WHERE STUDENTS PREPARE TO LEAD

Higdon Student Leadership Center
2010-2011 Annual Report
TABLE OF CONTENTS

3 A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

4 OVERVIEW OF THE CENTER

6 PROGRAMS
   6 COUGAR EXCURSION
   8 LEADERSHIP COFC
   9 SPECIAL FEATURE: SHAUNA HEATHMAN
   10 OMICRON DELTA KAPPA
   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
   5 SARAH ANDREWS
   9 LEAH LEAK
   11 DEVON TURNER
   17 SAM ORELOVE
As I sat down to compose this note, I immediately knew what my focus would be this year. Just a few words come to mind that best describe our year. Those words are proud moments and milestones.

Let’s begin by stating that a proud moment was watching the steady progress of the exterior repairs to our building at 69 Coming Street come to fruition. With the addition of a newly constructed piazza, siding replacement, masonry repair work, and a new paint job (changing the house’s color from yellow to blue), our piece of history on this beautiful campus was completely altered for the better.

Many more proud moments came as we witnessed an increase in student interest and participation in several of our core programs. For example, for one of our programs, Leadership CoC, we interviewed over 120 interested students competing for 55 open slots.

This heightened level of recognition and support didn’t just come from the students, but from others on campus as well. Through strengthened collaborative efforts and shared outcomes with departments within both the Academic and Institutional Advancement divisions, most notably the departments of the Academic Experience and Development. Our year ended proudly as our office was recognized and received “The Most Collaborative Award” from our colleagues within the Student Affairs division.

We watched with pride as one of our staff members, Yvette Lambright, moved on as she accepted an opportunity of personal and professional growth within another campus department. We were, all the while, excited to welcome a new staff member, Haley Harton, who joined our team as a result. And as always, there were numerous other proud moments as we worked with and watched our students’ interest level, engagement and success broaden into a sustainable level.

Our milestones for the year began with a few of our programs undergoing some format and structural changes as a result of internal assessment. The first change began with the Fall Leadership Conference being renamed the Ann and Lee Higdon Fall Leadership Conference and hosted at an off-campus location for the first time. Our Cougar Excursion program has been revamped as well; with those changes slated for this summer.

Another milestone was that many of our programs turned five years old. Among those hitting that mark were Dance Marathon, Cougar Excursion, and the LeaderShape Institute. Each continues to remain an integral part of our core leadership programming efforts with renewed excitement as the realization of how our programs have become an important part of the student experience at the College.

And so it has been three years since we first unveiled this enhanced Annual Report. Just as in past reports, let me offer an official welcome and a chance to say thanks to our strong base of supporters. We proudly submit this year’s record of accomplishments and stories of student success.

Sincerely,

Cougar Excursion is just one of the HSLC programs that celebrated a 5 year milestone!
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 200 or more, and total 1,018 students were affected by the Leadership Center this year through participating in our programs or attending.

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

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.
My involvement with the HSLC began even before I started my freshman year at the College of Charleston with what was to become my first of four Cougar Excursions, but more about that later!

Having just ended my time at the College of Charleston with my graduation this May, I have recently been reflecting on my four wonderful years there. In my final semester, I had a chance to not only reminisce over my memories but also to share them at the Cistern Society Luncheon as part of a panel of HSLC students selected by Michael Duncan and Libby Cole. The luncheon is an annual event put on by the Office of Institutional Advancement to give the Cistern Society a glimpse of campus life. This year the glimpse of campus life came from the HSLC. It was the first year that the HSLC was given the opportunity to showcase its programs and students. As one of those lucky HSLC students, I was able to attend the luncheon where I met several movers and shakers of our college and community, all of whom had wonderful stories to share and were curious to hear mine. As we munched on delicious, southern food, I was quick to tell them that CoC was my top choice because I fell head over heels in love with the campus and the city that exuded history, culture and class in every building, park bench and person that I saw. I just knew from the moment that my campus tour ended that C of C was the place for me...and it was.

I also shared with those in attendance at the Cistern Society Luncheon what I did not know at the end of that tour: how much the HSLC was going to help me in my time at college. The HSLC helped me to hit the ground running at college, to make lasting friendships, understand leadership and my own leadership style, network, prepare for interviews, find a career path, etc. etc. etc. - oh, and to have lots of fun! The list truly could go on and on. However, some of the highlights of my involvement with the Center were the Fall Leadership Conferences (I went to every single one!), LeaderShape, Freshman Leadership Seminar, Leadership C of C, the SALA awards, and chances to chat with former C of C president and namesake for the HSLC, Lee Higdon.

Although, as I gushed to everyone at the Cistern Society Luncheon, my favorite HSLC activity was - by a long shot - Cougar Excursion. That camp for incoming freshmen held over a long weekend in the summer of 2007 was my first impression of college life and, I can assure you, it was a FANTASTIC first impression! So much so, in fact, that I couldn’t only participate once; I came back the next year as a Student Facilitator and served on the Executive Board the following two years. This meant that I had staff trainings once a month and then, once I was on Exec Board, I met at least once a week in the HSLC with the other board members and Michael. In a nut shell, I got to know them really well and I spent many an hour in the Center!

It was through all those hours that the HSLC became not just a building but a second home for me. We planned and tweaked the program, laughed, vented, bonded, even shared meals together there. CE - and all the different ways I participated in it - was the key activity that allowed me to see how leadership truly is not a position but a process.

Two of the coolest things I had not expected to gain when I first started with CE (and the HSLC) back in ’07 were discovering a career path and best friends. First, I discovered a career path through the experience that the HSLC provided for me. Looking back on what I had enjoyed in college, I realized it was much of what I had done for CE - event planning, marketing, social interaction, volunteer training, service, etc. - which has led me towards pursuing a career in Public Relations and Event Planning for non-profits. The light bulb moment that I would like to do those things and then the certainty that I could, came not in a classroom but through hands-on participation provided through the HSLC.

The second thing I had not expected when heading to my first ever CE was a best friend, much less several of them. Spending so much time with the CE board and participants but also other HSLC students over the years forged friendships that have lasted through college and that I feel certain will last for years to come. Even more impressive are the friendships that I formed that first summer with a few students who did not continue to participate in the HSLC; although, the weekend was so well-done and the ice broke so quickly that our bond was deep enough from just three or four days together to last...
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 ’10, participants had the opportunity to meet 43 other driven first-year students. Through a weekend of leadership development, training, and good fun, they bonded with 22 upperclassmen who were some of the most involved students on our campus. These student leaders served in capacities all over the College of Charleston campus and committed to this weekend solely to help teach the participating freshmen learn what they needed to know in order to succeed in school. Lastly, several influential faculty/staff were there to get to know the participants so that lasting connections were made with the...

This interactive program is 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 experience, the participant’s natural leadership talents begin to transform into the skill sets that are pivotal to mastering their freshman year and beyond. A glimpse of specific activities presented at Cougar Excursion are:

- Mingling with other first-year students, as well as upperclassmen
- Discovering ways to become involved in on-campus activities
- Participating in leadership group initiatives and activities
- Developing the kinds of leadership skills and strategies that will ensure a positive and productive first-year experience
- Learning about the legends and traditions of the College

QUICK FACTS

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<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>97%</td>
<td>Felt more informed about involvement opportunities at the College of Charleston</td>
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<tr>
<td>97%</td>
<td>Felt better equipped to begin their college career</td>
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<tr>
<td>97%</td>
<td>Felt more confident about getting involved or taking a leadership role on campus</td>
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<tr>
<td>94%</td>
<td>Would recommend Cougar Excursion to next year’s incoming students</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Overall experience rating at Cougar Excursion</td>
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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.

Because of scheduling conflicts, participants of SPECTRA could not attend the regular Cougar Excursion so, for the third year, our CE staff worked with the Office of Multicultural Student Programs and Services to bring the experience to the SPECTRA students.

On Saturday, July 10, 2010 a group of eleven members of the 2010 student staff volunteered and gathered with 82 SPECTRA participants as they presented a special six-hour version of our weekend leadership retreat for incoming students, Cougar Excursion. This year’s event was held off-campus at the Inn at Middleton Place.

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 provided that gave immediate information to the SPECTRA students on how they work with others and process and receive information. The group learned how to navigate the campus and its history and traditions through 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 and stereotypes was presented also. The event concluded with dinner and a “hot topics” session where the upper-class

**STUDENT QUOTES**

“Cougar Excursion is a great way to meet people and make friends”

“The discussions with facilitators were very helpful because they have experience.”

“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”

“Great experience! Amazing! You will have a blast!”
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 on flight deck with the Ravenel Bridge in the background.

Quick Facts

- **56 student participants**
- **14 alternates**
- **24 juniors**
- **46 seniors**
- **44 female**
- **26 male**
- **24% minority students**

What have you gained from your participation?

- **Skills**
- **Interactions**
- **Networking**
- **Self-Awareness**
- **Etiquette**
- **Opportunities**

"Presenting your Best Self" Etiquette Training at RiverTowne Country Club

Guests: Cynthia Grosso, Charleston School of Protocol and Etiquette, Inc.; President and Mrs. Higdon, former President of CofC, current President of Connecticut College; Victor K. Wilson, Executive Vice President for Student Affairs at College of Charleston.

"The Value of Teamwork" at Charleston Battery

Guests: Michael Anhaeuser, Head Coach of Battery Soccer Team; Randi Brown, Community Relations Manager of Stingrays Hockey; Pierre-Luc O'Brien, #18 on the Stingrays (2009 Kelly Cup SC Stingrays Championship team); Maxime Lacroix, #22 on the Stingrays (2009 team and Cincinnati Cyclones 2010 Kelly Cup team); Noel

The Importance of Giving Back" at the American Theater

Guests: Ben Grandy, Executive Director of the First Tee of Greater Charleston; Jermaine Husser, Executive Director of the Lowcountry Food Bank; Stacy Oldfield, CEO of Corporate DevelopMint; Barry

"What have you gained from your participation?"
"As a non-traditional student, being a part of the Higdon Student Leadership Center’s many programs has allowed me to grow and blossom through many interactions, not only with my peers, but also with members of the surrounding community. Being a participant has also helped me to develop strong tactics as a leader and allowed me to become more assertive within my current leadership position on campus while avoiding being overbearing. I feel that it is important for students to be involved in all things HSLC because it helps you to see how community is not only integral to your college experience, but also how community is something you carry with you at all times. Being an active student in the Leadership Center is pertinent in helping students realize how actions in the present can impact their future without the student feeling criticized. “ - Leah Leak

"The Next Step", discussions with Young Professionals at the Old Navy Yard

Guests: Cyrus Buffum, Executive Director of Charleston Waterkeeper; John Rizzo, CEO of GlobeOn Demand; McRae Hamer, MUSC; John Osborne, Chair of Charleston Young Professionals; Virginia Perry, Marketing Manager of Charleston Regional Development Alliance; Tara Wooten, Real Estate Agent with Daniel Ravenel Sotheby’s International Realty; Shauna Mackenzie Heathman, Owner of Mackenzie

"Ethics and Integrity", round table discussion with local media at the Charleston Yacht Club

Guests: Stephanie Barna, Editor and Co-Owner of Charleston City Paper; Rick Nelson, Content Editor of the Post and Courier.

"Tough Decisions", Case Studies with Law Enforcement professionals at Marion’s in the French Quarter

Guests: Tamara C. Curry, Associate Judge of Probate; William “Butch” Barfield, Deputy Chief of North Charleston; Noah Moore, Director of Juvenile Diversion Programs in the Solicitor’s

Pictured right (left to right): HSLC Director, Michael Duncan; Executive Vice President for Student Affairs, Victor K. Wilson; Ann and Lee Higdon enjoying the workshop at the RiverTowne Country Club.
"I was really impressed with the overall consideration and civility of the students in the leadership program. Each student I spoke to was articulate, friendly, and professional. In general, the students seemed engaged, interested and able to build rapport effectively."

A primary component of leadership development is created when we provide opportunities for our students to meet, engage with, and learn from leaders within the Greater Charleston area. At the HSLC, we include those situations throughout several of our core programs. This year our students met and interacted with an impressive and successful young Charleston entrepreneur, Shauna Mackenzie Heathman of Mackenzie Image Consulting; not once but twice. The positive connection between the students and Shauna was quickly evident. So, after her initial involvement last fall in Leadership CofC, Shauna did not hesitate to accept our second offer to participate as a guest leader for another one of our programs in the spring.

We know that we have great students at the College of Charleston, but hearing that validated by someone “outside” our biased bubble is needed at times. We frequently seek that input from our community partners. So, recently, I had the opportunity to talk with Shauna about her thoughts concerning our students, the importance of having leadership programs like we offer at the HSLC, and any advice for students.

She readily stated three words, conscientious, enthusiastic, and professional when asked to describe students she met through our programs. Shauna cited their high-level of communication skills; specifically building rapport effectively, along with their full engagement and civility. It is because of the experiences working with the Leadership Center that Shauna is currently employing a CofC intern for the first time. The diversity of the student experience that comes from working with the College of Charleston student is something Shauna appreciated after working for many years with students at MUSC, the Art Institute, and The Citadel.

As someone who grew up through the 4-H program, Shauna learned early the positive impact leadership development programs had on her success. And that knowledge guided her passion for wanting to work with our Leadership Center. As she stated, “I think anything that can improve leadership skills and help students explore areas of leadership and community that they wouldn’t otherwise have is extremely valuable.” She went on to talk about how many of her best opportunities to learn came from those interactions with community leaders.

Shauna offered sound advice to our students to follow their passions, gave them specific ways to boost their professional image as young professionals, told them of the importance of face-to-face communication and public speaking skills each time she worked with the Leadership Center. She targeted the concept of “following through, in all aspects of life”, as one of the main

**Bio Information**

Shauna Mackenzie Heathman of Mackenzie Image Consulting, an expert certified by both the Association of Image Consultants International (AICI) and the International Institute of Image Communications, works with people of all ages to help shape the impressions they engender in others. She specializes in the creation of personal brands for both men and women. She has spoken to groups ranging from the American Business Women’s Association (Jessamine Chapter) to the Charleston Center for Women, the National Association of Women Business Owners, the Citadel, the Medical University of South Carolina and the Art Institute of Charleston. Shauna sits on the Board of Directors for the Center for Women and is also a leader in her career field as President for AICI - Atlanta Chapter. She was recently nominated as one of Charleston’s 40 under 40 by the Charleston Regional Business Journal. She holds a bachelor’s degree from the University of Iowa in Communication Studies and Entrepreneurship. She is also currently pursuing a Master’s in Communication and Leadership Studies from Gonzaga University.
Omicron Delta Kappa initiated over 1,000 students, faculty, and staff at the College of Charleston between 1975 and 2001, when it became inactive. In 2009, the staff of the Higdon Student Leadership Center began inquiring about the possibility of bringing the circle back to campus and house it in the Leadership Center. In the fall of 2010, the charter was approved to move forward with the process and, after a campus visit from the national organization in the spring of 2011, which included a visit with President P. George Benson and Executive Vice President for Student Affairs, Victor K. Wilson, the circle is planning to initiate its first new class in Fall of 2011. The student involvement in reinvigorating the circle as well as serving as an executive board is crucial to the success of the honor society and several prominent leaders on the College of Charleston campus have stepped up

The Purpose of The Omicron Delta Kappa Society is Threefold:

First, to recognize those who have attained a high standard of efficiency in collegiate activities and to inspire others to strive for conspicuous attainments along similar lines;

Second, to bring together the most representative students in all phases of collegiate life and thus to create an organization which will help to mold the sentiment of the institution on questions of local and intercollegiate interest;

Third, to bring together members of the faculty and student body of the institution, as well as other Omicron Delta Kappa members, on a basis of mutual interest,

ODK RECOGNIZES AND ENCOURAGES ACHIEVEMENT IN:

1. Scholarship
2. Athletics
3. Campus or Community Service, Social & Religious Activities, and Campus Government
4. Journalism, Speech, and Mass Media
5. Creative and Performing Arts

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

“It is important for the students at the College of Charleston to participate in the Higdon Student Leadership Center programs because I feel like everyone can learn something about themselves and others as a result. Not only will it open their eyes to new experiences and people, but it will also give them new insights and inspire them to be the best person they can be. I have never met anyone who has had a negative experience through the Higdon Student Leadership Center. This year, along with Dance Marathon, I attended the LeaderShape Institute. I can never find the words to describe the experience I had there. Being able to take part in LeaderShape has given me hope for my future, my dreams, and the world in which we live. I am so thankful for the experiences the Higdon Student Leadership Center has provided me. Because of my amazing experiences with the Leadership Center, I continue to encourage any and all students to become involved with their programs.” - Devon Turner
Fall Leadership Conference gets a makeover

The Higdon Student Leadership Center sponsored its Annual Fall Leadership Conference on Saturday, October 23, 2010. This free one-day conference, themed "Waves of Change; Oceans of Opportunity," attracted 82 CofC students.

Three changes highlighted this year's conference as it was sponsored for its fourth year. The location was moved off-campus, to the Francis Marion Hotel on King Street, to enhance the conference's environment and prestige. Additionally, this year was the first time non College of Charleston students attended. Charleston Southern University sent 5 students, which we hope to continue building on for future conferences. It was also unveiled for the first time as the Ann and Lee Higdon Fall Leadership Conference. This honor will remain as a tribute to the support of former College of Charleston president Lee Higdon and his wife Ann.

This year's keynote speaker was Mr. Michael Anthony, who presented "Use your brain for CHANGE!" Using his experience as a certified hypnotherapist and world renowned stage mentalist, Michael entertained, motivated, and inspired the audience to utilize their own mental resources to create permanent change in their lives.

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.

These session's general topic themes were: Stephen Covey's, "Habits of Highly Effective College Students", finding the right balance in meeting college demands, leadership within environmental sustainability efforts, how to avoid "bad leadership" behavior, celebrating diversity, exercising

In addition to Mr. Anthony, other educational sessions were presented by members of our faculty and staff to include: Associate Dean of Students, Evie Nadel; Study Skills Coordinator, Lindy Coleman; Area Coordinator for Residence Life and Housing, Tamera Moore; Reference Librarian at Addlestone Library, Burton Callicott; Director of Marketing for Admissions and Academics, Dan Dickison, and Director of Multicultural Programs and Services, Teresa Smith. Also, co-presenting a session was Assistant Director of the Higdon Student Leadership Center, Libby Cole, along with Ashley Chrans, a graduate student in the Student Affairs master's program at The Citadel. And, Cyrus Buffum, 2006 College of Charleston alumnus, completed the roster of presenters for the

Student Perspectives:

- "It was truly amazing and well presented – great!"
- "Excellent once again!"
- "FUN! Worth the Saturday afternoon."
- 70% rated session presenters as excellent
- 62% rated session topics as excellent
- 82% rated the new location as excellent
Leadership Lab was offered for a second year, through a partnership with the office of New Student Programs and the Department of Management and Entrepreneurship. The general premise was to create an opportunity program for freshman students to focus on defining or redefining leadership and how to become a positive participant at the College. This is an especially important concept for new students to learn as they are thrust into a new environment with few opportunities to hold positions of leadership.

In addition to the regular course requirements, including meeting twice weekly during the fall semester, these students met once a week on Wednesday from 3:00 - 4:00 p.m. for the lab component. While the course subject dealt with business principles of leadership; the lab content focused on how to apply many of those same concepts to roles within campus and community leadership. Interactive activities that dealt with learning styles, models of leadership, conflict management, values clarification, and leadership type assessments made up the content for the lab. In addition, the lab activities helped to reinforce the traditional "UNIV 101" topics like study skill development, time management, diversity awareness, and campus involvement. Our end of semester evaluations continued to show the positive impact of the lab to the overall course's learning outcome, so this

Quick facts

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<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>88%</td>
<td>Leadership Lab gives you a new definition of what a leader can be</td>
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<tr>
<td>95%</td>
<td>Leadership Lab made you aware of diversity issues and their role in leadership</td>
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<tr>
<td>95%</td>
<td>The skills you learned from the Leadership Lab will make you a better leader</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100%</td>
<td>Leadership Lab had a positive impact on me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>94%</td>
<td>You gained knowledge of etiquette and professionalism from the Leadership Lab</td>
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Realizing the need for a more focused attempt at the leadership development of sophomore students, the HSLC created the program LeadMORE. LeadMORE is a series of monthly workshops to help the sophomore student move from the “freshman” state of mind. The program is designed to give them the knowledge and tools to make those critical decisions that happen during their 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. This year, 17 students signed up to participate.

Beginning in September and running until March, all workshops were held in the board conference room of the Higdon Student Leadership Center. A new component this year was the addition of online resources to the Higdon Student Leadership Center’s website that were offered to LeadMORE members only.

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.

**STUDENT FAVORABLE RATING BY PROGRAM**

- Study Abroad Opportunities
- How to move off campus/being a “good neighbor”
- Community Awareness and Volunteerism
- Healthy lifestyle choices
- Declaring a major and utilizing the Advising Center
- Managing finances/budgeting
- Internships and Employability

**PROGRAMS**

**Study Abroad Opportunities**

One student said about the session, “When it comes to studying abroad I had a lot of questions that people at the fair couldn’t answer and Julie was able to talk to us and answer specific questions plus narrow things down.”

**How to move off-campus/being a “good neighbor”**

Overall, students felt this session to be helpful in getting them thinking about what all goes into moving off campus and what they are responsible for.

**Community Awareness and Volunteerism**

One student commented after the session, “It was really informative and helpful. I didn’t realize how many volunteer opportunities there really were around here.

**Healthy lifestyle choices**

The evaluations for this session were all positive. One student said, “This was definitely my favorite workshop so far. It was very applicable to every one in the room, and Miss Barr did a wonderful job engaging us and relating the information to us. She let us know where to find help if we ever needed it. She was very positive, yet concise and to the point. I would be really disappointed if this workshop was not a part of the workshop in the future.”

**Declaring a major and utilizing the Advising Center**

One student reported, “I loved this! This is exactly what I needed to know to start looking at specific majors and where I need to go to get there.”

**Managing finances/budgeting**

After the session, one student commented, “Budgeting is a really important aspect of college - it is when a lot of people go in debt and the statistics given out were very eye-opening.”

**Internships and Employability**

One participant stated, “I feel like this topic is a great one because many college students don’t know about resumes and internships.”
The Greek Leadership Institute (GLI) at the College of Charleston was started in January 2008 as a collaboration between the Higdon Student Leadership Center and the Greek Life office on campus. Over the past two years, the program has grown significantly through further collaboration with other departments within the Division of Student Affairs. These partnerships provide more effective programming for the student participants, who, as a result of their participation, return to campus with greater self-awareness, stronger relationships with their peers and other student affairs staff members, as well as an increased sense of community and shared responsibility for improving our Greek

The program itself is a weekend-long leadership retreat held off campus for new presidents and officers of each Greek organization and includes curriculum that provides participants leadership development, position training, and community building opportunities. The core learning outcomes for the program provide participants the opportunity to:

- Establish relationships by collaborating with other Greek Leaders on campus.
- Provide participants with a set of leadership tools, determine individual leadership styles, and apply those skills to daily chapter management.
- Enhance communication skills between peers and form a collaborative and functioning Greek community.
- Adopt a clear, concise, and supportive vision for the direction of the Greek community at the College of

The weekend long program held at the beginning of each spring semester includes the opportunity for students to interact with alumni and staff facilitators, to be challenged to think critically about the state of our Greek community and their organization and role in helping to create positive change in both, and build relationships with and learn from other peer leaders.

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**Student Perspectives**

- “I enjoyed GLI, it was a great bonding experience and I know that it helped my council as well as other councils.”
- “Overall, I absolutely loved GLI! It helped me realize skills that I underestimate myself for and helped to bring in the reality of dealing with problems chapters may face and that a resolution isn’t impossible. I learned so much more about the Greek community as a whole that I was completely unaware of before attending GLI. Thank y’all for all the time and effort you put into making this weekend such a success!”
- “For the first time I really looked at the Greek community as a whole and realized how important it is to support one another, especially since there are so many people against us. Also, I learned a lot about the NPHC fraternities/sororities that I never knew before.”
- “I learned more about myself, my chapter, and the rest of Greek Life on CofC campus than I would have otherwise. It was definitely the BEST experience with Greek Life that I have ever had. I came back to campus on Sunday and absolutely raved about what a fantastic weekend I had. It was so beneficial to bring new ideas into our chapter from other organizations on campus. I really want you to know how much I appreciate you, and everyone involved, in putting on this weekend for us. It was one of the best times of my life because I learned so much about myself. Thank you!”

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2010-2011 Annual Report 15
Dance Marathon celebrates its 5th year birthday at CofC!

Quick Facts
- Event is put on by 9 Student Executive Board members!
- $62,536.35 raised for MUSC Children’s Hospital!
- Over $250,000 has been raised in the past 5 years!
- Over 70% of participants plan to attend again!
- 2011 had highest overall satisfaction ranking of all 5 years of Dance Marathon history of CofC!
- For more information visit http://dmatcofc.yolasite.com/

About Dance Marathon
Dance Marathon is College of Charleston's largest student run philanthropy benefitting the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) Children's Hospital and Children's Miracle Network.

Each year participants pledge to raise $150 and celebrate their fundraising efforts in an all night long Dance Marathon. For 17 hours and 70 minutes, to honor the year the College of Charleston was founded, students stay on their feet in order to gain a greater understanding and appreciation for the struggles children in the hospital face every day.

We dance for the hospital and we dance for the families but, most importantly, we dance for the kids!

History
On February 9th, 2007 College of Charleston held its first Dance Marathon with 100 participants raising $21,000. Since then it became and remains the largest student-run philanthropic event at the College of Charleston.
Dear Dance Marathon,

The introduction may seem impersonal, but that's because this letter is being written to anyone and everyone that had a hand in putting on Dance Marathon this year, and more generally, anyone affected by it. I'm writing this letter in bed at midnight, 36 hours after leaving the Carolina First, and am having trouble falling asleep. After pondering for a while why this may be, and realizing I was in fact not all that tired yesterday after DM, I come up to the conclusion that I have not sufficiently expressed my gratitude for the experience I received this weekend. I would be lying if I said I have never been jaded by philanthropic efforts, but this is different. My surprising energy level, despite Friday and Saturday's activities, can be directly correlated to the inspiration I felt and am clearly still feeling from participating in DM (I do have a 9 AM class, but this letter couldn't wait). It is a rare accomplishment to say you created an environment over an 18 hour period where people felt genuinely connected towards a cause. I realized today the irony in DM's slogan "For the Kids" when my parents asked me why I decided to participate in the first place. I said that I wanted to have the experience and support some of my friends. And while both of these reasons are still true, if I were able to do it again, "For the Kids" would legitimately be the #1 reason. I woke up this morning and, not having any pressing obligations, was trying to decide what to do. Laying in bed, the first thought that came into my head was "go run because you can and you now know kids that can't". At the beginning of the event you asked us not to set and I admit I failed, but now I don't even feel like standing, I feel like running. Thank you a million times over for your work, your love, and your inspiration.

A grateful student,

Sam Orelove

Sam Orelove- (Senior) was a participant in this year’s Dance Marathon and wrote a wonderful letter (above) to the 2011 Executive Board expressing his gratitude for the event. Along with Dance Marathon, Sam has also been involved in HSLC’s LeaderShape, Leadership CofC, Greek Leadership Institute, and is a Friends of the Leadership Center award recipient.
For our fifth year, 43 students participated in the LeaderShape Institute, which was held May 9-14, 2011 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.

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
“LeaderShape is a wonderful experience that can change lives!”

“At LeaderShape I learned that leadership involves living in a state of possibility, making a commitment to a vision, developing relationships to move the vision into action, and sustaining a high level of integrity.”

“LeaderShape gives you the opportunity to get away and dig deep.”

Percentage change of “Strongly Agree” in pre and post-session evaluations
7th Annual S.A.L.A. (Student Activist & Leadership Achievement) Awards

The 7th Annual S.A.L.A. Awards and Reception was hosted by the Higdon Student Leadership Center (HSLC) on the Addlestone Library’s Rivers Green on Wednesday, April 20, 2011. 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 six first-year students with the New Student Leader Award, fifteen seniors with the Cistern Award and one Advisor of the Year. Fifteen students from varying organizations were inducted into the HSLC Hall of Leaders which recognizes student leaders within their organization. Friends of the Higdon Student Leadership Center, recognized eight students’ dedication and participation.

Advisor of the Year
Marcia Snyder

Hall of Leaders Inductees
Alternative Spring Break Program - Alex Carroll
Black Student Union - Sara Daise
Bonner Leader Program - Jazmin Garcia
C of C Radio - Mackenzie Armstrong
Cougar Activities Board - Megan Alder
Cougar Television - Katie Ricart
Dance Marathon - Laura Reece
George Street Observer - Sam Graebner
Honor Board - Valerie Finlay
Interfraternity Council - Marty TenHoeve
Miscellany Art Literary Journal - Kirsten Allen
National Pan-Hellenic Council - T.J. Fielder
Panhellenic Council - Amy Clemens
Student Government Association - Isaiah Nel-

Note: The award winners are selected by a committee 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 HSLC
Friends of the Higdon Student Leadership Center

These awards are selected by the staff of the HSLC for recognition of our students’ dedication and participation. This year we awarded eight seniors with this distinguished honor.

Sarah Andrews
Sean Bear
John Capelle
Mary Ellen Graves
Sam Orelove
Dil Patel
Laura Reece

Cistern Award
Kyle Boggs
Eliza Bordley
Amy Clemens
Candice Coulter
Corry Doyle
Monique Dyer
T.J. Fielder
Erica Flores
Samantha Kubinski
Maria Martin
Lauren Moore
Nick Ogden
Sam Orelove
Katie Ricart
Marty TenHoeve

Friends of the Leadership Center recipients

New Student Leader award recipients.
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 trainings as well. The HSLC staff also served as a resource and presenters for the Upward Bound Parent’s Conference and for the Office of

The HSLC staff was honored to receive this year’s “Outstanding Campus Collaboration” Award at the Division of Student Affairs Awards Ceremony. Below is an excerpt from the nomination letter:

“The Higdon Student Leadership Center has worked very hard, especially over the last two years, to branch out to as many departments on campus as possible. They have given trainings, led workshops, and served on committees all over campus, both within and outside of the Division of Student Affairs. The Leadership Center always strives to be a resource to others on the campus, as well as look for ways to collaborate with other offices and incorporate faculty and staff with the programs.

The presence of this department over the past six years has positively impacted not only the division, but the rest of the campus, so much so, that were they to leave the campus, it would be lesser of a

**Facility Usage**

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:

- **Administrative Units**
  - Board of Trustees Governmental Affairs Committee
  - Town and Gown Committee

- **Campus Departments**
  - Greek Life
  - McNair Scholars Program
  - R.E.A.C.H. (Realizing Educational and Career Hopes) Program

- **Campus Organizations**
  - CofC Toastmasters
  - Dance Marathon
  - Phi Gamma Delta fraternity
  - Relay for Life

The HSLC staff was honored to receive this Student Affairs Awards Ceremony. Below is an excerpt from the nomination letter:

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The HSLC Blue Conference Room is available for meeting space for organizations on campus.
# Higdon Student Leadership Center Staff

## Michael Duncan
**Director**
duncanm@cofc.edu

**On campus committees and memberships**
- Comprehensive Program for Quality and Efficiency (CPQE) Steering Committee
- Chair, Student Affairs Staff Development Committee
- High Impact Learning Experience (HILE) Development Committee
- Member, CofC Honor Board

**Outside campus committees and memberships**
- National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA)
- Knowledge Community Student Leadership Programs
- South Carolina College Personnel Association (SCCPA)

## Libby Cole
**Assistant Director**
colel@cofc.edu

**On campus committees and memberships**
- Awards and Recognition Chair, Student Affairs Staff Development Committee
- Member, CofC Honor Board

**Outside campus committees and memberships**
- National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA)
- Knowledge Community Student Leadership Programs
- Special Projects Chair, South Carolina NASPA
- South Carolina College Personnel Association (SCCPA)
- President, Citadel Chapter of Chi Sigma Alpha

## Haley Harton
**Administrative Coordinator**
hartonhs@cofc.edu

**Outside campus committees**
- Treasurer, Citadel Chapter of Chi Sigma Alpha

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