The Nia principle encourages citizens to commit themselves to the glorious duty of restoring families, neighborhoods, and people to their historical greatness.

As a life-long member of the College of Charleston family, through the Nia Rite of Passage Celebration, graduates will be charged to do the same.

The colors on the Kente Stoles are important symbols: black for maturation and intensified spiritual energy; gold for royalty, wealth, high status, glory, spiritual purity; green symbolizes vegetation, planting, harvesting, growth, spiritual renewal, and maroon stands for healing, purification, sanctification rites and festive occasions.

Senior, Katreena L. Mitchell

A Rite of Passage

The Office of Multicultural Student Programs and Services honored the accomplishments of graduating seniors at the 2nd Annual Nia Rite of Passage Celebration held May 9, 2012. The ceremony was an intimate and personal acknowledgement of student achievements but also marked the transition of their life at the College of Charleston to their next phase of studies and/or professional careers.

Nia, the Swahili term for purpose, translates to making our collective vocation the building and developing of our community in order to restore our people to their traditional greatness. The program honored not only the graduates, but also those that helped them to get where they are today, including parents, family, and loved ones while reminding all “to whom much is given, much is required.”

Victor K. Wilson
Executive VP for Student Affairs

Inside this Issue...

A New Year to Grow............................. 2
A Day of Mentoring.............................. 2
Darius Goes West............................... 3
Disability Stories............................... 3
The Wrong Side of Murder Creek......... 3
The Gavalas/Kolanko Foundation........ 3
New Opportunities and New Faces........ 4
Safe Zone....................................... 5
Public Safety Receives Accreditation.... 5
A Salute to Student Affairs............... 8
CASAS Achievements....................... 9
Dr. Brian Sullivan Recognized........... 10
Leroy Lewis Retires......................... 10
House MD...................................... 12
A New Year to Grow

The Student Affairs Development Committee offered “A New Year to Grow” event to the Division of Student Affairs staff. Guest speaker Steve Osborne, Executive Vice President for Business Affairs, presented the 2012 College of Charleston Master Plan for Growth. This plan, as a major implementation document of the College’s strategic plan, Gateways to Greatness, provides direction for physical changes that are needed to realize the College’s strategic vision. Some of the facility improvements anticipated by the Division of Student Affairs are new Residence Halls, a new Fitness Center, new Student Health Services building and Stern Student Center Addition / Expansion.

After the presentation, attendees were offered the opportunity to test their personal goal fulfilling abilities by writing down their individual goals. This was a great staff development opportunity and a great way to start off the new year.

The Student Affairs Staff Development Committee continues to offer additional opportunities to grow. Coffee Talks are held every second Friday featuring a variety of speakers. Coffee Talk topics have been “New Technology Resources”, “Employee Perks”, and “Sustainability”. A Young Professionals “Lunch and Learn” series of events has been held on third Thursdays for staff with less than 5 years of service in Student Affairs. In addition, the annual Salute to Student Affairs Conference offered 12 education sessions for attendees. All these opportunities offered by the Student Affairs Development Committee contributed to making 2012 a year to grow!

MSPS Hosts A Day of Mentoring

During National Mentor Month the Office of Multicultural Student Programs and Services (MSPS) hosted A Day of Mentoring event. “A mentor can be anyone who is enthusiastic about working with students and has a genuine interest in helping them succeed” explained David Michener, associate director of MSPS.

Since 2009, the Office of Multicultural Student Programs and Services has coordinated a mentor program primarily for freshmen minority students. Each year, up to 50 students are matched with a faculty or staff mentor with whom they meet regularly during the academic year. Mentors and mentees spend time together in fun and creative activities including talking/listening, eating a meal together and attending campus events. The goal of this program is to build a relationship of trust between the mentor and mentee, while being a campus resource to help guide the mentees along their academic journey.

CASAS Partners with Athletes

The CASAS partnership and collaboration with the Athletic Department has continued to blossom, thanks to Dr. Holly Serrao. Feedback from athletic trainers, coaches, student-athletes, and administrators has been overwhelmingly positive. Dr. Serrao continues to offer weekly “drop in” office hours within Sports Medicine, and meets regularly with coaches for consultation. Approximately 50% of Dr. Serrao’s CASAS counseling cases are athletes, demonstrating the desire for her expertise and the success of her relationship building with coaches and student-athletes.

http://studentaffairs.cofc.edu/
In collaboration, the Office of Disability Services, Greek Life, Residence Life and Housing, Multicultural Student Programs and Services and the Higdon Student Leadership Center screened Darius Goes West, at the Sottile Theater. The award winning documentary shows fifteen-year-old Darius Weems, who was born with Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy, and eleven of his best friends as they set off across America with the ultimate goal of getting his wheelchair customized on MTV’s Pimp My Ride. The result is a rarely seen testament to the explosive idealism of today’s youth, as well as a vivid portrayal of adventure, of brotherhood, and of the character and strength it takes to shed light on an uncertain future.

Darius Weems, now 22 years old, made the trip from Athens, Georgia to the College of Charleston to meet with students throughout the day and speak with the 300 attendees after the film screening in a riveting Q&A, culminating with Weems rapping one of his new songs off his upcoming album. The audience left the screening feeling empowered and ready to take on anything.
New Opportunities and New Faces

Student Affairs’ new organizational structure has grouped departments with similar purposes under one supervisor. This facilitates collaboration between departments and smoother service to students. Here are the four newly named Vice Presidents to Student Affairs with their departmental reporting responsibilities listed below.

Marjorie Thomas
Associate Vice President and Director of the McNair Scholars Program

Departments:
- Access Programs (McNair Scholars, Avery Scholars)
- Civic Engagement Cntr.
- Multicultural Student Programs & Services
- Technical Coordinator
- Upward Bound & Pre-College Programs

Jeri Cabot
Dean of Students and Associate Vice President

Departments:
- Career Center
- Counseling & Substance Abuse Services
- Disability Services
- Student Conduct & Case Management
- Student Life
- Victim Services

Michael Duncan
Assistant Vice President and Director of Higdon Student Leadership Center

Departments:
- Campus Recreation
- Commuter Student Programming (new initiative)
- Greek Life
- Higdon Student Leadership Center

Paul Verrecchia
Assistant Vice President and Chief of Police

Departments:
- Fire and EMS
- Public Safety
- Security Technology Services

New Director of Upward Bound & Pre-College Programs

Mr. Talim Lessane is the new Director of Upward Bound and Pre-College Programs. Mr. Lessane served as the Upward Bound Academic Coordinator for the past two years. He has twelve years of pre-college and higher education experience. He received his M.Ed. in Counseling Psychology from Howard University and a B.A. in Psychology from State University of New York at Albany.

New Faces Welcomed to Student Affairs

Micaela deGruy Brokaw
Director of Student Conduct and Case Management

Jill Caldwell
Assistant Director for Student Life

LaVerne Green
Coordinator for Business Services-Student Life

Nicki Jenkins
Assistant Director for Student Life Services and Events

Katherine Pezzella
Assistant Director of Greek Life

http://studentaffairs.cofc.edu/
The Importance of a Safe Zone

A Safe Zone is a place where one can feel free to talk about being lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, allied, asexual or intersex without fear of criticism or hatred. It is a place where one can feel not only supported, but affirmed and valued. Welcome to the College of Charleston Safe Zone!

The College of Charleston Safe Zone program is sponsored by the Office of Multicultural Student Programs and Services. Safe Zone is committed to creating and maintaining a safe and inclusive campus environment for all students regardless of their gender identity, expression or sexual orientation. Safe Zone plans to increase the campus community’s understanding and awareness of issues faced by lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, allied, asexual and intersex (LGBTQQAAI) persons through education and advocacy. Safe Zone Ally Training, being offered throughout the campus, is designed for individuals on the College of Charleston campus who are interested in learning more about Safe Zone and the opportunity to become an Ally to the LGBTQQAAI (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning, Queer, Allied, Asexual and Intersex) communities on campus. Safe Zone Allies are self-identified students, faculty, and staff who serve as resources to LGBTQQAAI individuals and validate the experience(s) of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender members to our campus and school.

In a recent Student Affairs Coffee Talk, members of the Safe Zone Committee (pictured below) presented the benefits of becoming a Safe Zone Ally.

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Students Earn First Leadership Certificate

The Higdon Student Leadership Center is celebrating the first students to complete its first ever Leadership Certificate Program. “We created the certificate to be a cumulative program that would help students tie their experiences together and concisely explain their growth and leadership development at the College” says Libby Cole, Assistant Director.

To earn their certificate, students must attend six iMPACT workshops, attend two Ann and Lee Higdon Fall Leadership Conferences, hold a leadership position on campus and complete a personal Leadership Portfolio. “I am so proud of the success of this program” glows Libby Cole. “I am looking forward to seeing this program develop and serve our students in the best way it can.” There are about 15 students currently working toward their Leadership Certificates.

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Public Safety Receives Accreditation

Public Safety received its IACLEA (International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators) accreditation in June. The achievement was formally recognized at the Awards Ceremony held during the Opening General Session of the IACLEA Annual Conference in Reno, Nevada. The award is in addition to the CALEA (Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies) accreditation, which was awarded in November 2011.

Congratulations to our Public Safety Department.

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Leadership Certificate Recipients: Qi Zheng, Daniel Winters, John Pratt, Elliot Dickerson, Vikki Bernotski (l to r).

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David Michener, Associate Director, Multicultural Student Programs and Services, Kema Walker, Conduct Coordinator, Residence Life, Rachel McNamara, Health Educator, Counseling and Substance Abuse Services, Nicci Bell, Area Residence Hall Director, Eric Anderson, Career Advisor, Career Center (l to r).
2012 ExCEL = Excellence in Collegiate Education and Leadership

Student of the Year Awards

School of the Arts
School of Business
School of Education, Health & Human Performance
School of Humanities and Social Sciences
School of Languages. Cultures, & World Affairs
School of Sciences & Mathematics
Graduate School
Female Student Athlete of the Year
Male Student Athlete of the Year
Student Organization of the Year
Septima P. Clark Award
Lucille S. Whipper Award
Eugene C. Hunt (Graduating Minority Student)
Eugene C. Hunt (Rising Senior Minority Student)

Irwin Jiang
Maxine Coleman
Vanessa Hancock
Javier Gomez-Lavin
Matthew Priester
Stephen Ferguson
Heather Woolwine
Amanda Lonergan
Antwaine Wiggins
National Panhellenic Council
Shayla Stewart
Candice Ulmer
Shanell Ransom
Casey Wadsworth

Faculty of the Year Awards

School of the Arts
School of Business
School of Education, Health & Human Performance
School of Humanities and Social Sciences
School of Languages, Cultures, & World Affairs
School of Sciences and Mathematics
Graduate School

Jeanette Guinn
Lancie Affonso
Meta Van Sickle
Von Bakanic
Elizabeth Martinez-Gibson
Fredrick Heldrich
Douglas Ferguson

Outstanding Staff Members of the Year

The Good Neighbor Award
The Unsung Champion Award
The Eddie Ganaway Distinguished Alumni Award

Melissa Whetzel
Kristen Beres
Nandini McCauley & Meredith English Perrone
Thomas Savage

The Presidential Legacy Awards

The President Leo I. Higdon Outstanding Leadership Award
The President Alex Sanders Outstanding Public Service Award
The President Theodore Stern Visionary Award
The President Harry Lightsey Humanitarian Award

Joseph Kelly
Alfair Meredith
Floyd Breeland
Nancy Wilson
2012 Greek Borelli Awards

Greek Scholars of the Year
Male: Rudy Baldus, Phi Gamma Delta
Female: Candice Ulmer, Alpha Kappa Alpha

New Members of the Year
Joe Busch, Phi Gamma Delta
Colbie Errico, Alpha Delta Pi

Greek Presidents of the Year
Candice Ulmer, Alpha Kappa Alpha
Gregory Mangieri, Pi Kappa Phi
Camille Spalding, Delta Delta Delta

Greek Man of the Year
Gregory Mangieri, Pi Kappa Phi

Greek Woman of the Year
Catherine Clifton, Alpha Delta Pi

Advisor of the Year
Andrea Harris, Delta Gamma

Special Recognition
Trish Robinson, Greek Life Intern, Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc., Class of 2011

2011-2012 Chapter Presidents Camille Spalding, Allison Jahries, Aylett Clesi, Greg Mangieri, Madison Carr, Candice Ulmer, and Andre Jennings (l to r).

Tyler Pedersen, Ryan Naughton, Rachel Marsh (Director of Greek Life), and Tyler Tilghman, accepting awards for their fraternities (l to r).

Camille Spalding, Rachel Marsh (Director of Greek Life) and Aylett Clesi (l to r).
3rd Annual Salute to Student Affairs

A Salute to Student Affairs Awards Luncheon held May 17th, included 12 education conference sessions. Pictured below are some of Student Affairs staff members that received recognition.

Young Professional of the Year: Jason Torres, Residence Life and Housing

New Employees of the Year: Rachael McNamara, Counseling and Substance Abuse

Rachael McNamara, Counseling and Substance Abuse

Outstanding Support Staff: Haley Harton, Higdon Student Leadership Center

Haley Harton, Higdon Student Leadership Center

Outstanding Support Staff: LaVerne Green, Office of Student Life

LaVerne Green, Office of Student Life

Excellence in Programming: Cougar Career Workshop Series, Career Center and Higdon Student Leadership Center.

Excellent in Programming: George Haborak Award for Professional Development: Jeri Cabot, The Office of the Dean of Students

George Haborak Award for Professional Development: Jeri Cabot, The Office of the Dean of Students

Unsung Heros: Marta Rivell, McNair Scholars Program

Unsung Heros: Charlie Pingree, Campus Recreation Services

Unsung Heros: Marta Rivell, McNair Scholars Program

Outstanding Campus Collaboration: Lt. Dan Choi Program, Office of Student Life with these contributors (African American Studies Program, Associate Dean of Students, Cougar Activities Board, Multicultural Student Programs and Services, Office of Institutional Diversity, Residence Life and Housing)

Outstanding Campus Collaboration: Lt. Dan Choi Program, Office of Student Life with these contributors (African American Studies Program, Associate Dean of Students, Cougar Activities Board, Multicultural Student Programs and Services, Office of Institutional Diversity, Residence Life and Housing)
CASAS Achievements

First Veterans Group
Dr. Frank Budd, Director of CASAS, sponsored the start-up and official recognition of the first College of Charleston Student Veterans Group. Currently 70 student-veterans are enrolled in the group, with an average of 18 involved in the weekly meetings and multiple social and civic engagement events.

CASAS Department Retreat
The CASAS Retreat evaluated three major topics: 1) what is the ideal workplace, 2) what helps me be at my best, and 3) what are the key needs of students at the College of Charleston. Addressing key student needs resulted in offering various topics at times that better accommodate student schedules. Reviewing goals and milestones showed significant improvements in morale, communication, support for staff development, and improved staff training through the incorporation of external speakers.

Elizabeth Dixon Elected
The members of Student Affairs Division elected Elizabeth Dixon as the representative for the Provisional Staff Advisory Committee to the President. This is a significant honor. Elizabeth has great experience and insights from her extensive work with students, and from her involvement with multiple organizations and staff at the college.

CASAS’s PICCC Grant Extended for a 4th Year

The Office of Counseling and Substance Abuse Services (CASAS) was awarded the three-year Palmetto Initiative for Campus and Community Collaboration (PICCC) Grant in 2008 with the mission of preventing and reducing underage and high-risk drinking, along with the related social harm in the college and surrounding community areas.

The focus of the grant is to unite college and community leaders and advocates to jointly plan and support evidence-based policies, programs, and alcohol enforcement. A number of important initiatives have come to fruition during the first three years of the grant. The school and community members were thrilled to have this grant extended for a fourth year, which runs from October 1st, 2011 through September 30th, 2012, giving CASAS the resources and time needed to complete all of the plans for sustainability.

For the final year of grant funding, CASAS is focusing on three main areas - The College Community Coalition, Compliance Checks for underage sale of alcohol in the community, and Alcohol Policy and Enforcement at the College.

The College of Charleston is unique in that it is located in the middle of a city where students are in walking distance to restaurants, bars and stores selling alcohol. To address this, one of the key initiatives developed from this grant specifically for our students is the student-run organization, “College of Charleston LateNight”. LateNight provides students with engaging and fun social alternatives to drinking alcohol on the weekends. Past events have included Ultimate Frisbee, Video Game Tournaments, Capture the Flag, Musician’s Showdown, Pizza and Movie Night, and Talent Shows.

In addition, the Fake ID 101 Campaign was approved in year three of grant funding with the purpose of helping to tackle the concern of underage students entering such establishments with fake or fraudulent identification. Thursday through Saturday evening nights, posters highlighting the risks and penalties associated with using a fake ID will be displayed on large signs in front of participating bars. Local law enforcement will work closely with bar owners, doormen, and other staff to recognize and confiscate fake ID cards. In order to determine the campaign’s effectiveness, data on the number of fake ID cards confiscated will be compared with data collected prior to posters being displayed. Last year, with the help of the Campus Community Coalition, 8 local bars agreed to be part of this campaign. This year, CASAS is working on a more intensive data collection approach, with the help of student volunteers and staff.

Elizabeth Dixon, Licensed Professional Counselor
Dr. Brian Sullivan Recognized for Ground Breaking Research

Dr. Brian Sullivan was one of three researchers recently recognized for a ground-breaking study into the national phenomenon of college adults exaggerating symptoms to obtain diagnoses of attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and learning disorders. College of Charleston psychologist Brian Sullivan of Counseling and Substance Abuse Services (CASAS), psychology professor Kim May and Lynne Galbally (former College of Charleston psychometrist) were the first in the nation to publish on this topic in 2007. Now, their work has been added to a SAGE six-volume “Neuropsychology” set. Their work, “Symptom Exaggeration by College Adults in Attention-Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder and Learning Disorder Assessments,” appears in Volume Two: Cognitive Neuropsychology.

“To be included in a compendium four years later really shows the impact our research has had on the field,” Dr. Brian Sullivan says. “It served as a wake up call. Some college adults are either exaggerating or lying about their symptoms and impairments so they could be given special academic accommodations or prescription medicine. It is happening across the nation and it is happening at high levels.” The group’s research showed that 12 to 15 percent of college adults who were assessed for learning disorders were exaggerating their symptoms.

The research was ground-breaking on several accounts. It was the first to study this phenomenon outside of a lab and to document the behavior of actual patients. This study was also the first one outside of medico-legal environments to document the importance of using methods to detect exaggeration or lying in adult ADHD/LD evaluations.

Sullivan would like to see the American Psychological Association develop practice guidelines for anyone doing assessments of these disorders to help control access to abusable prescription stimulant drugs and increase the resources available to college adults who truly suffer these disorders.

Leroy Lewis Retires from Upward Bound & Pre-College

Leroy Lewis, Jr., former Director of Upward Bound and Pre-College Programs, since 2006, has retired effective June 30th.

Since Lewis joined Upward Bound in June 2001 his mission has been to push minority and potential first-generation students into colleges and universities so they may better claim the American dream.

In addition to his work for the College, Lewis continues as a commission member for the City of Charleston with the Mayor’s Office for Children, Youth and Families, Program, chairman of the Justice Academy USA. He served as a past board development chair for the Charleston Development Academy Charter School. He is the Lowcountry representative for the South Carolina Council for Educational Opportunity Program Personnel/SC TRiO Programs and the youth development chair of the Greater Charleston YWCA’s MLK Breakfast Committee. He is a member of the Community Partnership that seeks to engage young people in an effort to stop violence and to positively impact their communities. Lewis is a veteran educator of thirty-eight years and has taught in the public schools of Charleston, Washington, DC, Berlin, Germany and Seoul, South Korea.

In Spring, the TRiO Programs presented Mr. Lewis with a 35 year Service Award presented at the 2012 Annual Tri-State TRiO Conference. The federal TRiO Programs are outreach and student services programs designed to identify and provide services for individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds. Upward Bound is one of eight TRiO programs and it helps young students to prepare for higher education. Lewis also received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the South Carolina Council for Educational Opportunity Programs (SCCEOP) for his unprecedented service to South Carolina TRiO and its students.
7th Annual S.A.L.A. Awards

The 7th Annual S.A.L.A. (Student Activist and Leadership Achievement) Awards Ceremony and reception was hosted by the Higdon Student Leadership Center (HSLC) on the Addlestone Library’s Rivers Green on Wednesday, April 18th. This event recognizes and honors students who have contributed their time and energy to the campus and their communities. Through their leadership and accomplishments, they have brought distinction to the College of Charleston.

Cistern Award
Candice Ulmer
Kendall Biga
Lynsey Cichon
Lauren Romania
Jordan Edwards
Sara Hutchinson
Caroline Horres
Harry Rockower
Catherine Clifton
Brooke King
Terrell Davis
Daniel Winters
Elliot Dickerson
Sarah Kate Calcutt
Will Munce

New Student Leader Award
Alannah Aldstadt
Nora Grossman
Colin Johnson
Elizabeth Kelley

Hall of Leaders
Eliza Blades  Alternative Spring Break
Dennis Badger  Black Student Union
Dayse Garcia  Bonner Leader Program
Alyssa Thornton  CofC Radio
Janna Jeffcoat  Cougar Activity Board
Gabrielle Schecker  Cougar Television
Sarah Kate Calcutt  Dance Marathon
Lynsey Cichon  George Street Observer
Kaitlyn Cunningham  Honor Board
Will Munce  Interfraternity Council
Jamie Carr  Miscellany Art Literary Journal
Arvaughnna Postema  National Pan-Hellenic Council
Kendall Biga  Pan-Hellenic Council
Matthew Vaveris  Student Government Association
Chiara Guzzardo  Volunteer Corps
Elliot Dickerson  Omicron Delta Kappa

Advisor of the Year Award
Dr. Kevin Keenan, Political Science Club

New Student Leader Award Winners:
Elizabeth Kelley, Colin Johnson, Alannah Aldstadt, Nora Grossman (l to r)
Ethan Brewer is not your typical resident adviser. Sure, he works out disagreements between roommates, makes sure hallways stay clean and enforces housing rules. But when was the last time you saw an RA teach sutures? Last fall, Brewer brought out an orange, sliced it, and had students in the “Med Mansion” stitch its rind back together. The citrus-splitting procedure is basic training for a future in the medical world, explains Brewer, and he reasons that an encounter with gooey orange guts is preferable to the way he learned suturing: on rat skulls.

Brewer serves as an RA at 24 Bull Street, where two dozen undergraduates—most of them pre-med students, make their home. The Med Mansion (or the Health Professions House, as it is known more formally by the Office of Residence Life and Housing) is one of a number of academically themed residences on Bull Street. Its neighbors include houses dedicated to the study and celebration of French, Spanish, the great outdoors, and Women’s and Gender Studies. As you walk inside, it seems like any old home in Charleston converted into college apartments—where historic mansion meets dormitory. Except for the fact, that is, that Grey’s Anatomy plays on the common room television a bit more frequently than most places. And for the fact, says Brewer, that molecular diagrams “so complex they will boggle your mind” routinely cover a whiteboard in that same room.

The diagrams are homework for pre-med students’ most dreaded course: organic chemistry. It is a course that weeds out all but the most rigorous students, and it is not unusual for students who earn a passing grade to take the class again for further comprehension. Like electrons in the molecules they study, students bond when taking organic chemistry, often forming groups to do homework. A small room on the fourth floor of the Med Mansion is a favorite spot for such groups to meet, as it provides the peace and quiet necessary for some serious studying.

One afternoon in November, Courtney Bieger of Wilton, Conn., was in the study room alone. The large table in front of her was covered with papers, including an organic chemistry textbook, solution manual, notes, answers and scrap paper. “I’m usually nicer and share space,” she says of her significant study area. Bieger chose to live in the Med Mansion because she thought it would be easy to find study partners—and, apart from this particular solo session, she is normally joined by others living and breathing all things organic chemistry. “There’s so much information to learn,” Bieger sighs.

This spring, Brewer invited doctors and other medical speakers to the Med Mansion for lectures to residents. It’s yet another way to prep pre-med students for things to come, says the senior from Hemingway, S.C., who plans to earn both a doctorate and medical degree after graduating. Such events can be a much-needed excuse to put down the organic chemistry textbooks and take a breather, especially if Grey’s Anatomy doesn’t happen to be on.

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