where students prepare to lead
table of contents

3  a message from the director
4  overview of the center
6  programs
   6  cougar excursion
   8  leadership cofc
  10  leadership certificate program
  11  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

senior spotlights
   10  Qi Zheng
   11  Elliot Dickerson
   14  Daniel Winters
   17  Sarah Kate Calcutt
   21  Vikki Bernotski
   23  John Pratt
Each year at this time, preparing for our annual report brings a sense of reflection that leads to a sense of pride and accomplishment. I always find it cathartic and helpful in bringing a sense of closure to one academic year, while bringing a sense of renewal and purpose for the upcoming one.

The Higdon Student Leadership Center is doing well and growing. Many of our programs continue to see a tremendous rise in popularity with students. For example, over 140 students applied to be a part of the 2011-12 Leadership CofC class. Sixty students were accepted as it is a very competitive process. Our program for sophomore leadership development, LeadMORE saw a fifty-six percent increase in student interest this year. The attendance for our Cougar Excursion program for incoming freshmen tripled from last year.

In addition to the increase in student participation, we launched two new programs this year. Our new Leadership Certificate Program began this year. This new program creates the opportunity for student leaders to become more deliberate in planning and documenting their leadership journey at the College. The program was designed to be cumulative in helping students develop a leadership portfolio that connects, articulates, and ultimately demonstrates their ability to apply their leadership lessons and personal growth. Also, the Omicron Delta Kappa (ODK) circle was re-chartered after being inactive since 2001. This brings a national collegiate honor society underneath the umbrella of leadership opportunities offered by the Higdon Student Leadership Center.

So, I’m pleased to report that it’s been another great year of leadership programming for the Higdon Student Leadership Center. This marks the fourth time we have produced this annual report. I hope you continue to find it helpful; in not only understanding the mission of the Higdon Student Leadership Center, but also for understanding the positive impact our programs bring to the student experience here at the College of Charleston.

Just as in past reports, please allow me to offer a note of official welcome and a chance to say thank you to our strong base of supporters. I hope you enjoy this year’s report.
As part of a specific department goal to increase and standardize our efforts measuring learning outcomes, our assessment was more targeted than in past years. In addition to our usual program satisfaction and participation data collection, the Higdon Student Leadership Center selected four of our stated learning outcomes goals to report on this year. A standard program evaluation form was designed and implemented consistently across multiple leadership development programs with varying formats and purposes.

200 survey participants from three different programs were sampled. They were asked if their participation in certain HSLC programs – Cougar Excursion, Leadership CofC, or LeadMORE resulted in the following:

- Understand the concept, development, and application of leadership – 98% strongly agreed and agreed.
- Identify leadership traits and behaviors and how to integrate them into everyday situations – 100% strongly agreed and agreed.
- Apply concepts from one learning experience...
leadership is a process, not a position

The Higdon Student Leadership Center at the College of Charleston, is for students who are looking for opportunities, activities, and experiences that will help prepare them for leadership roles in society.

Our vision is that students will realize that leadership skills are life skills. We believe that leaders are developed and not born; therefore, the Center commits to engaging and preparing students for leadership roles and their role in society.

The programs are designed to offer a combination of formats to students looking for leadership opportunities, knowledge, or experience.
At Cougar Excursion 2011, participants had the opportunity to meet 107 other driven first-year students. Through three days of leadership development, training, and good fun, they bonded with 22 upperclassmen who were some of the most involved students on campus. These student leaders served in capacities all over the College of Charleston campus and committed to this program solely to help the participating freshmen learn what they need to know in order to succeed in school. Several influential faculty and staff members were also there to get to know the participants so that lasting connections were made with the professionals on campus.

Changes made to the Cougar Excursion program resulted in a surge of program attendance from last year. These changes included scheduling the program the week before the fall semester begins, and allowing CE participants to move onto

“I loved meeting new people and being able to talk to upperclassmen about the college. It made me feel welcome and more comfortable and confident going into freshman year.”

- 2011 Cougar Excursion Participant
quick facts

- Designed to create a sense of community that is pertinent to a successful first-year student at the CofC.
- Fosters the student experience, betters a student’s chance at finding a home here, and ensures academic success and a higher GPA.
- 99% of the participants agreed that their overall experience at Cougar Excursion impacted them in a positive way.
- 99% of the participants felt more equipped to begin CofC after Cougar Excursion.
- 98% of the participants felt able to apply what they learned in this program to other aspects of their college experience.
- 94% of the participants felt more confident getting involved and taking a leadership role on campus after Cougar Excursion.

emily salisbury memorial scholarship

The Emily Salisbury Memorial Scholarship was founded in July 2008 through a generous donation in honor of Emily, a student facilitator for the 2006 Cougar Excursion program. Emily was tragically killed in a car accident in spring 2008. Emily was a student leader at the College of Charleston, and in keeping with her spirit, this scholarship is given to the applicants who exhibit strong leadership qualities. The Emily Salisbury Memorial Scholarship is open to all students who register for Cougar Excursion and pays for their full registration fee. The HSLC staff would like to thank the Salisbury Family for their generous donation each year in memory of their daughter.

“Emily truly enjoyed and benefitted from her experience as a student facilitator with the Cougar Excursion program in 2006, and we appreciate the establishment of this scholarship to honor her memory.”
- Howard and Patti Salisbury
Leadership CofC is a prestigious group of 60 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 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.

Topics discussed this year included:
- Presenting Your Best Self
- Strengthening Your Skills
- Seeing a Vision to Reality
- Challenges in Leadership
- The Importance of

Guests included:
- Cynthia Grosso, Charleston School of Protocol and Etiquette, Inc.
- John Carroll, President of Unlimited Performance, Inc
- Neil Whitman, President of Dunhill Staffing Systems
- Dr. Marvin Amsdorff, Strengths Doctors
- Shauna Heathman, Owner of Mackenzie Image Consulting
- Justin VanBogart, serial entrepreneur and creator of MediaFeedia
- Nick Gavalas, manager at Atlantic Coast Advisory Group and co-founder of Gavalas-Kolanko Foundation
- Barry Waldman, VP of Communications at Trident United Way
- Daniel Ravanel, VP of the CofC Alumni Association Board of Directors and owner of Daniel Ravanel Sotheby’s International Real Estate
- Tony Meyer, Executive Director Emeritus of the CofC Alumni Association
- Karen Jones, Director of CofC Alumni Communications, Executive Secretary of the Alumni Association

- 100% of participants agreed that they were able to apply what they learned to other aspects of their life, with 74% of those students strongly agreeing.
- 100% of the participants agreed that their experience in the program impacted them in a positive way, with 86% strongly agreeing.

Above Right: Executive Vice President for Student Affairs, Victor K. Wilson and Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs and HSLC Director, Michael Duncan presenting Devon Turner, Junior, with the Certificate of Completion on the USS Yorktown.

Below (left to right): Michael Duncan; Victor K. Wilson; Ann and Lee Higdon enjoying the workshop at the RiverTowne Country Club.
“This program gave me a place to practice professionalism and to be inspired by other leaders. I have developed my networking skills and have been encouraged to be a leader in every realm of my life.”

-2011-2012 Leadership CofC participant
leadership certificate program

This year the Higdon Student Leadership Center introduced the Leadership Certificate Program. This program was created to assist students in successfully setting and accomplishing their goals, increase their skill development, as well as effectively articulate and apply their abilities. In order for students to earn their certificate, some of the requirements include attending six iMPACT workshops, attending two Ann and Lee Higdon Fall Leadership Conferences, holding a leadership position on campus and completing a personal Leadership Portfolio.

“I am so proud of the success of this program” says Libby Cole, HSLC Assistant Director. “We created the certificate to be a cumulative program that would help students tie their experiences together and concisely explain their growth and leadership development at the College. I am looking forward to seeing this program develop and serve our students in the best way it can.”

Five seniors were the first recipients of the Leadership Certificate with 15 more students currently working toward their Leadership Certificate to be a cumulative program that would help students tie their experiences together and concisely explain their growth and leadership development at the College. I am looking forward to seeing this program develop and serve our students in the best way it can."

“My leadership journey at the College of Charleston started with Cougar Excursion, this program showed me that a new way of life is possible at college and took advantage of it. Since then, all of the HSLC programs I have participated in have helped develop and strengthen my interpersonal intelligence through exposures to young professionals and leaders in the community. These programs allowed me to practice professionalism and increase self-confidence in my own leadership skills. “

-Qi Zheng (Senior), a Leadership Certificate Recipient, was on the 2011 Cougar Excursion Executive Board and has participated in Leadership CofC, LeaderShape, Fall Leadership Conference, and Dance Marathon.

Below (Left to Right): 2012 Leadership Certificate Recipients Qi Zheng, Daniel Winters, John Pratt, Elliot Dickerson, and Vikki Ber-
Omicron Delta Kappa (ODK) is a national collegiate honor society which recognizes and encourages achievement in leadership and service in extracurricular activities.

ODK initiated over 1,000 students, faculty, and staff at the College of Charleston between 1975 and 2001, when it became inactive. In 2011, the staff of the Higdon Student Leadership Center, along with several student leaders, began to bring the chapter back to campus and house it in the Leadership Center.

This past fall, ODK initiated its first new class of 20 members and during the spring semester, ODK initiated 15 more into the College of Charleston chapter!

The student involvement in reinvigorating the College of Charleston chapter, as well as serving as an executive board, is crucial to the success of the honor society. Several prominent student leaders on the College of Charleston campus have stepped up to help the new chapter succeed.

“I got involved as soon as I got to campus as a freshman, but it was not until I engaged in Higdon Student Leadership Center programs that I realized how much of an impact I could make on my surroundings. The HSLC programs helped me develop interpersonal and professional skills that are crucial to success during and after my time at College of Charleston. In addition, the activities were extremely fun and I made my best friends through some of these programs. The HSLC has turned into a home away from home and the staff have become some of my greatest mentors.”

-Elliot Dickerson, (Senior), was the President of Omicron Delta Kappa this year and also participated in LeadMORE, Leadership CofC, LeaderShape, Dance
fall leadership conference

The 2011 Ann and Lee Higdon Fall Leadership Conference was held on Saturday, October 22nd at the Charleston Marriott. Approximately 123 students from College of Charleston, The Citadel, and Charleston Southern University attended. That was a 49% increase from last year’s attendance. There were two rounds of educational sessions available with topics discussing leadership.

After lunch the students had the pleasure of listening to the keynote speaker Coach Herman Boone who was the legendary coach of the T.C. Williams High School football team for many years. His inspirational story of coaching at T.C. Williams was captured and portrayed by Denzel Washington in the movie "Remember the Titans". Coach Bonnie's keynote topic was entitled “Building and Sustaining a Winning Team”.

quick facts

- 100% of participants agreed that they will be able to apply what they learned in this program in other aspects of their life.

- 95% of participants agreed that this program helped them to become better member of the campus community.

- 99% of participants stated that this program helped them gain perspective on the concept of leadership.

- 100% of participants agreed that their overall experience impacted them in a positive way.
leadership lab

Leadership Lab was offered for a fourth year, through a partnership with the office of New Student Programs and the Department of Management and Entrepreneurship. This program is a required component for students that enrolled in the First-Year Seminar course: Business Skill, Campus Leadership: Taking the Plunge. This course proved to be a popular choice for incoming freshmen and quickly filled up with the maximum number of participants (24) allowed. The course is taught by Dr. Carrie Messal, an assistant professor in the Management and Entrepreneurship department. The leadership lab component is taught by HSLC Director, Michael Duncan.

Interactive activities that made up the content for the lab dealt with such topics as learning styles, models of leadership, conflict management, values clarification, and leadership assessments.

In addition, the lab activities helped to reinforce the traditional “UNIV 101” topics like study skill development, time

“I have loved taking this course, and feel as though it has really helped me transition into college.”

-2011 Leadership Lab student
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, 18 sophomore students signed up to participate for the fall workshop series. For the first time, a spring workshop series was held, attracting an additional 9 sophomores.

Topics discussed in this year’s workshops include: Living Off Campus and Being a Good Neighbor; Volunteering and Community Awareness; Making Healthy Lifestyle Choices; Budgeting Personal Finance; Declaring a Major and Academic Planning; How to Get an Internship; Career Development; Sustainability and the Social Responsibility.

- 99% of the participants agreed that they were able to apply what they learned in this program to other aspects of their life and become a better member of the campus community.

“I instantly became committed to the mission of the Higdon Student Leadership Center after being a group facilitator for Cougar Excursion during my sophomore year. In the years that followed I participated in nearly all of the programs offered by the Leadership Center. I helped with the chartering of a new honors fraternity, ODK, and served on its Executive Board, as well as the Executive Board for Cougar Excursion. I owe all of this and more to the Higdon Student Leadership Center and would recommend becoming involved with the office to any student at the College of Charleston as it has helped me grow into the confident and able person that I now am.”

-Daniel Winters (Senior), participated in Cougar Excursion, ODK, Leadership CofC,
The Greek Leadership Institute (GLI) is collaborative between the Higdon Student Leadership Center, the Greek Life Office and the Office of Residence Life and Housing. During this weekend long program participants have the opportunity to collaborate and discuss issues in our community, learn how to facilitate change and face challenges as a leader, learn the logistics of effective Greek leadership and brainstorm ways to help enhance the quality of our values-based organizations.

- 94% of the participants agreed that GLI helped them establish relationships with other Greek Leaders in the CofC Greek community.

- 94% of the participants agreed that they had a better understanding of their strengths as a leader and ways to apply it to their leadership role in the chapter/community after attending GLI.

“GLI helped me get some great ideas for advancing Greek Life and I enjoyed getting to know the other Greek leaders because it helps build the Greek community at CofC.”

- 2012 Greek Leadership Institute participant
dance marathon

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.

Dance Marathon 2012 was held February 24-25 at the TD Arena. DM benefits the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) Children's Hospital and Children's Miracle Network Hospitals. 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 students stay on their feet in order to gain a greater understanding and appreciation for the struggles children in the hospital face every day. Since starting, Dance Marathon at CofC has raised over $300,000 for the MUSC Children’s Hospital and has reached almost 2,000 students.

quick facts

- Event was put on by 11 Student Executive Board members!
- $36,126.20 raised for MUSC Children’s Hospital!
- Over $300,000 has been raised in the past 6 years!
- 2012 had 90% overall satisfaction. The highest ranking of all 6 years of Dance Marathon history at CofC!
"Dance Marathon was one of the most unique and rewarding experiences of my college career. I feel so lucky to have had the opportunity to serve on the Executive Board and dedicate my time to such an amazing cause. The look on the kid’s faces when they see how many college students have given up one night to spend with them and celebrate their miraculous lives is my favorite part. These kids have fought for their lives, and a few continue to fight every day. To stand on my feet for 17 hours and 70 minutes to celebrate them is something that I will carry with me for the rest of my life."

-Sarah Kate Calcutt (Senior), 2012 Dance Marathon Executive Board Director. Sarah Kate has also been a member of DM’s Morale Team, Omicron Delta Kappa, and participated in
the leadershape institute

For our sixth year, 40 students participated in The LeaderShape Institute for the College of Charleston, held May 6-11, 2012 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, 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 then how to effectively work with others.

The program includes a half-day outdoor team-building experience; an evening with a Guest Leader Forum in which participants are exposed to role models in business, industry, education, and other professions; quality facilitators from a variety of backgrounds; and learning and sharing in small

quick facts

- 97% agreed that their experience greatly impacted them in a positive way, with 82% of those students strongly agreeing.

- 100% of the participants agreed that this was a valuable experience in developing their capacity to lead, with 82% of those students strongly agreeing.

- 97% of the students feel confident and capable to lead with integrity as a result of their experience at the LeaderShape Institute, with 74% of those students strongly agreeing.

- After taking a post-LeaderShape evaluation, 75% of the participants strongly agreed that they have confidence in their ability to produce extraordinary results. An increase of 50% from the pre-LeaderShape evaluation.
“LeaderShape was an amazing experience. I loved this program and met so many new people. It was honestly life-changing. I came in with really high expectations and it still blew me out of the water.”

-2012 LeaderShape participant
The 8th Annual S.A.L.A. (Student Activist & Leadership Achievement) Awards and Reception was held on the Addlestone Library’s Rivers Green on Wednesday, April 18, 2012. The event recognized and honored 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 4 first-year students with the New Student Leader Award, 15 seniors with the Cistern Award and 1 Advisor of the Year. 17 students from varying organizations were inducted into the HSLC’s Hall of Leaders which recognizes student leaders within their organization.

Additionally, 5 senior students that completed the Leadership Certificate Program were recognized through a pinning ceremony and had their capstone artifact displayed.

Above: Executive Vice President or Student Affairs Victor K. Wilson presenting Jordan Edwards (Junior) with the Cistern Award.

Advisor of the Year
Dr. Kevin Keenan

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

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

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

“My experiences with the HSLC have helped me become a well-rounded individual with leadership qualities that will continue to be shaped and grow with my next chapter of life after graduation. The opportunities offered through the HSLC have been plentiful and I am proud to say that I have participated in as many of them as I could during my four years at CofC.”

-Vikki Bernotski (Senior) a Leadership Certificate Recipient, was also a member of Dance Marathon’s Executive Board and Morale Team, and participated in Leadership CofC and LeaderShape.

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

Below: The 2012 New Student Leaders Recipients
campus outreach

Again this year, the HSLC staff presented many leadership based workshops and presentations geared toward helping other existing campus and leadership programs. Those offices or departments include:

- New Student Programs
- Residence Life and Housing
- Office of Admissions
- Center for Excellence in Peer Education
- Office of Greek Life

facility usage

This academic year the Higdon Student Leadership Center was host to many regular and special meetings and/or functions. Our patrons this year include:

Administrative Units
Board of Trustees Governmental Affairs Committee

Campus Organizations
CofC Toastmasters
Dance Marathon
Phi Gamma Delta fraternity
Student Government Association
Executive Council
Omicron Delta Kappa
“I signed up for Cougar Excursion the summer before I arrived at the College of Charleston and thus was introduced to the Higdon Student Leadership Center, which would play a large role in my experience at the College over the following four years. Over the years, I have participated in nearly every program the Leadership Center has provided, and I believe the lessons I’ve learned will play a large role in how I make decisions once I leave. I’ve made friends over the years through the programs that I plan to keep long after I graduate. I came into college a nervous, extremely self-conscious, naïve 18-year-old with little confidence in my leadership abilities. I leave a heavily confident and outgoing 22-year-old, with no worries about working with others or adapting to any situation I encounter.”

-John Pratt (Senior), has participated in Cougar Excursion, Leadership CofC, LeaderShape,