s Angels Get Donations
Donated items were collected for Soldier’s Angels, a non-profit organization providing comfort and support to soldiers and their families, focusing on soldiers who may not have a support system back home. Four boxes of snacks, toiletries and sundries were sent to the organization for distribution to deployed troops.

Record Crowd at Moonlight Breakfast
Nearly 1400 students packed the Liberty Street Fresh Food Company on the evening of December 7 for the bi-annual Moonlight Breakfast event. Participants enjoyed a hearty menu of eggs, bacon, grits, biscuits and gravy and French toast sticks (served by staff members from the Division of Student Affairs) and worked off pre-final exam stress by dancing and making holiday crafts. A few lucky students took home door prizes (provided by General Mills, Aramark and the Office of Student Life) including a shiny new iPad! The next Moonlight Breakfast is already scheduled for Tuesday, April 26, 2011.

What’s Happening in the World of Student Life? continued

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Campus Recreation Services News

Campus Recreation Wins First Ever Charleston Cup

The Charleston Cup is a series of extramural competitions between the College of Charleston’s Campus Recreation Services and Charleston Southern University’s Recreation Department. The competition is between the top intramural teams in Men’s Indoor Soccer, Men’s Basketball, and Women’s Basketball. The overall winner of each event gets the Charleston Cup trophy for each sport to be displayed in their facility and bragging rights for a whole year.

The Charleston Cup festivities were initiated this past November with a Men’s Indoor Soccer tournament featuring two teams each from College of Charleston and Charleston Southern University. A team from College of Charleston came out on top and became the first ever Charleston Cup - Indoor Soccer Champions. The trophy is now being displayed at the Campus Recreation Services’ office at the Silcox Recreation Center and will be there until next year’s tournament.

James Island Playing Fields Re-“Newed”

The College finalized the details for a new agreement for property on James Island that is leased from the Charleston County Parks and Recreation Commission. This roughly 12 acre parcel has served for the past five years as the principal site for the Campus Recreation Services intramural leagues and its outdoor sport clubs. The administration also approved a much needed field improvement project totaling just under $42,000.00. The playability of the field should now more closely match the caliber of play for those who call “the Yard” home. Play on the fields will resume in early spring. Two well established sport club tournaments, the Chucktown Throwdown (ultimate Frisbee) and the Charleston Black-out (men’s rugby), are already anticipating very positive responses to the new facelift.

New Fitness Deck

The 2nd floor exercise deck of the Johnson Center is being filled with new exercise equipment. Not too long ago, the space used to be offices for Athletics coaches. The walls were torn down, and construction took place to turn the space into an open fitness deck. Construction was finally completed at the beginning of the Fall 2010 semester. We are filling the space with new equipment and it is starting to attract a lot of traffic. Around $50,000 was used to provide students with the work out machines that are now available for students, as well as, faculty and staff.

Extended Hours & Study Space During Exams

Campus Recreation Services has extended its open hours to 2 a.m. for the Johnson Center during the first three days of Exam Periods. This provides students with a place to go to take a break from studying in our basketball / volleyball / badminton courts, fitness deck, and racquetball courts. Or students can show up for events such as Volleyball Net Night, Badminton Net Night, and Zumba that are scheduled. There is also space to study in case the library and the Education Center gets too crowded. Snacks are available at the Johnson Center front desk.
The U.S. Census Bureau presented Upward Bound and Pre-College Programs an award for their efforts in promoting participation in the 2010 Census. Upward Bound partnered with the U.S. Census Bureau to establish a statewide youth Complete Count Committee for the 2010 Census. The committee was made up of students and advisors from many of the 18 Upward Bound programs statewide.

The promotional activities included students performing skits to inform peers about why it’s important for all South Carolinians to be counted in the 2010 Census. These skits were presented at the opening night of the Wanda Hendricks Bellamy Student Leadership Conference in Myrtle Beach. Another activity was a poetry slam held during the same conference called: “WORD UP! Let’s All Be Counted As One!” It was designed to give a civic voice to youth as they excite and mobilize adults to complete and return the 2010 Census.

These activities are a great opportunity for young people to become more civically involved in their communities and to forge new networking opportunities.

Emphasis on networking and presentation skills is intentional, explained Leroy Lewis Jr., Upward Bound and Pre-College Director at the College of Charleston. “In addition to helping students succeed academically, Upward Bound strives to involve them in the community,” Lewis said. “Promoting the 2010 Census is a good civic engagement fit.”
Counseling and Substance Abuse Services Expands

“Happy Hours” is an alternative to drinking offered monthly and sponsored by Dr. Farish-Ferrer. Local speakers present topics on self-defense, things to do in Charleston, and healthy eating on a college budget. Food and door prizes are offered. Over 75 students attended these events with feedback supporting the value of the events and the knowledge gained. The January 2011 event had a speaker on women’s self-esteem and empowerment.

For the first time a “Sports Counseling Clinic” was offered to the College of Charleston Athletic Department students, including a weekly Athletic Walk-In-Clinic. This initiative was made possible through the collaborative efforts of the Department of Counseling And Substance Abuse Services (CASAS) and the Sports Medicine staff. In only 8 weeks, CASAS has responded to over 20 phone consultations, provided services for 6 student/athletes, assisted three trainers, and collaborated with two coaches-including Coach Cremins.

The fact that we are “not alone or unique” in the trials and challenges life throws at us was emphasized through a multitude of support groups offered by CASAS this semester. Over five groups were offered, covering student requests for help addressing assertiveness, eating disorders, relationship issues, stress-coping skills, and yoga therapy. The Stress and Coping group proved so successful that four students volunteered to be senior mentors for next semester’s group, and the E-Dots (eating disorders) group had such a great turnout that two groups will be offered next semester. Overall, the groups assisted 47 students, with over 51 group meetings throughout the semester. New groups are currently being formed for next semester.

The heart of CASAS is touching lives through one-on-one support, or individual counseling. Feedback from students attending individual sessions showed that CASAS was successful quickly and enabled students to succeed in a variety of student learning objectives (SLO’s). End of semester surveys revealed that 90% of students were empowered to reach their counseling goals in 5-8 sessions. Using a scale from 1 (Strongly Disagree) to 4 (Strongly Agree) students reported success on all 8 SLOs measured (all above 3.08). Student evaluations were also extremely favorable for the following CASAS objectives: “I was more able to successfully continue my studies at CofC” – 3.21, “I would recommend CASAS to others” – 3.71, and “In the future I would return to counseling if I felt it was needed” – 3.73.

New Staff in the Division of Student Affairs

The Division of Student Affairs has added new talent to the Division. First of all, there are three new directors who are replacing the retiring directors.

Frank Budd, Director of Counseling and Substance Abuse Services (CASAS)  
Robin LaRocque, Director of the Office of Victim Services  
Deborah Freel Mihal, Director of the Center for Disability Services

Other new staff include:

Campus Recreation Services ................................................................. Assistant Director, Freddie Lipata.
Multicultural Student Programs and Services has two new employees:
  Administrative Assistant: Rebecca Goss
  Associate Director of MSPS: David Michener
Public Safety ........................................................................... Lieutenant / Area Manager, Onieda Banks
Student Life ........................................................................... Assistant Director for Student Life Services and Events, Mark Albers
Victim Services ...................................................................... Victim Service Provider, Charlane Dwight

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Career Center News

Career Fair by Linda Robinson

Over 80 organizations and graduate schools sent representatives to attend the Career Center’s Fall 2010 Career & Graduate School Expo, held on October 21st. This number represents a significant increase over last fall, indicating that employers are somewhat more optimistic about hiring this year. Students and alumni were able to network and talk with representatives from a wide variety of organizations recruiting candidates for opportunities including those in business, technology, government, and teaching abroad, as well as graduate schools representing a wide variety of post-graduate educational programs. Over 225 College of Charleston students and alumni attended the event, which is held annually.

Employers were favorably impressed with students’ preparation, as most had conducted research on the organizations prior to the Fair, and many students/alumni were able to land interviews with the participating organizations, and some have reported having already received job offers as a result!

Marla Cochran Elected Member-at-Large

Marla Cochran has recently been voted in as the Member-At-Large for the Southern Association for Student Employment Administrators (SASEA). Her responsibilities include processing all membership payments, serving as chair of the Membership Committee, help all conference attendees with registration and assist with the planning of the 2011 VA and 2012 TN conferences.

Marla has been working with the new school software, Banner on student hire contracts and federal work study student earnings. Marla is also expecting to go live with a new electronic hire form by May or August.

Katie Smith, Internship Coordinator

The Certificate Internship Program, CIP, is a non-credit internship program that students can enroll in through the Career Center. The requirements include: a minimum of 120 hours, completed learning agreement, assignments (journals, reflection paper and informational interview), final evaluation of the student’s performance and a resume critique. This is a great option for students who are not eligible for an internship for credit. Katie expects the student enrollment in CIP to increase in 2011.

Katie has been in contact with all of the employers who have posted internships through the Career Center for Fall 2010. The response has been terrific and 70 students have been reported to complete internships. However, this is not the total number of students who have completed internships during the fall semester. Katie’s goal in running this report was to include the students who are not completing their internship for academic credit or through CIP. At the end of the academic year we will have a clear number of total internships.

Katie has also been meeting with employers to learn about each company and what our students are accomplishing during their internships.

Eric Anderson, Career Advisor

Eric is participating on a committee along with with Meredith Gerber to help implement a Safe Zone program at the College of Charleston.

The committee is made up of a diverse range of students, staff and faculty from the campus and the goal of the program is to help make the College of Charleston a safe place for everyone, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

Eric will also be participating along with three others on the Student Affairs Professional Development Communication Subcommittee that is being headed by Carrie Ben-Yisrael. They will be working more on this in the spring with the plans of launching a website to help promote Student Affairs departmental events, news and other community-related professional development opportunities.

Eric also worked to implement a new training this past semester geared towards students interested in the idea of taking a year off after graduation. Two sessions of the workshop were helped, where we weighed the pros and cons of taking a year off and discussed resources to help those interested in pursuing it. The sessions went well and another workshop will be implemented in the spring.

Denny Ciganovic, Career Center Director, is dressed as Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer for some Holiday fun.
**The Office of Greek Life “GLOs”**

The only word that comes to mind this school year is G.L.O. The commonly used acronym for our Greek Life Office can also sum up this past semester and the work of our Greek Community with 3 words: **GO! LIVELY! OVERACHIEVING!**

**GO!** Our community continues to grow and strengthen as we welcomed over 600 new members into our community. These brand new members to our community had the chance to hone in on their leadership skills during our first GEL (Emerging Leaders) program. **GO GREEK!**

**LIVELY!** Every day in our Greek Community this semester has definitely been a LIVE ONE! Our chapters have logged hundreds of community service hours, raised thousands of dollars for charity, and had some fun too by cheering on our Cougar sports and participating in the biggest Greek event in the Fall-Pep Supper.

**OVERACHIEVING!** With our 3 Council Presidents and our returning student worker, our GLO staff is always going above and beyond their daily duties of taking messages and sorting mail to create a fun and exciting atmosphere. Our staff works hard to make each person that calls or walks through our door feel at home! Rachel Marsh, our Assistant Director, showed her advisor endurance by representing the College and presenting at the AFA Annual Meeting in Phoenix. Rachel stressed to our Greek professionals the importance of being a role model for our students by living our own Ritual EVERYDAY!

**Multicultural Student Programs and Services is Awarded Grant**

The Office of Multicultural Student Programs and Services has been awarded a $2500.00 Alliance for Full Acceptance (AFFA) Grant. This grant allows continuance of training sessions on the Safe Zone project. Safe Zone provides a safe environment for the lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, transgender, queer and questioning LGBTQQA community on campus. Chris Gilliard, of MSPS, and Ed Short, of Student Life, will facilitate this project for 2010-2011.

**It’s a Wrap**

The Office of Multicultural Student Programs and Services hosted its 2nd annual community gift wrapping service during the holiday season. All proceeds benefitted the Horizons Yearlong Program of Enrichment, the “HYPE” Student Foundation. HYPE is a new program designed to provide continuous transitioning services for underrepresented students new to the College of Charleston.

**Duncan Named to Committee**

College of Charleston President Benson has asked Michael Duncan, Director of the Higdon Student Leadership Center, to represent Student Affairs on the standing administrative committee for the Second Phase of the CPQE process. The Comprehensive Program for Quality and Efficiency (CPQE) is a mechanism for the ongoing review of the management, programs, divisions, and offices of the College of Charleston. The CPQE will proceed in two phases to run through 2011. In the initial phase, all the divisions of the College of Charleston (e.g., Office of Academic Affairs, Office of Student Affairs) will create divisional CPQE committees and plans. Each CPQE divisional plan will address a limited number of topics or areas for which significant quality and efficiency improvements are possible.

The Division of Student Affairs CPQE Committee has selected two areas on which to concentrate:

1. Resource Utilization – with the main goal to determine areas for collaboration and better utilization of resources.

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The World Stage Classroom Project

The Upward Bound and Pre-College Programs Department promotes education, growth and a bigger worldview through the World Stage Classroom Project. Students broaden their horizons through foreign travel and develop new perspectives and a greater sense of urgency about who they are on the "world stage". Students and parents make sacrifices and work hard to raise funds for their travels on their own. The World Stage Classroom Project is indeed a wiser and more cost effective choice for keeping students healthy, productive and contributing members of their communities. London, Rome and Paris are three of the cities the students have visited recently.
Evelyn Nadel, Ed.M., the Associate Dean of Students and Director of Community Relations, was invited to present a poster on PAL for the U.S. Department of Education’s 2010 National Meeting on Alcohol, Drug Abuse, and Violence Prevention in Higher Education.

The National Meeting was sponsored by The Office of Safe and Drug-Free Schools (OSDFS). The meeting was held October 18-20, 2010, near Washington, DC. The conference theme was “Promoting Student Success: Effective AODV Prevention in Tough Times”. Ms. Nadel’s proposal/poster was “Peer Assistance Leaders - A Community-Wide Initiative”. The invitation to present was an honor and the presentation/poster was very well received. OSDFS’s mission is to provide funds and technical assistance to States, schools, and communities for programs that promote the health and well-being of students in elementary schools, secondary schools, and institutions of higher education. OSDFS programs emphasize positive, disciplined, high-achieving schools; strong parent and community involvement; effective school planning and preparedness; research-based prevention and education strategies; and the effective use of data by schools and States to select and improve high-quality programs and activities.

The Peer Assistance Leaders program involves Charleston area college students assisting their peers to avoid negative situations that involve alcohol and crime. This program stems from a desire to prevent peers from being victimized or harmed as a result of engaging in behavior that raises their risk level.

Helping Hands for the Holidays

The Student Affairs staff shared the holiday season with the families of the Ronald McDonald House! Items like Micro waveable food items, travel toiletries, disposable cameras, and diapers were collected in November. On December 3rd, the staff met to assemble the gift boxes with the donated items while enjoying coffee, hot chocolate and cookies. These Holiday Baskets were distributed to the 25 Families who were residing at the MUSC Ronald McDonald house this Christmas.