WHERE STUDENTS PREPARE TO LEAD

2009-10 Annual Report
# Table of Contents

3 A Message from the Director
4 Overview
6 Participation
7 What’s in a Name?
8 Programs
   8 Cougar Excursion
   10 Leadership CoFC
   12 Fall Leadership Conference
   13 Leadership Lab
   14 LeadMORE
   15 Greek Leadership Institute
   16 Dance Marathon
   18 LeaderShape
   20 S.A.L.A. Awards

22 Campus Outreach
23 Staff

Student Spotlights
   6 Adam Maslia
   11 Thomas Savage
   16 Laura Reece
For those of us who work in higher education, life and the passing of time seems to quickly become measured and broken down into certain events such as the beginning and ending of academic terms, orientations, commencements, fall and spring break, the annual cycle of major programs, and so on. With the passing of each of those, there are brief opportunities for us to “stop and catch our breath” and hopefully reflect some.

So with the end of the spring semester and commencement comes a natural time to celebrate, evaluate, and relax before the pattern begins again with summer programs that help introduce and welcome the next class of students. Last year we used this period of reflection to produce our first Annual Report for the Higdon Student Leadership Center. As promised in my note last year, this report is something we will share yearly. Therefore, I want to officially present to you our second Annual Report for the Higdon Student Leadership Center.

In this report, we have compiled pertinent and relative information regarding all of our major leadership programs and activities that have happened since the beginning of the 2009-2010 academic year. We share this information not only in an effort to showcase, highlight, and celebrate the accomplishments and hard work of students and staff, but to educate others as we continue to forge new relationships and partnerships with other campus departments and constituents. In addition to the statistical and antidotal data for each program, we have included special features such as student profiles and a short history regarding our name, Higdon Student Leadership Center. Also, in this edition, we reveal our assessment of how well we are “hitting the mark” with our intended learning outcomes established when the Center was founded in 2005. It was through honest discussions with our key student partners that we learned where we are doing well and where we need continued improvement. This is published in an attempt to be honest with ourselves as student affairs practitioners and to ensure the best possible student experience.

I hope you enjoy reading about and sharing in the student success, because without the students that we serve, none of this would be possible. We are continually thankful for their participation and support. We are equally proud of them for being so willing to faithfully engage in the process of leadership as this Annual Report demonstrates so well. Until next year, I wish you 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.
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.

Accomplishing Intended Outcomes
We are always striving to help students reach our intended outcomes created when the Higdon Student Leadership Center first began.

Percentages below are based on students' perspectives of accomplishing these intended outcomes created by the Higdon Student Leadership Center.

General "Overall" Intended Outcomes
- Develop character education—83%
- Learn to empower self and others—89%
- Discover one's strengths and areas of development—94%
- Learn to inspire others—79%
- Know how to be a good citizen—77%
- Practice the specifics of organization—89%
- Manage time—88%
- Develop decision-making skills—86%
- Recognize and appreciate that diversity exists in today's multicultural society—81%

Specific "Leadership" Intended Outcomes
- Understand the concept, development, and application of leadership—89%
- Recognize the academic side of leadership through specific courses offered by the College—43%
- Describe and identify leadership styles—71%
- Identify leadership traits/behaviors and how to integrate them into situations—78%
- Become familiar with the vocabulary of leadership—71%
- Clarify, internalize, and congruently live one's own values—86%
- Apply concepts from one learned experience to another—93%
- Benefit from constructive external evaluations—86%

We are excited to see that many of our outcomes are being accomplished at a high level and are motivated to work hard to increase the effectiveness of others.

*Data pulled from Dance Marathon and Cougar Excursion Executive Boards Student Learning Process Assessments.
Over 1660 students were affected by the Leadership Center this year through participating in our programs or attending presentations through another organization. Our programs showed an increase of 139 students over last year, or a 20% increase. As we made an effort to make ourselves more of a resource on campus, our presentations showed an increase of almost 600 students, or a 72% increase.

*Please note that these are participation numbers and do not count for students that attended multiple programs over the course of the year.

“The Leadership Center and my involvement in Cougar Excursion (CE) specifically have played an enormous role in my development as a leader at the College of Charleston. While at times, it may seem that my experiences with the Leadership Center have been a process of positions, I have come to the full realization that leadership itself is a process, not a position. In applying the Leadership Center’s famed mantra to my own experiences, it is more than apparent to me that my leadership skills have developed not by the positions I have held, but by what I was able to accomplish while in those positions. Because of the processional nature of leadership, I know that I will never be done expanding upon my leadership abilities and I have the Higdon Student Leadership Center to thank for setting the process in motion.”
President Higdon’s commitment to the creation of a student leadership center came to life after discussing the idea with Executive Vice President for Student Affairs, Victor Wilson, who advocated the need to develop specific co-curricular leadership development programs for all students. After selecting a facility to house the program and hiring a director, tailored leadership development programming began happening at the College of Charleston in the fall of 2005.

Because of his efforts and commitment to the Center’s development, as well as his ongoing philosophy of the importance of providing opportunities for students to see and learn leadership traits and practices, the Board of Trustees officially dedicated the Student Leadership Center as the Ann and Lee Higdon Student Leadership Center in March of 2007.

Lee and Ann Higdon met in high school, attended liberal arts colleges, and served in the Peace Corps in Malawi, Africa during their early years together. Lee worked as an investment banker for over 20 years on Wall Street before entering the world of higher education. Throughout his leadership in higher education, he has served as the Dean of the Darden Graduate School of Business Administration at the University of Virginia, president of Babson College, president of the College of Charleston, and currently serves as the president of Connecticut College. Ann serves on the Gibbes Museum of Art, Florence Griswold Museum, CofC School of the Arts, and the CofC School of Education, Health, and Human Performance advisory boards.

Since leaving the College of Charleston, Ann and Lee Higdon have been actively involved in supporting the Leadership Center through scholarships for incoming minority students who want to attend our summer leadership program Cougar Excursion and visiting the Center anytime they are back in Charleston. In March, many of our currently enrolled students had the opportunity to spend several hours with Ann and Lee Higdon as they were “guests of honor” at a reception and evening program. Recently, I spoke with Lee about that evening…

“I was very impressed with the students and their questions during our visit in March. They are clearly well-attuned to their own leadership style, and are looking to improve. It was a nice group and I think Ann and I are looking forward to more interactions with the students.”

We thank them both for their continued support and interest in helping to create opportunities for students to see, learn, and practice leadership traits that will enhance any life experience or career path they choose.

“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.” Leo I. Higdon Jr., former College of Charleston president.
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.

Lastly, several influential faculty/staff members including the Higdon Student Leadership Center Director Michael Duncan, Assistant Director Libby Cole, and Men’s Head Basketball Coach Bobby Cremins were there to get to know the participants so that connections are made with staff who are on campus to help them.

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.

At Cougar Excursion ‘09, participants had the opportunity to meet 42 other driven first-year students. Through a weekend of leadership development, training, and good fun, they bonded with 26 upperclassmen who were some of the most involved students on our campus. These student leaders served in capacities all over campus and committed this weekend solely to help teach the participating freshmen what they needed to know in order to succeed in school.

42 Participants
24 Female, 18 Male
8 Minorities participated as part of the Higdon Minority Scholarship fund
1 participant received the Emily Salisbury Memorial Scholarship
22 were out-of-state students representing NC, TN, AL, GA, FL, OH, MD, PA, NJ, ME

95% Felt better informed about involvement opportunities at the College of Charleston
100% Felt better equipped to begin their college career
100% Would recommend Cougar Excursion to next year’s incoming students
92% Was the overall experience rating at Cougar Excursion

Quick Facts

Participants engaging in teambuilding activities on the beach.

One of the most popular activities of the weekend: the shaving cream battle, is always a bonding opportunity.
COUGAR EXCURSION
...THE SPECTRA VERSION

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.

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/personality assessment, True Colors, was given that gave immediate information to the SPECTRA students on how they work with others and process and receive information.

On Sunday, July 12, 2009 a group of eleven members of the 2009 Cougar Excursion student staff volunteered and gathered with 80 SPECTRA participants as they presented a special five 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 for the second year, our CE staff worked with the Office of Multicultural Student Programs and Services to bring the experience to the SPECTRA students.

The group learned how to navigate the campus and its history and traditions through the format of an interactive game show called, “So You Think You Are a Cougar?” An interactive diversity activity that challenged the participants to see diversity beyond the racial surface was presented also. The event concluded with dinner and a “hot topics” session where the upper-class facilitators took questions on a host of first-year adjustment issues from the SPECTRA students.

“Cougar Excursion is a great way to meet people and make friends”
“It allowed me to gain new perspectives.”
“The discussions with facilitators were very helpful because they have experience.”
“I highly doubt any of us would have connected so well in only two days had we just been on campus”
“I feel better having talked to students involved in groups I am highly interested in pursuing”
“It really showed me what the CofC attitude is”
“It was an invaluable experience to get a leg up”
“It was super fun!”
“Great experience! Amazing! You will have a blast!”

Participants work together to accomplish a teambuilding challenge.

Students excited about playing “So You Think You’re a Cougar”.

2009-10 Annual Report 9
Leadership CofC is a prestigious group of 55 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 the perfect place to find dedicated and involved students who are seeking to find the best in themselves and the community around them.

Pictured right: students aboard USS Yorktown with Ann and Lee Higdon on flight deck with Ravenel Bridge in background.

Teambuilding at Lowndes Grove

Students were led through teambuilding activities by Adventure TeamWorks to help foster a cohesive group and help everyone get to know each other.

Leadership in the Medical Field at the William Aiken House

Dr. Bell, Dr. Freeman, and Heather Woolwine joined the students and discussed the importance of ethics in leadership.

Educational Leadership at Burke High School

Mr. Benton, Dr. Parker, and Ms. Sheats led the students in a discussion of successes and challenges, also the importance of getting involved in your community.

Etiquette Training in Alumni Hall on campus

Cindy Grosso led a session on how to dress and dine properly. She also spoke to the importance of networking and being professional at all times.

Quick Facts

55 Participants
38 Female, 17 Male
21 Juniors, 34 Seniors
22% Minority students

Major Breakdown:
33% Business Administration, Hospitality and Tourism Management, or International Business
20% Political Science
13% Psychology or Sociology
Others: Accounting, Biology, Communication, Economics, Education, English, and Spanish
“The Higdon Student Leadership Center has played a major role in helping me to become more confident as both a student leader and a member of the College of Charleston community. Through Leadership CofC, I was able to meet like-minded peers and gain valuable connections to those in the Charleston community and beyond. Through the LeaderShape program, I was able to shape my vision for the future, gain priceless insight on how to implement that vision, and make friends that are sure to be in my life for many years to come. Without a doubt, my involvement with the Higdon Student Leadership Center has contributed greatly to my college experience and changed my perspective of the world around me for the better.”

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

- A better understanding of true leadership.
- Confidence
- An awareness of myself and how to succeed in life.
- Multiple perspectives and insights on the “real world.”
- Knowledge on how to interact with people from diverse backgrounds.
- How to network professionally.
- Relevant and valuable advice from leaders in the community.
- Lifelong friends and experiences.
- A real sense of leadership and how different people approach it.

Leadership in Politics at the Charleston Yacht Club

Our guest, Earl Capps spoke to his experience in the political field as well as the significance of public speaking and getting involved in local politics.

Leadership and Service on the USS Yorktown

Former president, Lee Higdon, spoke to the students about the role service has played in his life, other guests from the military led small groups.

Brett Fader accepting certificate from Executive Vice President, Victor Wilson at the end of the year banquet

Group at final banquet on steps of Avery Research Center on campus
Third Annual Fall Leadership Conference gets “On Track with Leadership”

The Higdon Student Leadership Center sponsored its Third Annual Fall Leadership Conference on Saturday, October 17, 2009 in the Stern Student Center. This free one-day conference, themed “On Track with Leadership”, attracted 200 CofC students. This event had attendance numbers far exceeding that of the past two years so it seems that many students are looking for ways to increase their skill base or leadership knowledge. The day consisted of two 60 minute educational session blocks with one beginning at 10:30 a.m. and the other beginning at 11:45 p.m. These sessions were followed by lunch at 11:45 p.m. and the keynote address at 1:15 p.m. The conference ended by 2:15 p.m. with several door prizes being awarded to students.

This year’s keynote speaker was Mr. Rick Barnes, who presented his “Lead Your Way to the Top” program as well as a break-out session for our Greek Life population called, "Leading with Your Letters." As a past president of the Association of Fraternity Advisors (AFA) and the AFA Foundation, Rick has been involved professionally within higher education for more than 20 years. A member of numerous professional organizations within higher education, Rick has served on the faculty for leadership conferences across the country and has been the featured speaker on more than 600 college campuses.

In addition to Mr. Barnes, other educational sessions were presented by members of our faculty and staff to include: Executive Vice President for Student Affairs, Victor Wilson, Associate Dean of Students Evie Nadel, Clinical Psychologist, Dr. Christiana DeGregorie, Study Skills Coordinator, Lindy Coleman, Career Counselor, Meredith Gerber, Internship Coordinator, Lindsey Gillen, Academic Coordinator for Upward Bound, Matt Foley, Global Commerce Assistant Professor Dr. David Desplaces, and Director of Information Technology Fluency, Lancie Affonso. Also, co-presenting in a session was Director of the Higdon Student Leadership Center, Michael Duncan. The session’s general topic themes were: Stephen Covey’s, “Habits of Highly Effective College Students”, skills for success in a multicultural environment, finding the right balance in meeting college demands, using your Myers-Briggs Type as a leadership tool, developing positive and creative group dynamics, and utilizing today’s social networking sites for positive consensus building and collaboration while holding yourself accountable as a leader.

Quick Facts

200 Participants
147 Female, 53 Male
99% of participants rated the Session Presenters as good or excellent
96% of participants rated the Session Topics as good or excellent

Student Perspectives
“I’m so glad that this experience was afforded to me at the college.”
“This conference was great, very informative, and fun.”
“I would suggest this to all students.”
Leadership Seminar transforms into a partnership program with the Department of Management and Entrepreneurship

One of the first programs of co-curricular leadership development, sponsored by the Higdon Student Leadership Center, was an introductory non-credit class for incoming freshmen called Leadership Seminar. The idea was to create an opportunity to use the class as a way for freshman students to focus on defining or re-defining leadership and how to be a positive participant within leadership at the College, even though they are in a new environment. Interactive activities dealing with learning styles, models of leadership, conflict management, values clarification, and leadership type assessments were offered during this once a week, nine week class.

The first class was in the fall of 2005 and while the concept is basically intact, this program, more than any of the other programs sponsored by the Leadership Center, has been transformed each year since then. After five years of taking different approaches, aimed at maximizing its impact for student participants, Leadership Seminar has been successfully tied to the academic side of leadership education as part of a First-Year Seminar course.

This past fall, Leadership Seminar became Leadership Lab, a required lab component for students enrolled in the First-Year Seminar course, FYSM 146-001: Business Skill, Campus Leadership: Taking the Plunge taught by Assistant Professor Dr. Carrie Blair Messal. Twenty-three students registered for the FYSM course with the new leadership lab component taught by Higdon Student Leadership Director, Michael Duncan.

In addition to the regular course requirements, including meeting twice weekly during the fall semester, these students met once a week on Tuesdays from 12:15–1:15 p.m. for the lab component. The course dealt with business principles of leadership; while the lab component focused on how to apply many of those same concepts to roles within campus and community leadership. Many of the same topics and format used in the past Leadership Seminar classes were utilized again this year for the new lab component.

This course proved to be a popular choice for incoming freshman and quickly filled up with the maximum number of participants allowed. End of semester evaluations showed the impact of the lab to the overall course’s learning outcome, so this First-Year Seminar class with the Leadership Lab component will be offered again next fall. See below for a sampling of what the student’s reported about the Leadership Lab, at the end of the fall semester.

67% stated that it gave them a new and more inclusive definition of what a leader can be
54% stated that it helped them learn about their strengths and areas of development
46 – 50% stated that it gave them confidence in expressing themselves in large groups, will make them a better campus leader, and had an overall positive impact on them

“I loved the lab—always looked forward to it! The activities were interesting and fun. I wouldn’t change a thing!”
It was during the 2009 spring semester, when the Leadership Center decided to expand their programming. Realizing the need for a more focused attempt at the leadership development of sophomore students, Michael Duncan led a focus group of upper-class students from existing HSLC programs, Cougar Excursion and Leadership CofC, to generate thoughts, ideas, and suggestions.

What developed was the idea of offering a series of monthly workshops to help the sophomore student move from the “freshmen” state of mind by giving them the knowledge and tools to make those critical decisions that happen during one’s sophomore year. All the while, focusing on how making those decisions wisely and deliberately enhances their leadership and its positive impact on the College community. The program name, as selected by the focus group, would be LeadMORE.

It was decided that for the first year, a select group of students who had participated in one of two freshmen leadership programs, Cougar Excursion or Leadership Seminar would be invited to be the inaugural class of LeadMORE. In late August, invitations were sent to the designated students to sign up for the new program. Eleven students took advantage of this new opportunity actively participating in our workshops: “How to Move Off-campus and Being a Good Neighbor”, “Healthy Lifestyle Choices”, “How to Obtain an Internship”, “Declaring a Major and Utilizing the Advising Center”, and “Managing Finances and Budgeting”. The presenters for these workshops were Associate Dean of Students, Evie Nadel, Health Educator, Lindsey Barr, Career Center Internship Coordinator, Lindsey Gillen, Academic Advisor Tom Buchheit, and Charleston County councilman and entrepreneur, Joe McKeown. Each workshop was 60–90 minutes in length running from late September until late March.

All workshops were held in the Leadership Resource Library of the Higdon Student Leadership Center. So with the initial pilot project successfully behind us, the idea is to intentionally expand the outreach and recruit students from the entire sophomore class next year. It is our hope that as the program grows in visibility and popularity, multiple sessions of the more popular workshop topics will be offered within the series. Current and future workshop topics will be determined by student interest and input from former LeadMORE program participants.

I was introduced to this program through a friend, so I signed up for some of the programs. I can honestly say I thoroughly enjoyed each program. It allowed me to gain new knowledge about the campus and other helpful tips to use in life. I have actually shared some of those learned experiences with close friends who did not know these things as well. I hope to continue to be a part of this program.

From living off campus to getting an internship, the LeadMORE program provided useful information about being a college student that one might not know by him or herself.

It was a great way to not only get involved with the Leadership Center, but it was also a great opportunity to familiarize yourself with the different departments and services that are available at the College. Before the discussions I knew little information about offices such the Career Center and Counseling Services. Now I actually know individuals who work in both departments that lead our meetings.

11 Participants
5 Female, 6 Male

99% of participants felt the knowledge of presenters was excellent
91% of participants enjoyed the content of the programs
96% felt the overall program was excellent
Greek Leadership Series

During 2009-2010 the Higdon Student Leadership Center partnered with the Office of Greek Life to expand on existing leadership development programs for Greek Students. The result was a new Greek Leadership Series (GLS) that was piloted for the members of the Greek community. This year the GLS consisted of five programs that were held throughout the year for specific members and leaders from each chapter and council. They were: Varsity Leadership Academy, Greek 101, Courageous Leadership Seminar, Greek Leadership Institute, and the Community Leadership Retreat. The GLS helped to provide more targeted educational and leadership development opportunities for Greek students helping them to be good community citizens and leaders both within the CofC campus and the greater community.

Below you will find two of the GLS programs highlighted:

**Greek 101 New Member Conference:** This conference was held in mid-September and was geared at orienting all of the new members to the CofC Greek Community. There were large group presentations about risk management and rules as well as leadership styles. Participants also had the opportunity to break into smaller groups to get to know new members from other chapters as well as further discuss Greek stereotypes and image, values, and the importance of building community within our Greek system.

**Greek Leadership Institute:** This year marked the third annual Greek Leadership Institute (GLI) which was held this year the weekend before classes began for the spring semester. This weekend long leadership retreat was held for new presidents and one other officer from each Greek organization and council. The weekend provided community building, individual leadership styles education, discussions about how to eliminate Bystander Behavior, identifying areas of risk and improvement within the Greek community, and goal setting and planning for the upcoming semester. We were pleased to have the assistance of staff members as well as Greek alumni to help us facilitate the large and small group discussions and activities for the weekend and the students really enjoyed their experience.

Written By: Rachel Marsh, Greek Life

**Participation**

- **Varsity Leadership Academy**—60 in fall, 53 in spring
- **Greek 101**—240
- **Courageous Leadership Seminar**—54
- **Greek Leadership Institute**—55
- **Community Leadership Retreat**—40

97% of participants agreed that they understood their strengths as a leader and how to apply that to their leadership role in their chapters as a result of the Greek Leadership Institute.
Dance Marathon 2010

Written By: Laura Reece
2010 Assistant Director
2011 Executive Director

It’s hard to believe that a year can go by so fast. Last summer Dance Marathon began recruiting for the 2010 event during Freshman Orientation and enthusiastically continued on through the school year. At the beginning of the Fall 2009 semester we volunteered for Organized Chaos to help students move into their residence halls and used it as an opportunity to spread the word about Dance Marathon. If we were not struggling to catch our breath while telling students how amazing Dance Marathon is as we carried box after box up flights of stairs, we were knocking on every door and popping in every room to encourage people to sign up. Whenever and wherever we could put our name out on campus we did. We participated in Georgestock, Cougar Carnival, Prospective and Accepted Students Days, organization fairs, and Homecoming. The enthusiasm and love of the Executive Board spread as 552 students registered to participate.

2010 was also a year with a number of “firsts” for Dance Marathon. To strengthen our recruiting efforts we created our first recruitment video for Youtube. Inspired by the movie Ferris Bueller’s Day Off, the Executive Board along with the Morale Team and friends all danced to “Twist and Shout” behind Addlestone Library while tour groups of prospective students walked by. It was certainly an entertaining sight to see. Coincidentally, the day we shot our video happened to be the same day as Prospective Students Day so when we needed a few more dancers we invited the tour groups to join us. Although some groups had noticeably better dance skills than others, the video turned out better than we had imagined. To supplement our always-popular Date Auction at Yo Burrito, we held the first Dance Marathon Lip Sync on February 3, 2010 in Physician’s Auditorium. Different teams participating in Dance Marathon put together lip sync routines to

Laura Reece
Junior, Dance Marathon, Leadership CoC
LeaderShape, Fall Leadership Conference

“The Higdon Student Leadership Center has provided so many incredible opportunities for me at the College of Charleston. Programs like Leadership CoC, LeaderShape, and Dance Marathon have helped me become the leader I want to be both on and off campus. I have an amazing family at the Leadership Center and I can not imagine my time at the college without all of the wonderful programs and people involved!”
had the honor of performing at the Dance Marathon event. Each audience member’s $5.00 admissions charge went to the team of their choice to contribute to their fundraising total. The more friends you brought the more money you raised.

One of the biggest changes we made in 2010 was to enforce the $150 minimum for participants. In previous years we were lenient on letting people in who had not raised all their money because the main concern was having people at the event. It was a hard decision to make because we knew that less people would show up the night of the event than had registered. Ultimately though, the number of participants that stayed all 15 hours of the Marathon was greater than years before. We found that people who were committed to raising their $150 were committed to staying up all night long.

As usual, the days leading up to the event were very long and very hectic. The Executive Board and Morale Team worked hard to make sure everything would be perfect the night of the event. The day of the event, February 26, 2010, we worked all day setting up the Carolina First Center and working out small details in the schedule. By 7:00 pm Dance Marathon was officially underway. The opening ceremony included the premier of the 2010 Morale Dance, a parade of kids from MUSC Children’s Hospital, an unexpected serenade by a child from the hospital, and the first dance of the night by President and First Lady Benson. The rest of the night was filled with food, games, prizes, bands, a group of break-dancers that was back by popular demand, and a high-energy air guitarist. There was even a perfectly planned proposal to our 2009 Executive Director, Chelsey Rohler, by her boyfriend Marc. The night was so packed with entertainment that participants stayed awake and on their feet all 15 hours despite the shortage of caffeine in most people’s systems. In the morning when we began the closing ceremony it was hard to believe that the moment we worked all year for had finally come. Closing ceremonies are always emotional and this one was no different. For me, the final reveal is always bittersweet. It is always a relief and a great joy when you see that final number knowing how hard you worked all year long and realizing you can finally get a good night’s sleep. The hard part is knowing that the journey with everyone on the Executive Board has come to an end. So, with all that in mind, we revealed our total for 2010: $75,038.

It’s hard to believe that a year can go by so fast. It seems like just the other day we were recruiting for 2010. Now, barely 3 months after the end of this year’s Dance Marathon, planning is well underway for the 5th annual College of Charleston Dance Marathon in 2011.
For our fourth year, 41 students participated in the LeaderShape Institute which was held May 10-15, 2010 at Bonnie Doone, Walterboro, SC.

Driven by a national based curriculum, the program content of The LeaderShape® Institute 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.

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.

Staff from LeaderShape 2010 consisted of two Lead Facilitators and six staff members from the College of Charleston (listed below).

(Back row, left to right)
Libby Cole—Assistant Director, Higdon Student Leadership Center
Rachel Marsh—Assistant Director, Greek Life
Evie Nadel—Associate Dean of Students, Director of Community Relations
Victor Wilson—Executive Vice President for Student Affairs

(Front row, left to right)
Mandi Bryson—Assistant Director for Student Media Organizations in Student Life
Tanya Williams—Lead, Mount Holyoke College
Carter Bedford—Lead, UT Arlington
Melantha Ardrey—Cistern Area Coordinator for Residence Life & Housing

Also pictured, Grace, the Bonnie Doone mascot

41 Participants
26 Female, 15 Male
56% Minority

41% of Participants were nominated by faculty or staff at the College of Charleston
40% of Participants were nominated by past LeaderShape graduates
100% of Participants said they would recommend this program to another student
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.

STUDENT PERSPECTIVES

"LeaderShape is a Lifetime Guarantee. You are guaranteed to make lifetime bonds with students at your school while becoming the best leader you can possibly be."

"LeaderShape gave me the opportunity to push myself as a leader and member of the College of Charleston community. I can now say I know a diverse group of courageous students wanting to make a difference starting today."
The 6th Annual SALA Awards and Reception was hosted by the Higdon Student Leadership Center (HSLC) on the Addlestone Library’s Rivers Green on Wednesday, April 21, 2010. 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.

This year’s event recognized seven first-year students with the New Student Leader Award, eight seniors with the Cistern Award and one Advisor-of-the-Year at this special event honoring their contribution of time and energy to the campus and their communities. Sixteen students from varying organizations were inducted into the HSLC Hall of Leaders which recognized student leaders within their organization. This year, a new category, Friends of the Higdon Student Leadership Center, recognized twenty-eight students’ dedication and participation in specific HSLC sponsored programs.

PROGRAMS

S.A.L.A. Awards
(Student Activism & Leadership Achievement)

HALL OF LEADERS INDUCTEES
Alternative Spring Break - Christiana Davies
Black Student Union - Brittany Graham
Bonner Leader Program - Jacques Johnson
C of C Radio - Geoff Yost
Cougar Activity Board - Rose Christ
Cougar Television - Erin Madden
Dance Marathon - Meredith Villalobos
George Street Observer - Lindsay Frost
Honor Board - Kathryn Humphries
Interfraternity Council - Joe Kampman
Miscellany Art Literary Journal - Maria Martin
National Pan-Hellenic Council - Shayla Bellamy
Panhellenic Council - Mary Tyler McNider
Student Government Association - Noelle London
Student Union for Multicultural Affairs - Kelsey Boyd
Volunteer Corps - Sarah Holt

Quick Facts

Over 100 people in attendance
New Student Award—16 nominations, 7 recipients
Cistern Award—28 nominations, 8 recipients
Advisor of the Year—11 nominations, 1 recipient
Hall of Leaders—16 recipients
Friends of the Higdon Student Leadership Center—40 recipients
**Friends of the Higdon Student Leadership Center**

These awards are selected by the staff of the HSCL for recognition of our students’ dedication and participation.

**Bronze** – for recognition of holding a leadership position in one program in the past year.
Sarah Kate Calcutt  Sam Maloni
Tim Drevins  Sam Kasten
Jan Gambardella

**Silver** – for recognition of holding a leadership position in or being selected for participation in at least two programs during your college career, at least one of which being in the past year.
Alicia Bouie  Lara Lovitt
Jamila Brevard  Adam Maslia
Jamar Brown  Kaitlin Przezdziecki
Brian Cain  Laura Reece
John Capelle  Dominique Robinson
Allison Gabrielle  Elaine Savares
Brittany Graham  Kayla Scott
Aurora Harris  Matthew Vaveris
Robbie Hart  Meredith Villalobos
Mallory Kowalczyk  Daniel Walker
Scott Landreth  Geoff Yost
Megan Zalla

**Gold** – for recognition of holding a leadership position in or being selected for participation in at least three programs during your college career, at least one of which being in the past year.
Hunter Boone  Kelsey Johanson
Alessandra Castillo  Lindsay Sasser
Elliot Dickerson  Thomas Savage
Ben Holmes  Melody Yuan

**Platinum** – the highest level of recognition for holding a leadership position in or being selected for participation in at least four programs during your college career, at least one of which being in the past year.
Sarah Andrews  J.K. Lawler
Caitlin Herman  Erin Michalewicz

**Note**: The award winners are selected by a committee comprised of CoC 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. The Friends awards are selected by the HSCL staff.
This academic year the Higdon Student Leadership Center was host to many regular and special meetings and/or functions from a variety of other departments around campus. Our patrons this past year include:

- Board of Trustees
- Governmental Affairs Committee
- College of Charleston Foundation
- Board of Directors
- Cougar Excursion
- Dance Marathon
- Greek Life
- 2010 Homecoming Commission
- New Student Programs
- Peer Facilitators
- Phi Gamma Delta
- Political Science Department Faculty
- Student Affairs
- Student Government Association
- Town and Gown Committee

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. The HSLC staff also served as resources and presenting for the Student Media Network as well as the Center for Student Learning and students in the Graduate School.
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