Higdon Student Leadership Center
ANNUAL REPORT
2012-2013

where students prepare to lead
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69 Coming Street  
Charleston, SC 29401  
843-953-6356  
http://hslc.cofc.edu
My favorite time of the year is upon us! The beautiful spring weather has returned and the College is bustling with activity. Our days are filled with many exciting activities to celebrate and recognize student success and prepare for the excitement and tug of nostalgia that comes with commencement. This is a natural time of reflection and so in that spirit we present our annual report. This marks the fifth time we have produced our annual report. I hope you find it helpful in understanding the mission of the Center and in understanding the positive impact our programs bring to the overall student experience at the College of Charleston.

Many of our programs continue to be popular with incoming and current students. For example, our Leadership CofC program continues attracting a large number of highly qualified applicants and remains a competitive process. This year we had the highest number of students attend our annual six-day LeaderShape Institute® program since we began offering this experience six years ago. We are on track to match or exceed last year’s record attendance for our Cougar Excursion program for incoming freshmen.

In its second year, our newest initiative, the Leadership Certificate Program, continues to expand with more student leaders joining the program and meeting the requirements for completion.

Our staff is growing and changing as well. This year we added a Graduate Assistant and a permanent line for our Administrative Coordinator position.

I’m pleased to report that it’s been another great year of leadership programming for the Higdon Student Leadership Center. Welcome and I’d like to say thanks to our strong base of supporters who help make our efforts a success. Enjoy!
Leadership is a process, not a position.

The Higdon Student Leadership Center (HSLC) 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, 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.

Meet the Staff

Michael Duncan
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Director of HSLC
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Rebecca Quandt
Graduate Assistant
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Haley Harton
Administrative Coordinator
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Libby Cole
Associate Director
colel@cofc.edu
The Higdon Student Leadership Center hosted many regular and special meetings and/or functions this academic year. Our patrons included:

- Board of Trustees Governmental Affairs Committee
- Student Government
- Dance Marathon
- Phi Mu
- Department of Political Science
- Department of African American Studies
- Phi Gamma Delta Fraternity
- Student Government Association
- Executive Council
- Omicron Delta Kappa
- Colbert Campaign
- Young Democrats
- Charleston Women’s Voting League
- University School of the Lowcountry

Facility Usage

The Higdon Student Leadership Center hosted many regular and special meetings and/or functions this academic year. Our patrons included:

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Campus Outreach

The HSLC staff presented many leadership based workshops and presentations geared toward helping other existing campus and leadership programs. Those offices and departments included:

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

As part of a specific departmental 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 outcome goals to report on this year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Cougar Excursion</th>
<th>Leadership CoC</th>
<th>Fall Leadership Conference</th>
<th>LeaderShape</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>This program helped me gain perspective on the concept of leadership.</td>
<td>83% agree</td>
<td>100% agree</td>
<td>100% agree</td>
<td>98% agree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I will be able to apply what I learned in this program to other aspects of my life.</td>
<td>91% agree</td>
<td>98% agree</td>
<td>98% agree</td>
<td>100% agree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This program helped me gain self-confidence and build my interpersonal skills.</td>
<td>77% agree</td>
<td>98% agree</td>
<td>98% agree</td>
<td>92% agree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall, this program impacted me in a positive way.</td>
<td>93% agree</td>
<td>100% agree</td>
<td>100% agree</td>
<td>100% agree</td>
</tr>
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Student Spotlight:

Tommy Werner

College of Charleston graduating senior Tommy Werner has been actively involved with the Higdon Student Leadership Center by participating in Cougar Excursion, LeaderShape, Leadership CofC, the annual Fall Leadership Conference, and the Leadership Certificate Program (LCP).

Throughout his four years at the College, Tommy actively kept a journal that reflected on his personal and professional growth as a student.

Given that the final requirement for successful completion of the LCP is to create a reflection artifact articulating how leadership experiences have impacted the student, Tommy submitted pages from his personal journal. Shown here is one page from his submitted reflection artifact for the LCP.

```
Why I’ve changed since my teens
(from another 1st journal)

- I don’t need to guess my friendships, I just act like myself.
- Let Zeppelin be not in my opinion the greatest band of all time.
- I can laugh at myself.

I’m not embarrassed about being goofy.

Positions have changed since then, and my role has reversed. I spent the beginning of August helping first-year students get acclimated. It’s all a little overwhelming at first, but I love it. I want to keep getting used to. I want new and prospective students to get as involved as they can, to find where their feet fit. There’s an inscription over Peter’s Lodge in Greek that translates to “Know Thyself.”

The phrase to me is all about finding where those feet fit in. Getting lost in all of the opportunities and directing a curious mind can take a while. It took to emerge with a happy grin on who I am. I certainly wouldn’t have been able to publish my personal journal and thoughts during a leadership campaign. I didn’t have the confidence and I hadn’t become a leader.

You can see throughout all of the words I have here that there’s something exciting and passionate in the world at CoC.

“Show don’t tell” might be one of the most common rules. I’ve heard my professors throw around, or at the risk of telling too much, I’ll close with something I found from a page in 2009.

“I’m not embarrassed about being goofy.”

“Bit by bit and word by word. I’m moving away from myself and the role I play in the world around me. And that’s pretty cool.”
```
At Cougar Excursion 2012, participants had the opportunity to meet 110 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’s campus and committed their time solely to help teach participating freshman what they need to know in order to succeed in school. Lastly, several influential faculty and staff members were also there to get to know the participants. Lasting connections were made with these professionals who will be on campus to help them.

This interactive program is specifically designed to help students gain knowledge and create a sense of community that is pertinent to a successful first-year student at the College. Based on model programs from colleges across the nation, the program has proven to foster the student experience,

“I loved the team building activities because it forced me to connect with strangers and step out of my comfort zone. I also more deeply discovered myself, my strengths, and my weaknesses”.

“I loved how many people I connected with and I know that the friends I made here will always be there for me”.

“The diversity activities helped me realize that I need to not stereotype people”.

CE participant quotes
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.

By participating in Cougar Excursion, students’ natural leadership talents begin to transform into skill sets that are pivotal to mastering their freshman year and beyond. A glimpse of specific topics and activities presented at Cougar Excursion include:

- Mingling with first-year students, as well as with upperclassmen leaders on campus.
- Discovering ways to become involved in on-campus activities.
- Participating in leadership group initiatives and activities.
- Developing leadership skills and strategies that will ensure a positive and productive first-year experience.

86% feel more equipped to begin at CofC than before

91% will be able to apply what they learned to other aspects of their life

90% feel this program will help them be a better and more productive member of campus

93% felt the program impacted them overall in a positive way
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. Once nominated, they complete 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.

Student Perspectives

“I have gained a lot through this program that has made me more aware of my strengths and weaknesses. It has developed my mind in that I feel more well-rounded having been exposed to so many successful leaders from different professions. It has also made me more comfortable with the fact that I’m not sure what career path I want to take and has inspired me to do something that I enjoy as opposed to what others want for me. Lastly, I have gained many new friends and connections whom I treasure.”

“I have gained a lot of insight and knowledge about working in the real world, especially regarding networking, interviewing, and being able to adapt. The speakers that the program featured came from such a diverse variety of backgrounds and professions, it really gave me perspective on what I want to do for a career and what I want to get out of a career. I have also gained a better idea of where my strengths and weaknesses are, and I have a much better idea of how to handle myself in the professional world.”

Participants also reported the following upon completion of the program:
100% gained perspective on the concept of leadership.
98% discovered their strengths and areas of development.
100% were impacted overall in a positive way through participation.
Assessment of Leadership CofC

This year for the first time, a pre- and post-assessment were given to the participants as a gauge of change in learning by participating in Leadership CofC. The assessment’s intent was to measure the three Learning Outcomes and twelve Guiding Principles of the program.

**Learning Outcomes**

1. To strengthen interpersonal competence through networking with members of the community and other influential and involved students.
2. To build intrapersonal development, practice professionalism, and increase self-confidence in one’s own leadership skills.
3. To seek knowledge acquisition and cognitive complexity, while recognizing diverse approaches to leadership.

**Twelve Guiding Principles:** Creativity/Initiative, Cultural Competency, Decision-Making, Dependability, Integrity, Intrapersonal Skills, Leadership, Networking, Oral and Written Communication, Organizational Skills, Professionalism, Teamwork Skills, Time Management

Some of the results are highlighted below:

- **Networking:** 33% increase in competency
- **Decision-Making:** 20% increase in competency
- **Professionalism:** 12% increase in competency
- **Intrapersonal Skills:** 15% increase in competency

Topics discussed this year included:

- Presenting Your Best Self
- Challenges in Leadership
- Strengthening Your Skills
- What CofC Means to Me
- Seeing a Vision to Reality
- The Importance of Teamwork

Guests Included

- Cynthia Grosso, Charleston School of Protocol and Etiquette, Inc
- John Smith, CTO of SPARC
- Dr. Marvin Arndorff, Strengths Doctors
- Shauna Heathman, Owner of Mackenzie Image Consulting
- Justin VanBogart, serial entrepreneur and creator of MediaFeedia
- Don Belk, member of the Board of Trustees
- Jane Benson, First Lady of CofC
- Kathryn Bender, VP Legal Affairs at CofC
- Greg Padgett, Chair of Board of Trustees
- Cyrus Buffum, founder and Executive Director of Charleston Waterkeeper
- Ryan Eleuteri and Christina Kubinski, members of the Alumni Board
- Karen Jones, Director of CofC Alumni Communications, Executive Secretary of the Alumni Association
This year the Higdon Student Leadership Center had its second group of students complete 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 included: attending workshops, attending two Ann and Lee Higdon Fall Leadership Conferences, holding a leadership position on campus, and completing a personal leadership reflection.

Eleven seniors were this year’s recipients of the Leadership Certificate program. Many more students are currently working towards earning their Leadership Certificates.

“One quote that has really stuck with me is, ‘Don’t say anything you don’t believe. Don’t believe anything you won’t say’. Coming into college and being nervous about fitting in, it’s very easy to pretend to be someone you’re not. This quote made me reflect on how I’d grown over the years. Before I came to college, I thought leadership was a title, which brought automatic respect and cooperation. Thankfully I learned leadership must be earned, and earned leadership and respect is much more effective.”

- John Pratt, LCP recipient
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. Since fall of 2011, ODK has initiated 75 members into the College of Charleston circle.

Student involvement in 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 Charleston campus have stepped up to help the new chapter succeed.

“I was first introduced to Omicron Delta Kappa in the spring of 2012, and, unbeknownst to me at the time, it would be in this environment, as a leader amongst leaders, that I witnessed a turning point in my collegiate experience. Through my interactions with fellow members, I learned that to truly excel in life, and to overcome one’s flaws, one has to first develop confidence in their own abilities.

As one member explained to me, ‘If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more, and become more, then you are a leader.’ This quote, as passed down over the years from John Quincy Adams, revealed to me that I, in my modest opinion, possessed what truly mattered in life: the unwavering desire to improve not only my life, but also the welfare and happiness of all those around me.

It was this resolve and insight into my own leadership ability that led to my further involvement on campus, which culminated in my election to the presidency of Omicron Delta Kappa. As the President of the College of Charleston’s Leadership Honors Society, I have realized that in order to follow John Quincy Adams’s advice of leadership through inspiration, one not only has to eagerly take the initiative, but also has to serve as an example for others to follow.

This is why I believe that Omicron Delta Kappa, as a society comprised of the leaders of almost all of the campus’s organizations, provides the most promising path to improve the involvement and loyalty of the undergraduate body, not just on this campus, but on others throughout the country as well. After all, to truly foster the development of this campus and community, it has to first begin with the leaders of the student body itself—leaders of tremendous quality than I am honored to call fellow members in The Circle.”

-Rudy Baldus, President of ODK
The 2011 Ann and Lee Higdon Fall Leadership Conference was held on Saturday, October 24th at the Downtown Marriott Charleston. Approximately 125 students from the College of Charleston, the Citadel, and Charleston Southern University attended. 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 Ray A. Snyder. Snyder is a full-time business professor at Trident Technical College and author of “The Business on Leadership, Communication, and Service.”

“This was my first time attending the Fall Leadership Conference, and I am very glad I did. It was an amazing experience with great presentation. The Keynote Speaker was informative, engaging, and energetic!”
- Student participant at Conference

**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.

98% of participants agreed that this program helped them become a better member of the campus community.

100% 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.
The Greek Leadership Institute (GLI) is a collaboration between the Higdon Student Leadership Center, the Greek Life Office and 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.
Dance Marathon

Quick Facts

• Event was run by 11 Student Executive Board members.
• $42,605.06 was raised for the MUSC Children’s Hospital.
• Over $450,000 has been raised in the past 6 years.

For more information visit http://dmatcofc.yolasite.com/
A note from Director, Meredith Sopko

I became involved in Dance Marathon through my internship with MUSC's Children's Hospital. In the spring of 2012 I worked at the Children's Hospital fund with Amy Gordon, the hospital liaison for Dance Marathon at CofC. I attended Dance Marathon 2012 as a volunteer and was amazed by the event. I had not participated in Dance Marathon before but wanted to get involved after seeing the event. When Amy suggested I apply for Executive Director I was unsure I would be fit for the position because I had not been involved before. However, my internship was coming to an end and I wanted to continue to help the children's hospital. I was so happy when I was offered the position and was eager to get started.

Things started quickly as we interviewed and appointed a new executive board. During the summer I got the chance to attend the Dance Marathon Leadership Conference in Atlanta, Georgia. The conference was a great learning experience for me. It gave me a chance to talk to our Children's Miracle Network advisors and students from other schools. After the weekend of the conference I couldn’t wait to get back to Charleston and work on improving our event.

Upon returning to campus in the fall we had our board retreat. During the retreat I presented information and ideas I got from the national conference. Our CMN advisor made the trip to talk to our board and present new ideas. The retreat launched the rebranding of DM at CofC. We started by creating a new logo more related to the college and CMN. We also brainstormed ideas on how to reach out to more students through organizations and strong social media presences.

Throughout the semester the board worked hard recruiting students and planning the event. Finally it was time for the big event, Dance Marathon 2013. With all the planning and organizing we had done, set up went smoothly and we were ready. We reached our goal of 300 registered participants. The night went smoothly going along with the schedule, making only a few minor changes.

The highlight of the event came in the morning when the total was revealed. We raised $42,605.06. Knowing we were able to raise this money for the children made all the hard work worth it and it was hard not to cry with joy and exhaustion.

Overall my experience with Dance Marathon has been one of my favorites at the College of Charleston. Working with Libby Cole and the staff at the Leadership Center has been a joy. Also, the friendships I have made through the executive board are life long. I can’t wait to watch the progress of DM at CofC and I hope it will continue to be a successful event and save many more children's lives.
The 9th Annual S.A.L.A (Student Activist & Leadership Achievement) Awards and Reception was held on the Addlestone Library’s Rivers Green on Wednesday, April 17, 2013. 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.

The event recognized six first-year students with New Student Leader Award, fifteen students with the Cistern Award and one Advisor of the Year Award. Sixteen students from varying organizations were inducted into the HSLC’s Hall of Leaders which recognizes student leaders within their organization.

Additionally, eleven seniors completed the Leadership Certificate Program; more than double since last year. They were recognized through a pinning ceremony and had their capstone artifact displayed.
**Advisor of the Year**
This award recognizes the faculty or staff advisor who has consistently demonstrated a commitment to student development and leadership practice.
Dr. Adam Doughty - Best Buddies

**Hall of Leaders Inductees**
Through this award, a member of each organization is recognized for his or her continuous contribution to the campus.
Elizabeth Burdette - Alternative Spring Break
Danielle Powell - Bonner Leader Program
Cayla Williams - Cistern Yard Radio
Kimberly Ohanuka - Cougar Activity Board
Abigail Frye - Cistern Yard Video
Meridian Sopko - Dance Marathon
Sarah Sheafer - Cistern Yard News
Daniel Klaeren - Honor Board
Norman Schwartz - Interfraternity Council
Civia Stein - Miscellany Literary and Art Journal
Arvaughna Postema - National Pan-Hellenic Council
Lauren Krey - Pan-Hellenic Council
Nathan Wills - Student Government Association
Brea Greene - Student Union for Multicultural Affairs
Kate Shelton - Volunteer Corps
Rudy Baldus - Omicron Delta Kappa

**Cistern Award**
This award recognizes senior students who have been motivated and engaged workers or members of an organization.
Tiffany Kingston
Drew Ford
Lauren Krey
CJ Porter
Lydia Nickolas
Shelby Ball
Nicholas Biedron
Meridian Sopko
Devon Turner
Abigail Frye
Benjamin Hockett
Zykeedric Free
Tyler Tilghman
Cara Beth Heath
Gregory Mangieri

**New Student Leader Award**
This award recognizes first-year students who have been actively involved in contributing time and energy to learning leadership.
Khadija Kershaw
Clyde Moser
Olivia Cohen
Ryan Spraker
Kaitlyn Manley
Charles Essi

**Leadership Certificate Program**
This award is given to students who have successfully completed the requirements of the program.
Zach Aaron
Paul Bradley
Richard Duncan
Brenna McNamara
Kat Schidler
George Kaplan
Tommy Werner
Devon Turner
Emily Rogers
Joesph Berger
Jenny Rumble
For our seventh year, 56 students participated in The LeaderShape Institute for the College of Charleston, held May 6-11, 2013 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 experiences, 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 groups.

Assessment of LeaderShape
Through a pre- and post-test, we were able to gauge the following changes in learning:

I know about the different leadership styles that exist - \(245\%\) increase in competency
I have tools/skills to empower myself and others - \(54\%\) increase in competency
I can easily inspire others to work towards a common goal - \(75\%\) increase in competency
I know how to incorporate my values into my leadership - \(86\%\) increase in competency
What did you gain from LeaderShape?

“The phrase to describe this experience is that LeaderShape has rekindled my fire within. I am now equipped with the skills needed to move forward with a new vision. This week has changed my life for the better. I would love to assist with recruitment or in any other capacity.”

“More than I can explain. I gained so much confidence!”

“Constructive insight on myself as a leader and providing me with the proper tools to help other people become a better leader.”

“Everything and more. Thank you so much!”

“I feel like I gained my voice and reassurance that being a person with high standards or something to say to someone to help them improve isn't always bad.”

“I gained confidence and motivation through the encouragement of students and staff and the knowledge that I can make a difference.”
William Blacklock conveyed this land to his daughter, Katherine, in 1802. While the construction date is uncertain, it was apparently built before 1817 by Blacklock’s daughter and her husband, Nathaniel Farr. Sold at auction for $8,000 to Daniel and Sarah Louise Huger.

**Brief History of 69 Coming Street**

- **1802-1817**: Property was vacant
- **1818**: Property converted and rented as three separate apartments
- **1921-1923**: Property was vacant
- **1923-1968**: Property was vacant
- **1970-1972**: Property was vacant
23
HIGDON STUDENT LEADERSHIP CENTER

1841

Catherine Farr becomes a widow

1887-1905

Dewar R. Bacot, a planter, acquires the property and lived there with his wife and two daughters until his death in 1905

1905-1921

The two Bacot daughters, Harriet, and Julia live at the property until 1921

1973

Property purchased from Lumina Bouvette for $30,000 by the College of Charleston Foundation

1980-1999

Property converted into the College of Charleston Female Residence Hall

2005- Present

Establishment of the College of Charleston Higdon Student Leadership Center