Where students prepare to lead

2008-09 Annual Report
TABLE OF CONTENTS

5 A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

6 OVERVIEW

8 PROGRAMS

  8 COUGAR EXCURSION
  10 LEADERSHIP CofC
  12 DANCE MARATHON SPECIAL FEATURE
  14 LEADERSHAPE AT THE COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON
  17 FALL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE
  18 S.A.L.A. AWARDS

20 CAMPUS IMPACT

22 A LETTER FROM FORMER PRESIDENT HIGDON

23 MEET THE STAFF

STUDENT SPOTLIGHTS

10 BEAUX CARRIERE 12 ERIN MICHALEWICZ 16 JASON TORRES 18 BREANNA HOPKINS 20 JAMAR BROWN
A Message from the Director

It is with a sense of pride that I introduce our latest project from the Higdon Student Leadership Center, our formal Annual Report. It is our intention to create this document, after the completion of each academic year, as a record and celebration of the leadership development activities our students are actively participating in and in some cases developing and running.

It was during the moments before our Fifth Annual S.A.L.A. Awards program that I sat on stage looking out over the audience and realized how much I wanted to create and distribute a formal document, to share with our campus and community partners about all the things happening through the Leadership Center. Suddenly, I was struck with amazement and a bit surprised as I realized how quickly all the time had passed since the Leadership Center arrived on campus in January 2005. When thinking about all we had created and accomplished, my thoughts immediately turned to the students. I was so proud of the students and what they had accomplished; especially their trust, support, and participation in our programs that I wanted to communicate that information more broadly. This publication allows us to do so.

As a part of the vision of Victor K. Wilson, Executive Vice President for Student Affairs, I was hired and arrived on campus in January 2005 and was subsequently charged with building and developing a co-curricular based student leadership center. The Leadership Center was to be a place that would serve as a catalyst for student leadership exploration in themselves and others, through participation in a variety of leadership activities and programs. Our first program, held in April 2005, was the S.A.L.A. Awards and the Center has been adding new programs each year since. The demand and interest in our programs continues to grow every year.

So, this Annual Report serves as a means to showcase, highlight, and possibly educate others about the foundation of leadership development activities, programs, and partnerships the Higdon Student Leadership Center has accomplished this past year.

I hope you enjoy reading about our student successes as much as we have enjoyed witnessing them. We are proud of the accomplishments and thankful for the support of so many that have aided our success and ultimately created a positive experience for the student participants. We are confident that we are helping to create a more engaged CoC student who views leadership beyond the positional model and sees the process behind true leadership. I look forward to sharing this Annual Report with you again in future years as well.

Sincerely,

Michael Duncan
Director
The **Higdon Student Leadership Center** is for students who are looking for opportunities, activities, and experiences that will help prepare them for leadership roles in society. The programs offer an interactive “learning laboratory” for life-skill development, while they stimulate a desire for further exploration.

Our programs are designed to offer a combination of formats to students looking for leadership opportunities, knowledge, or experience. They range from environments of 20 or fewer participants to large group activities with 100 or more.

“Infusing excited students about the possibility of becoming better leaders; the Leadership Center has become an integral part of our efforts to increase campus life and engagement to campus by our students.”

“The Leadership Center has affected the personal development of students in an extremely positive way, participants are better individuals and leaders when they finish the Center’s programs than when they started.”

**Victor K. Wilson**  
Executive Vice President for Student Affairs at the College of Charleston

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student Participation By Program</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cougar Excursion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dance Marathon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall Leadership Conference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greek Leadership Institute</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LeaderShape</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leadership CofC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leadership Seminar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S.A.L.A. Award Recipients</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPECTRA Cougar Excursion</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Over 700 students were affected by the Leadership Center this year through participating in these programs. This was an increase of over 200 students from last year.
Intended Outcomes
for Programs Offered by the Higdon Student Leadership Center

General "Overall" Intended Outcomes
• Develop character education
• Learn to empower self and others
• Discover one’s strengths and areas of development
• Learn to inspire others
• Know how to be a good citizen
• Practice the specifics of organization
• Manage time
• Develop decision-making skills
• Recognize and appreciate that diversity exists in today’s multicultural society

Specific "Leadership" Intended Outcomes
• Understand the concept, development, and application of leadership
• Recognize the academic side of leadership through specific courses offered by the College
• Describe and identify leadership styles
• Identify leadership traits/behaviors and how to integrate them into situations
• Become familiar with the vocabulary of leadership
• Clarify, internalize, and congruently live one’s own values
• Apply concepts from one learned experience to another
• Benefit from constructive external evaluations

The vision of the Higdon Student Leadership Center is that students will realize that leadership skills are life skills and that leadership is a process, not a position.

The Higdon Student Leadership Center, at the College of Charleston, believes that leaders are developed and not born; therefore, the Center commits to engaging and preparing students for leadership roles and their role in society.
Created three years ago and based on model programs from colleges across the nation, this program has proven to foster the community experience, better a student’s chance at finding a home here and ensure academic success and a higher GPA. Participants tend to be more satisfied overall with their college experience than those who have not attended such programs. Most students that take advantage of this opportunity are more knowledgeable than students who have already been on campus for more than six weeks.

At Cougar Excursion ‘08, participants had the opportunity to meet nearly 80 other driven first-year students. Through a weekend of leadership development, training, and fun, they bonded with over 20 upperclassmen who are some of the most involved students on our campus. These student leaders serve in capacities all over the College of Charleston campus and committed this weekend solely to help teach the participating freshmen what they needed to know in order to succeed in school.

Lastly, several influential faculty and staff members were there to get to know the participants so that students can make lasting connections with professionals who are on campus to help them.
SPECTRA Cougar Excursion

SPECTRA is a unique and extremely challenging summer residential program coordinated by the Office of Multicultural Student Programs and Services and available to incoming minority and/or first-generation college students attending CofC full-time in the fall.

On Sunday, July 13, 2008 a group of ten members of the 2008 Cougar Excursion student staff gathered with 63 SPECTRA participants as they presented a special two hour version of our weekend leadership retreat for incoming students, Cougar Excursion. Because of scheduling conflicts, participants of SPECTRA could not attend the regular Cougar Excursion so our CE staff worked with the Office of Multicultural Student Programs and Services office to bring the experience to the SPECTRA students.

Through specific team building and low ropes type activities the Cougar Excursion student facilitators took the SPECTRA participants through challenges and personal development on issues of trust, values, communication, and group bonding. A leadership assessment was given that gave immediate information to the SPECTRA students on how they work with others and process and receive information. The event concluded with a “hot topics” session where the upper-class facilitators took questions on a host of first-year adjustment issues from the SPECTRA students.

CE is an interactive program specifically designed to gain knowledge and create a sense of community that is pertinent to a successful first-year student at the College. Through this unique experience, natural leadership talents begin to transform into the skill sets that are pivotal to mastering the freshman year and beyond.
Leadership CofC

Leadership CofC is a prestigious group of approximately 50 juniors and seniors selected to learn about leadership from members of the community, as well as each other. Most of the students are nominated for the program by faculty and staff on campus. They then go through a rigorous application and group interview process. Through participation in monthly meetings and programs off-campus, the students in this program are committed to their own personal development and are willing to give their time to discover more about leadership and how to make a positive difference. These students are devoted to engaging community members and broadening their horizons. Leadership CofC is definitely the perfect place to find dedicated and involved students who are seeking to find the best in themselves and the community around them.

Teambuilding
September 31
Program 1 was held at Joseph P. Riley Stadium and focused on the students getting to know each other. The students arrived at the stadium and had a tour of the facilities. After dinner, Adventure TeamWorks facilitated activities to stretch their views and learn more about each other.

Environmental Leadership
October 16
Program 2 was held at the Noisette Community in North Charleston and was about leadership in the environmental, “green” movement. The students toured the BioDiesel plant, and then went to the old Navy Yard for dinner and a panel discussion with environmental leaders from the community. The guests were Lori Sheridan-Wilson the Environmental Program Director from DeWees Island, John Knott the President & CEO of Noisette Company, and Jason Cronen the Creator of Green Drinks Charleston.

Leadership in Law Enforcement
November 19
Program 3 was held at Trident Technical College and was about ethics and integrity of leaders. The guests were Heath Hoffmann, a CofC Professor of Sociology and Anthropology, Noah Moore from the Solicitor’s Office, and Chief Zumalt the Chief of North Charleston Police Department. After dinner the students broke into three groups and rotated through discussions. Each guest brought a scenario of a time when ethics or integrity was questioned and the students gave their thoughts about the situation.

Beaux Carriere
Senior, Leadership CofC and Dance Marathon

“Leadership CofC provides the unique opportunity to learn and grow as a leader alongside students from all areas of campus life, many of whom I would have otherwise never met.”

“The best leaders are the ones who recognize leadership as a skill that can be developed and improved upon.”

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Women in Leadership  
January 21

Program 4 was held at The Citadel and focused on women in leadership. We partnered with the Krause Center for Leadership and Ethics at the Citadel to facilitate the program. The director of the center, LTC Jeffrey Weart and his assistant, Stephanie Stauber were our points of contact at the Citadel. Leadership CofC invited Stacy Oldfield, CEO of Corporate DevelopMint and Dr. Nancy McGinley, Superintendent of Charleston County School District. The Citadel invited Kirsten Holmstedt, author of Band of Sisters and Annette Fountain, President of SCANA Women’s Leadership Group. College of Charleston students and Citadel cadets rotated in small groups through the four guests for discussion.

Business Basics  
February 19

Program 5 was held at the Automated Trading Desk in Mt. Pleasant and was about leadership in the business world. There were three different sessions that the students rotated through. The first meeting was with ATD executives Peter Kent and Jeff Martin, discussing their path, leadership style, and personal philosophy. The second was with Meredith Gerber and Erin O’Dea from the CofC Career Center, highlighting their services, resume building, and job opportunities. Lastly, the students were led on a tour of the facilities by Justin Farnsworth, who discussed why design choices were made, the atmosphere and the effect it can have on productivity.

The Next Step  
March 24

Program 6 was held at the American Theater in downtown Charleston and was about the student’s future and what their next step would be. Victor Wilson, Executive Vice President for Student Affairs at CofC and Joe McKeown, entrepreneur and elected County Councilman were guests. After dinner, they were put in front of the students to simply answer any questions they may have.

Student participants responses when asked what they gained from the program:

“A broader perspective of leadership; it was nice to see that leadership can come in many forms.”

“I learned that many leaders are not necessarily labeled as leaders. It’s not about the title, but how the person inspires others.”

“I feel as though I am more confident with myself in approaching others, as well as more confident in my knowledge.”

“I learned so much about the local community and what happens right here in Charleston.”

“A better sense of how to get where I want to be in the future.”
“Do you want to come to Dance Marathon? It’s not all dancing, I promise”, Erin Michalewicz tells incoming freshmen during their orientation to get them interested in the largest philanthropic event on College of Charleston’s campus. Erin is the Executive Director for the 2010 Dance Marathon and knows from three years of experience that this is a common misperception and reason for not attending the event. It is only four months after the 2009 Dance Marathon and work is well underway to plan for next year’s experience. While standing in the 100 degree heat on the streets of Charleston, it is hard to remember the cold night last February when over 300 College of Charleston students came together in the brand new Carolina First Arena to raise over $70,000 for the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) Children’s Hospital.

Erin Michalewicz
Junior, Dance Marathon, Cougar Excursion, Leadership CoC, LeaderShape

“My involvement with the HSLC facilitated the growth of my self-confidence, sharpened my time management skills, and taught me how to work with and motivate fellow students.”

“As I accepted leadership positions, I became increasingly comfortable voicing my opinion, expressing ideas, and working with people with all types of personalities and talents.”

“Each opportunity allowed me to realize I have something to contribute, as do others, and each success gives me the desire to do more.”

Just as the new Dance Marathon 2010 executive board is already planning for next year, the members of the 2009 board started work immediately after the previous event. They started their year with a retreat to Edisto Island where they worked on building teamwork and laying the groundwork for the event. Recruitment was the next step, and over 450 students initially signed on to participate in 2009. These participants pledged to raise at least $150 each to donate to the Children’s Hospital. The executive board tried to help the students meet this goal in many ways. They held their 3rd annual Date Auction on November 20th, which was a success when it filled Yo Burrito with students raising almost $500 in less than 3 hours. The fall semester also held five Letter Writing Campaigns for participants who were interested in sending letters to their friends and family telling them about their involvement in Dance Marathon. This was by far the easiest and most effective way the students raised all their money.
Executive director of last year’s event, Chelsey Rohler, summed it up best. “This year Dance Marathon has tried to shift its direction from focusing on the actual event to focusing on the families and making personal connections with them. These relationships make the experience of Dance Marathon a year-long process and not simply a one-night event. In our hearts, Dance Marathon lasts the whole year and we are trying to get the participants to feel that way as well.”

So as Dance Marathon shifts from one Executive Director to another, Erin puts into practice what Chelsey has said. She understands that this is not just an event that lasts 15 hours once a year, it takes endless hours of recruiting, countless requests for donations, and a never-ending amount of planning to make it a success. This is why she stands in the sun on hot pavement all summer and tirelessly attempts to convince incoming students that Dance Marathon is a fun and worthwhile event to get involved in.

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The LeaderShape Institute
at the College of Charleston

Want to learn how to change the world in six days? Want to improve your resume to impress future employers? The students who answered yes to those questions are the 35 students who participated in our third LeaderShape Institute held May 11-16, 2009 at White Oak Conference Center, Winnsboro, SC.

Driven by a national based curriculum, the program content of The LeaderShape® Institute (www.leadershape.org) reflects key leadership issues of vision, partnerships, integrity, and results. In addition, all participants leave The Institute with a "LeaderShape Breakthrough Blueprint." The LeaderShape Breakthrough Blueprint is a well-conceived vision and plan of action for the participants to implement back in their organization or community. (See next page for examples of student’s visions).

As well as being an opportunity to develop skills to improve their organizations, participants praise The LeaderShape Institute as a time of great introspection. The week is structured so that participants first gain a deeper understanding of themselves and their own strengths and weaknesses, ultimately enabling them to be more effective leaders in their organizations.

Specifics of the Program include:
a Team Challenge Course (a half-day outdoor team-building experience), an evening with a Guest Leader Forum in which participants are exposed to "real world" role models in business, industry, education and other professions, quality facilitators from a variety of backgrounds, and learning and sharing in small groups.
The LeaderShape Institute at the College of Charleston

Visions for an Ideal Future

“To form a group of people who can talk about cancer and the effects on the family.”

“I want to create a country that does not focus on political parties, but what is best for the country.”

“I want to create a future where possibilities are endless and stereotyping and discrimination will not be a hindrance to success.”

“I want to create a better future for adolescents by helping decrease pregnancies and STD cases, in addition this will increase positive body image.”

“I want to strengthen the bond between the College of Charleston and the City of Charleston.”

“I want to provide children in underprivileged countries opportunities to learn and encourage them to grow and sustain their own communities.”

“I would like to see the College of Charleston become known as the most spirited school in South Carolina.”

“For people to respect preservation and conservation and put the practices to use.”

Staff from LeaderShape 09 consisted of two Lead Facilitators and six staff members from the College of Charleston (listed below).

(Top row, left to right)
- Jeanine Ward-Roof, Lead
- Victor Wilson, Executive Vice President for Student Affairs
- Alex Dejournett, Lead
- Bethany LaPlante, Assistant Director of Student Life

(Bottom row, left to right)
- Erin O’Dea, Internship Coordinator for Career Services
- Evie Nadel, Associate Dean of Students
- Christiana DeGregorie, Psychologist for Counseling Services
- Libby Cole, Assistant Director of HSLC

“Integrity is extremely important.”

“LeaderShape is a powerful experience.”

“I will not forget that my opinions matter and I have great things to say.”

*See following page for full student testimonial
Dear Higdon Leadership Center family,

I hope this letter finds everyone well. As you all know, I attended the LeaderShape Institute back in May. I want to thank you for giving me the opportunity to be with other young leaders for an intensive week of leadership and some of the best personal development I have ever been apart of.

I cannot even begin to describe how much I have changed as a result of what I learned during that week. I will forever be in debt to all the facilitators who led us because I feel my life will never be the same. I was always told that it was only a matter of time before I will achieve greatness in my life, but I never believed it. I feel now that I can, and will, achieve a level of success that I only dreamed of having.

As you all know, we were all challenged to develop a breakthrough blueprint during the week and to continue following that blueprint when we returned to campus. Highlights of my blueprint included to take the C of C hockey program to the next level with more exposure, funding and a reputation for being one of the top sport programs at the college. I’m working hard this summer to prepare for what I feel will be the best year yet for C of C hockey. I’m excited to put my blueprint in action this upcoming year. But, as I have realized, LeaderShape doesn’t necessarily end when we graduate. I say this because my biggest breakthrough actually came after we left. I have had a desire to become an entrepreneur, but never pursued it because I doubted myself and felt it was only wishful thinking. However, I learned that I can achieve any dream that I want if I pursue it with integrity, hard work and with a healthy disregard for the impossible.

My sister suffers from an illness that currently has no cure. Her dream is to go to an art and design college and get involved in the fashion industry. However, her illness has put that on hold for a while and of course there is always the financial burden. In short, after LeaderShape, I came home and made a decision to go after my dreams and become an entrepreneur in hopes that I will be able to put my sister through college and achieve success in this venture. I’m excited for the journey I have embarked on and I thank you all because without all the information I took away from LeaderShape, I would still have the "what if" mentality. Now, I know I can achieve great things. So, with that being said, to everyone that made LeaderShape 2009 possible, I thank you all from the bottom of my heart. I’ll always look back to that week being one of the biggest turning points in my life.

Sincerely,

Jason Torres

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Jason Torres
Junior, LeaderShape

"My involvement in the HSLC has helped me achieve goals I thought were impossible."

"I am much more confident in myself."

"All CofC students have the ability to become leaders, the HSLC helps them see that ability."

For students that get involved with the leadership programs, the sky is truly the limit."
On Saturday, October 25, 2008 approximately 75 College of Charleston students gathered at the Stern Student Center for the 2nd Annual Fall Leadership Conference sponsored by the Higdon Student Leadership Center. This free half-day conference, themed “Leadership by Osmosis” offered two blocks of educational sessions for participants to increase their skill base and leadership knowledge. The conference format consisted of a brief welcome, during breakfast, by Executive Vice President for Student Affairs, Victor K. Wilson. This was followed by two rounds of educational sessions with specific topics on delegation, time management, teambuilding, environmental leadership, integrity in leadership, leadership based on Stephen Covey’s 7 Habits, and leadership advice/strategies in athletics. After lunch, the keynote speaker, Marlon Smith (www.successbychoice.com) took the stage to present “Living with Passion”. This presentation taught students specific strategies for making the most of their life as a true leader. Afterwards, he presented each conference participant with a signed copy of his latest book Living with Purpose: which serves as a workbook for students to implement and record the strategies, goals, and successes Marlon discussed during his presentation.

Other presenters for the day included Head Basketball Coach Bobby Cremins, and College administrators Lindy Coleman, Kassie Kissinger, Bethany LaPlante, Evie Nadel, Libby Ellis Cole, Dan Dickison, and Burton Callicott. Special presenters, from outside the College community, Christine Von Koznitz-Cooley, from MUSC, and Brian Wilson, from Adventure Teamworks completed the full roster of presenters.

The Fall Leadership Conference is an annual event that is free to any College of Charleston student. Non-College of Charleston students are welcome, for a small fee.
S.A.L.A. Awards
(Student Activism & Leadership Achievement)

The Fifth Annual SALA Awards and Reception was held Wednesday, April 15, 2009 at the Higdon Leadership Plaza. This event recognizes and honors students and staff 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.

Recipients of the Cistern Award, Hall of Leaders, New Student Leader Award, and Advisor of the Year along with other Student Affairs award winners are recognized at this special end of the year College event. The advisors and members of student organizations nominate the recipients for these awards.

Breanna Hopkins
Senior, Leadership CofC and S.A.L.A. Awards

“The knowledge I’ve gained has given me an extra boost of confidence.”

“I’ve learned how to deal with different issues as a leader.”

“It’s important for students to participate in these programs to be exposed to many aspects of leadership.”

“A united group of people can change the world, but a divided few can only change themselves.”
S.A.L.A. Awards
(Student Activism & Leadership Achievement)

We are proud to announce this year's recipients.

Advisor of the Year
Dr. John Creed  Americans for Informed Democracy

Cistern Award
Recognizes senior members of student organizations that were nominated by their advisors

Katie Lisi  Panhellenic Council
Charlie Joughin  Sigma Nu
Breanna Hopkins  Delta Sigma Theta
Ody Essien  Kappa Alpha Psi
Elena Dowin  Honors College
Markessse Craft  Alpha Phi Alpha/NPHC
Dave Marongwe  Nat’l Assoc of Black Accountants
Lucas Moreira  Sociology/Anthropology Club
Chelsey Rohler  Dance Marathon
Marissa Roffler  Psi Chi
Myra Soloshchenko  Russian Club
Anwar Staggers  Bonner Leader Program
Kara Trachtenberg  Best Buddies
Maxine Bier  Jewish Student Union Board

New Student Leader Award
Recognizes freshmen members of student organizations that were nominated by their advisors

Caulen A. Leary  Teaching Fellows Council
Caroline Horres  Americans for Informed Democ.
Jessica Branton  Alternative Spring Break
Hannah Strickland  Linguistics and Russian Club
Sydney Ramsey  Resident Housing Association
Maureen Hohos  Zeta Tau Alpha
Isaiah Nelson  Student Government Assoc.
Colby Edward Howard  Russian Club

Hall of Leaders
Is a select group of organizations that have governance or assists the Division of Student Affairs in its mission. Each organization represented is advised by a professional staff person within the Division of Student Affairs. The students from these various organizations decide each year who is selected.

The 2009 Hall of Leaders Recipients Are:

Heather Crouch  Alternative Spring Break
Tristan Evans  Bonner Leaders
Charlye Marger  Volunteer Corps
Geoff Yost  CoF Radio
Katie Moore  Cougar TV
Katie Orlando  George Street Observer
Denise Dicks  Miscellany Art Literary Journal
Lisa Buckley  Cougar Activity Board
Sean Bear  Honor Board
Lane Johnson  Interfraternity Council
Michelle Cooper  Nat’l Pan-Hellenic Council
Megan Nease  Panhellenic Council
Matthew Dorn  Off-Campus Student Assoc.
Patty Grant  Student Government Association
Chelsey Rohler  Dance Marathon
Stephanie Habersham  Black Student Union

Note: The award winners are selected by a committee comprised of CoF staff that is not affiliated with the Higdon Student Leadership Center. The number of awards given each year for the Cistern and New Student Leader Awards is dependent on the applicant pool.
Outreach Programs

This year saw the strengthening of existing partnerships with the Office of Greek Life and the Office of Multicultural Student Programs and Services. The programs were specifically developed or came about as a result of collaboration with these offices.

Leadership Seminar for Presidential Community Enhancement Grant Scholars (PCEG) September 17 – November 12

Each Wednesday for nine weeks, the Higdon Student Leadership Center conducted the Leadership Seminar for the PCEG Scholars, a group that is managed and advised by the Office of Multicultural Student Programs and Services. The seminar is a basic leadership experience designed to prepare, teach, and empower a select group of students to become involved, successful, and productive student leaders in the College of Charleston community. Eleven students met once a week with HSLC Director Michael Duncan to learn more about themselves and their own leadership styles, develop leadership skills, participate in leadership activities and meet other student leaders and administrators. Topics include Models of Leadership, FISH Philosophy, Conflict Management, Diversity, and Professional Business Etiquette. Seven students also participated in the same program on Mondays.

Jamar Brown
Freshman, Leadership Seminar, LeaderShape Cougar Excursion Facilitator

“The HSLC has given me the opportunity to grow as a leader, allowing me to think and act outside my comfort zone.”

“It is important for students to have the opportunity to participate in leadership programs because they broaden the students ways of thinking.”

“The HSLC gives tools that will come in handy in a career and everyday life, allowing students to see what it takes to become a strong leader.”

Greek Leadership Institute (GLI) January 2009

This event, started in 2008, saw growth in attendance and length of the total program from one to two days and nights. Staff from the Higdon Student Leadership Center as well as staff from Greek Life, Residence Life and Housing, and Student Life served as conference facilitators for the weekend. The GLI Institute is a program for newly elected officers of social fraternities and sororities to come together for a weekend of leadership development. This year’s sessions dealt with “getting back to basics” and focused on how to “live and practice” each Greek organization’s values and rituals, respect for diversity, and peer accountability.
Workshop/Presentations

Again this year, the HSLC staff presented many leadership based workshops and presentations geared toward helping other existing campus training programs. In conjunction with and by the invitation of such offices as New Student Programs, work was done with both the Orientation Interns and Peer Facilitators housed and advised from that office. For the Office of Residence Life and Housing, leadership based training was conducted as part of the annual Residence Hall Director and Residence Advisor retreat as well.

For the Honors College, three 1-hour workshops dealing with leadership styles were conducted for the Honors Interdisciplinary Creative Exchange (ICE) class. This class functions as a First-Year Experience for Honors students.

Facility Usage

This academic year the Higdon Student Leadership Center was host to many weekly regular and special meetings and/or functions from many other departments around campus. Our patrons this past year include:

- Board of Trustees
- Governmental Affairs Committee
- College of Charleston Foundation
- Board of Directors
- Student Government Association
- Dance Marathon
- Cougar Excursion
- Phi Gamma Delta
- Graduate Student Association
- 2009 Homecoming Commission
- Triathlon Team
- New Student Programs Peer Facilitators
“Leaders are constant learners who continually challenge assumptions. They don’t think in conventional, linear terms; instead they excel in thinking at higher levels of complexity. They see opportunities where others don’t. Once they see an opportunity, they seize it, act upon it, and marshal the necessary resources to successfully execute it as a holistic plan. In other words, these individuals not only sense and define a particular need; they energize others and assemble a team that can create a solution for that need, and they create value in any institution.”

“The College of Charleston is committed to engaging students and preparing them for leadership roles they will assume on campus, and for the business, social, and political leadership roles they will play in society.”

“Consider, for example, the goals of a liberal arts and sciences education: providing a solid foundation in knowledge, developing ethical judgment, higher-order thinking skills and a social conscience, teaching the ability to deal effectively with complexity and ambiguity, and finally, instilling in students a very real passion for learning. These skills foster creativity and encourage students to become self aware and approach issues strategically and analytically.”

“These are skills our students need to learn and use, especially if they are to bring the broad perspective of a liberal education to an increasingly compartmentalized society.”

Leo I. Higdon, Jr.
Former President
College of Charleston
**Higdon Student Leadership Center**

**Meet the Staff**

**Michael Duncan**

**Director**

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"I enjoy helping students realize how being a leader is so much more than just having a title, a position, and the authority to make decisions."

"I think it is important to show students how they can be a positive change agent through their interaction and interpersonal connections and or relationships with others."

"Whether students hold a position of leadership or not, our programs bring a sense of clarity to the process of leadership and how to bring the best out in themselves and others."
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**Libby Cole**

**Assistant Director**

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"Working in the higher education environment is invigorating, the students make every single day exciting."

"Leadership can be an elusive topic, we strive to help the students grasp the concept and use it on a daily basis, whether or not they see themselves as leaders in an organization."

"It is amazing and rewarding to watch students come through the Leadership Center and watch them learn, change, and grow."
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**Yvette Lambright**

**Administrative Assistant**

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"It brings me heartfelt joy to work with those that are still on their journey of discovery as they move toward becoming leaders."

"The knowledge and skills that each student gains from the HSLS programs is imparted with the genuineness of molding them into leaders of distinction—selfless, committed, loyal, and one of integrity."

"Only at the HSLS can you get this kind of character development and the wisdom to execute it with real life events."
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