ROAR SCHOLARS JOURNEY TO LEADERSHIP
A recap of the 37th Annual Leadership Diversity Conference
By: Tom Holcomb Jr.

On February 1, 2014, the ROAR Scholars Program, in collaboration with the Multicultural Student Programs and Services Office and Bonner Scholars took students to the 26th Annual Student Leadership & Diversity Conference held at University of South Carolina Columbia. This year’s theme was “Find Your Fit – Unlock Your Future.”

The following ROAR Scholars attended the conference: Deja Felder, Alexis Walters, Jessica Parker, Britnee Smalls, Hammed Sirleaf, Chris Bass, and Brea Green.

The conference opened up with our keynote speaker, Brian Bordainick, speaking on how to brainstorm solutions for community issues and successfully implementing change. The New Orleans transplant not only raised $2 million in partnerships with NFL and NIKE for the Ninth Ward Field of Dreams, but also transitioned more than 100 employees into a public private partnership. He has also been featured on Anderson Cooper 360, ESPN, The Today Show, and CBS News, and he has spoken at TEDxGoldenGateED.

At the conference, I had an opportunity to sit in on the advisors roundtable and discuss hot topics with my colleagues around the state and the eastern coastal region. Providing effective peer mentoring as well as access to mentoring for students was a big topic of discussion. In addition to this workshop I also had an opportunity to attend various other workshops from Justification, Judgment and Justice in a Pluralistic World (DE) to Leading with Civility and Dealing with Conflict Resolution. The workshop on Justification, Judgment and Justice provided insight into working effectively with adult learners across generations. We engaged in some interesting dialogue regarding how different generations from different environments approach learning, and how to go about reaching them where they are.

“Find YOUR Fit
UNLOCK YOUR FUTURE.”
On Saturday April 12, 2014, six College of Charleston ROAR Scholars accompanied by Director Tom Holcomb Jr., traveled to Charlotte, North Carolina with other TRIO colleagues from the Trident Technical College – Student Support Services Program and Upward Bound. This was the 2nd annual TRIO collaboration trip geared toward building TRIO unity and bringing awareness to careers in the professional world of sports entertainment.

This event was organized in collaboration with various TRIO programs around the state and region to support the mission of TRIO access as well as give students an opportunity to network and speak with a panel of sports professionals regarding how they got started in their career field. In addition to the panel, the tour included a college fair, dinner and an opportunity for students to represent their schools at the Charlotte Bobcats vs. 76’ers basketball game.

Here is what ROAR Scholars said to say about the cultural/career development event:

**Janice Moody**, a junior stated, “What I enjoyed the most was Ms. Valencia, sales and marketing executive, taking the time to talk to me about my career path. I wanted to know about the path I should take to become a sports lawyer. She told me about the legal team they have and some internship opportunities.”

**Chris Bass**, a sophomore said, “As a college student now, I can understand fully the importance of finishing college. Taking from this experience, I realized the dedication, time, hard work, and consistency a person must have in order to make their visions a reality.”

Careers related to professional sports include: physical therapists, sports medicine, sports team management, sales & marketing, coaching, refereeing, and being a professional athlete, mascot, or cheerleader. For more information regarding careers in professional sports [click here](#).
A Letter to Our Seniors,

Congratulations to our seniors, the third class of students to graduate as ROAR Scholars at the College of Charleston. Realize that you have made it. Yes, you have finally overcome the obstacles, challenges, and intensive course work. “To know thyself,” as Socrates once stated, truly is the embodiment of what your college experience has been. You came here a little scared not knowing where you were going, and have blossomed into amazing young professionals, ready to tackle the world as scholars, advocates, sustainable partners, civic leaders, educators, community activists, health care practitioners and poets.

We are really proud of all of you and want to thank you for your time, patience, and invaluable support of as we complete the third full academic school year of the ROAR Scholars Program. The future is so bright and full of possibilities. The dreams and successes of all of you will reside within our hearts for years to come. We’ll see you in a few years as alumni. Please keep us posted about your success stories, development and goals for your near future.

I leave you with this quote from Nelson Mandela, “Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure.”

Best Wishes.

Graduating ROAR Scholars:
Ally Elrod-Bloom, Britnee Smalls, Brittany Counts, Bryana Evans, Camille Weaver, Jessica Parker, Marion Lake, Scott Ziegler, Shay Wilson, Sylricka Foster Tasheera Cooper Tomika Caldwell, and Tristan Hawkins

Graduating Peer Mentors:
Ally Elrod-Bloom, Alex Benson, Britnee Smalls, Brittany Counts, Ian Moore, Kathleen Anderson, James Mitchell, Jessica Parker, Michelle Manning, and Samantha Morrison.

YOU are POWERFUL BEYOND Measure.
A Celebration of Cultures

The College of Charleston’s third annual Student Diversity Conference was held on April 12, 2014. This year’s theme was “Be the Movement. Be the Solution!” and focused on empowering students through the experiences of those who have been on the front lines of social movements. This conference was organized and planned by the Office of Institutional Diversity in partnership with ROAR Scholars, Multicultural Student Programs and Services, Women’s and Gender Studies and The Gender and Sexuality Equity Center.

Over 50 students from the College of Charleston, Citadel Military College, Francis Marion University, and Charleston Southern University participated in workshops focused on gender, sexuality, racism, prisons, activist art and social justice. This two day conference also included a “teach in” by civil activist Bob Moses, a screening and panel discussion of the film Racial Taboo, and a keynote address by Cecilia Fire Thunder, the first woman elected as president of the Oglala Sioux tribe.

During her keynote address, Cecilia Fire Thunder discussed her impeachment and the major controversy over her work to provide planned parenting services for women after South Dakota banned the practice of abortions. Through her passion and work to do what was right despite the odds, she became a well-known advocate for women’s rights. Her story empowered students to use their voices to be the solution to social issues. Overall, the conference was a huge success and the Office of Institutional Diversity plans to make the conference even better in the years to come.

BY: Shawntell Pace

WORLD DISH
A Celebration of Cultures

An experience to remember! Over a four week period the students involved in the World Dish Program were introduced to four different cultures: Lebanese, Jamaican, Asian, and Chamorro. For a lesson in Lebanese culture, we visited Leyla’s Fine Lebanese Cuisine, owned by the College of Charleston’s own Professor, Dolly Raad of the Asian Studies Department, located at 298 King St. We also dined at the Zen Asian Fusion Restaurant and Lounge of West Ashley to experience the cuisine of Chinese New Year. For both Jamaican and Chamorro cuisines, we enjoyed homemade dishes provided by ROAR Scholar James Mitchell’s mother as well as our own ROAR Scholars Program Counselor, Shawntell Pace, respectively.

There were eleven students, including me, who attended the World Dish events. To access the students’ levels of cultural awareness, we asked everyone to take a Pre and Post Test. Based on the overall results, the students gained a great deal of knowledge about the origin of various foods and their uses in different cultures. The students were also able to participate in cultural acceptance dialogues.

This event was a complete success for the students and staff who participated. There is talk of Ethiopian food for next year! Get excited, and get involved! Being in a restaurant experiencing culture through food definitely beats sitting in a classroom!

BY: Shawntell Pace
The ROAR Scholars Program’s Annual End of the Year Banquet was held on April 17, 2014, at the Avery Research Center for African American History and Culture. This year’s banquet had an excellent turnout, with many ROAR Scholars in attendance, as well as staff from ROAR, ORGA and other departments on campus. We also welcomed members of the College of Charleston Foundation, representatives from the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation, and special guests from the Charleston community.

The program began with welcoming remarks, followed by a brief history of ROAR and a moment of recognition for our new Coca-Cola sponsors. We then turned our attention to our guest speaker, Dr. Renard Harris, an esteemed member of the College of Charleston faculty. Dr. Harris provided some words of wisdom on the importance of receiving a college education while entertaining us with his gift for storytelling. The banquet continued with dinner, fellowship, and our annual awards presentation, and ended with some moving closing remarks from ROAR Director Tom Holcomb. All in all, the banquet was a fantastic ending to another successful year for the ROAR Scholars Program!

**The Overcomer Award**
Alexis Walters & Trent Dickerson

**The Always There Award**
Alicia Houser

**The Overachiever Award**
Britnee Smalls

**Peer Mentor of the Year Award**
Michelle Manning & James Mitchell

**ROAR Scholar of the Year Award**
Brittany Counts

**Professional Mentor Award**
Dr. Renard Harris & Marla Robertson

Dr. Renard Empowering the crowd.
The ACHIEVERS (3.5-4.0)
Carrissa Jenkins
Samuel McCauley
Erin Spencer
Alicia Houser
Jorge Jaramillo
Joseph Tan
Jessica Parker

The REACHERS (3.0-3.49)
Kelsey Young
Ashley Burton
Darshonda Guess
J'Dian Bennett
Tasheera Cooper
Tiffany Alexander
Tavaris Jones
Janice Garrett
Brittany Gandy
Taylor Tapia
Shaenna Lambert

Tristan Hawkins introducing the keynote speaker, Dr. Renard Harris.

Coca-Cola Scholars pose for a picture with Coca-Cola Sponsor.

END OF THE YEAR BANQUET CONTINUED...
Graduation is a time of celebration. For the past four years, maybe more for some, you have worked hard, pulled all-nighters, drank thousands of dollars’ worth of coffee, made your way pass the hardest professors, and mastered a schedule that would drive anyone insane. You did it! You are now on the brink of crossing the Cistern into the real world!

Although this time is for celebrating your achievements and a job well done, let’s face it…it’s pretty darn scary too. Every person that you know is asking that question, “So what are your plans after college?” and you may not have an answer. If your eyes aren’t set on graduate or professional school, you know that you need a job. You need a job fast, because bills aren’t going to pay themselves.

I know it can be intimidating, and I know that searching for a fulltime job is the ultimate struggle, especially if you have never looked for one before. You have left the little leagues of part time positions and have been drafted by the big leagues of entry level positions. Don’t worry! If you use the tips below, you are surely on the right path to securing post graduate employment.

1. **Looking for a fulltime job is a fulltime job.** There is no way around this. Remember that finding a job might take a little more time than you are expecting. On average, it takes a college graduate about six months to secure post grad employment. So don’t get discouraged! You will find the right fit in time.

2. **Broaden your horizons.** When it comes to searching for fulltime employment, consider expanding your search to another city, state, or coast. There are a lot of companies that will hire you and PAY for you to relocate. Plus, it can be quicker way to gain employment.

3. **Cover Letters and Resumes are now your BFF.** Yes, they are a pain, but they are mandatory. With every position that you apply for, make sure that you are catering your cover letter and resume to fit each individual job description. Don’t send out the same resume to multiple positions. Remember, if you want it, work for it. It is as simple as that.

4. **Clean up your social media.** Anything incriminating will be detrimental to your job search. If you think that companies won’t look at everything, you’re wrong. Think about how easy it is to Google something. Be smart. If you wouldn’t want your potential boss to see it, then delete it.

5. **Failing to prepare is preparing to FAIL.** The Career Center is your safe haven. Use it. Okay, now reread those two sentences again. I’ll wait. Now that you have reread them, let me tell you why. The Career Center is the GURU when it comes to starting your career. They stay up to date on trends with resumes and cover letters, have knowledge about using Linkedin, are in constant contact with employers all over who are looking for potential candidates, and live in a world immersed in career related activities. Who better to help you out? Not your mom, uncle, or friend’s parents. When it comes to your career, use a professional. Besides, since you went to the College of Charleston, the Career Center is at your fingertips for LIFE.

6. **Remember, you are the captain of your destiny.** Don’t ever think that once you get a job you have to stay in that position forever. Yes, it would be nice to stay with a company and grow with it, but keep yourself open to new opportunities. You never know what the future holds. The average person changes his or her career three times in a lifetime. You are young, vibrant and full of life. It’s your life and your career.

With all that being said, don’t let the stress of post graduation get to you. If you put in the work, do your research and prepare, things will naturally fall into place. They always do.

BY: Shawntell Pace

Don’t Forget that ROAR is moving on May 29th!!

Back Home to Lightsey Center
The ROAR Scholars Program is looking for an artistic COFC student to paint a multicultural and inclusion themed mural for our new office.

Interested? Contact Tom Holcomb at holcombtf@cofc.edu or call (843) 953-6434.

A prince on a mission to rescue his princess encounters a wizard who will not let him pass unless he can move safely through one of 3 rooms. The first is full of raging fires, the second is full of assassins with loaded guns, and the third is full of lions that haven’t eaten in 3 years. Which room is safest for him?