8 Keys of Excellence - Fall Keys

This fall we started our venture into the 8 Keys of Excellence with our students. The 8 Keys were developed by Bobbi DePorter and educational pioneer Dr. Georgi Lozanov. They started the 8 Keys concept as a basic framework for personal effectiveness. We used this framework to team build during our summer planning retreat. So, this semester, the ROAR Scholars program utilized these tools within our workshops and other activities to help teach the traits that are a part of the 8 Keys such as: Integrity, Commitment, Ownership, Flexibility, Balance, Failure Leads to Success, Speak with Good Purpose, and “This is It!” Program participants were able to “earn” keys this fall through participation in workshops and activities on and off campus. They were also able to earn them “spontaneously” from their peer mentors and counselors.

ROAR Reaches 140!
We are excited to announce that, as of the end of October 2012, the ROAR Scholars program has reached its total capacity of students for the year! We are at our target of 140 students served for the first time in our program’s existence. I would like to congratulate everyone involved in making this possible! If we continue this progress we should have many more years of success in the future.
Let Me Hear You R.O.A.R.

Annual Fall Pot Luck

Each year our program holds a potluck to help wrap up the school year and give our students some well needed relaxation and food! This year was like the last as we showed a Christmas movie and shared good company as the students prepare to face their exams before break. Good Luck to our students!

“If I Were President”

This fall we held a workshop series that encompassed the theme of our “Advocacy in Action” event for the year. With the election such a big part of the fall season we put the question to our students, “If you were president what would you do or change?” So, throughout our workshops we worked toward developing the students’ speech, writing and presentation skills. This culminated in a speech contest, for three book scholarships, that asked our students to advocate for one issue of their choosing and to also explain how they would affect that issue if they were president. Our six panelists chose the three best speeches to be winners of the book scholarships. We had great speeches and entries. We would like to thank our panelists and all of the participants for taking part in the contest.

Our top prize winner was Ms. Janice Garrett whose speech on child abuse was read by her at the “Advocacy in Action” event.

Estill High School Visit

This semester our Director, Tom Holcomb, took a few of our students to Estill High School to do outreach. One of the students he brought along gave us a recap of his experience:

My name is Kevin Duane Greene II and I am a junior at the College of Charleston. I am studying Psychology and love every bit of the subject. When I am not focusing on studies or friends, I am boxing. Those are some of the words I shared with the students that day of the outreach trip. I enjoyed every last minute of the high school visitation. I felt as if I was making a difference by motivating the students to take their academic careers seriously so that doors of higher education will open for them. I saw much potential in the students and want so much for them to this day. I can only hope that they were sponges and soaked up all of the golden info that was given that morning and afternoon. I loved the outreach trip and I hope the best for all of the students in whatever career path they choose to embark on!

“Advocacy in Action”

This year we invited, MSNBC contributor and White House correspondent for The Grio, Jeff Johnson to campus to speak at our annual “Advocacy in Action” event. The event was held on Oct. 26th this year in the Stern Center Ballroom. Last year we bought Linda Ketner to speak on the importance of advocacy in her life as an activist. This year Jeff Johnson’s speech incorporated aspects of how youth, particularly, college students could be advocates in powerful ways on campus and in their own communities. He gave anecdotes from his own experiences from being an advocate on campus, and he even shared some pointers and advice on how to be an effective advocate for whatever community you may be advocating for. We had a great turnout and with help from all of our collaborators it turned out to be a great night!
Deciding to study abroad is a huge step for any college student. The endless time spent preparing for your “new” life, numerous meetings, and words of wisdom are not nearly enough to prepare for life abroad. Living abroad is quite a unique experience but living on a ship is simply unheard of…

I studied abroad through the University of Virginia with Semester at Sea. It allows students and faculty from all over the world to co-exist on a 591 foot ship. It is a floating campus which provides an interactive living and learning community.

Over the course of my trip, I visited 11 countries: Bahamas, Dominica, Brazil, Ghana, South Africa, Mauritius, India, Singapore, Vietnam, Hong Kong, China, Japan, and lastly explored the United States in Hawaii and California. I gained a glimpse of cultures and a taste of the rest of the world. My semester was transitional with only six straight days of class all semester.

This experience was different than most due the living quarters; however any study abroad experience is smiled upon. Whether it is a simple interest in other cultures, the need to get away, or seeking independence… being abroad gives you a whole new perspective on life and schooling. Step one is simply committing to studying abroad, location can be determined later. Escape the monotony of college to explore the globe for less.

NEEDLESS TO SAY GO ABROAD!

It is not easy to be involved in many organizations on campus but I seem to have a passion for it. I try to balance being a student with being actively involved on campus but I have not mastered it yet. I am a member of the Roar Scholars Program, Student Ambassadors, and Peer Counseling. I feel that each of these organizations is helping to mold me into the person that I want to be. Being involved in these organizations is a responsibility and a commitment. Personally, I try not to over commit myself but I find it hard to limit myself to only a few.

I am also an ally for Safe Zone. This organization works to educate students and staff on LGBT issues. Being an ally means that, I am a supporter of the gay community. This organization emphasizes visibility to let people know that they are not alone on campus. Initially, I had reservations about becoming an ally because of the lengthy training session. However, I enjoyed the experience and I met a lot of great people.

For anyone who is interested in being involved on campus, there are two things that they should consider. One is that they must believe in what the organization stands for and tries to accomplish. Secondly, they need to learn how to manage their time. It is nice to be involved in many organizations but we must never lose sight of why we came to college.
Riddle Me This:

Alice is walking through the forest of forgetfulness. She wants to know what day of the week it is. She stops and asks a lion and a unicorn. Now the lion lies all of the time on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. The unicorn always lies on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Alice asks the lion what day it is, he says, "Well, yesterday was one of my lying days." Alice can't figure it out just from the lion's answer so she asks the unicorn and the unicorn says, "Yesterday was also one of my lying days." What day is it?

Answer to last riddle: Stars

At dusk I come without being fetched. At dawn I disappear without being stolen. I'm a poet's tears and a sailor's guide. What am I?

Current Answer will be in the next issue of the newsletter.