WHAT’S NEW AT ROAR? SUMMER HIGHLIGHTS...

Updates on our new digs, introducing Appointment Manager, etc. By: Kelly Hodo

With summer winding down, the ROAR staff is ready to welcome students back to campus and to share news of some exciting developments taking place in the office! As many of you have seen and heard, ROAR recently completed its highly anticipated move back to the Lightsey Center. Our newly renovated office is located on the basement level of the building in room B-63 and is divided into two sections with separate entrances. When you visit ROAR, you will see two doors; the one on the left will lead you to the main office, where the front desk, resource library and staff offices are located, while the door on the right (accessible by code) leads to ROAR’s new study area, complete with laptops and iPads for student use, dry-erase boards and two peer mentor bays. To make the space more unique to ROAR, we hired recent CofC graduate Tommy Fox to paint a mural in the study room, which has definitely added some personality to the office! Stop by soon for a tour!

ROAR is also in the process of implementing some new technology! Appointment Manager is an online portal that will allow students to make their appointments via MyCharleston. Now students will be able to schedule appointments as needed without having to call or visit the office, which will hopefully allow for a more efficient process. Here’s how it works: Navigate to the Academic Services tab of MyCharleston and click the “Log-in to Appointment Manager” link. You will then be directed to the welcome screen. When prompted to log-in, enter your College issued log-in credentials (the same as your MyCharleston and CofC email) and click on the ROAR tab. You will then be able to access your ROAR advisor’s schedule and make an appointment based on his or her availability. Students will receive more detailed instructions as we get closer to the first day of classes. We can’t wait to try it out!
“We really want these students to build a relationship with faculty and staff members, as well as with each other, prior to the start of classes,” says Tom Holcomb, director of the ROAR Scholars Program. “By developing these connections, they have a support system in place, which we believe gives them a greater chance of success. It is far less intimidating to go to your first class if you’ve already had conversations with faculty.”

Participants will have the opportunity to move in early on August 13, 2014 before beginning three days of intensive preparation accompanied by academic support. This year’s adjunct faculty includes returners Valeria Frazier from the English department, Mark Del-Mastro from Hispanic Studies and David Michener from Multicultural Student Programs and Services. Dr. Frazier will introduce the students to college level writing core skills and will discuss the ins and outs of writing an effective college paper with revision support and personalized suggestions for improvement. Dr. DelMastro will give the students a jump start on tackling foreign language in college. A new addition to the team this year is African American Studies professor, Dr. Anthony Greene. Dr. Greene will give a presentation titled “Seeing is Believing: Racial Stereotyping in America.”

Resident success guru David Michener, in collaboration with Tom Holcomb, will be co-facilitating Freshman 101, a workshop on college survival skills, along with an interactive activity titled Journey to Graduation. In addition, Holcomb will facilitate workshops on Goal Setting, as well as Thinking & Learning, and will round out the workshop series with the ladies from the Center for Student Learning, Lindy Coleman and Melissa Hortman, with a workshop on Test Taking Preparation.

This year, as always, we are excited and ready to greet our new students and transfer students at the College of Charleston. Please help me give a warm welcome to this year’s Operation College Success cohort!

Eduardo Abreu
Adrienne Daniel
Jamelia Graham
Georgetta Jones
Joshua Mack

Tanya Mixon
Lorraine Russell
Bilal Warid
Shakara Williamson
Jeff Wonder
Student Success Stories

SPOTLIGHT ON…

Kirstie Sims

Introduce yourself: Name, hometown, major at CofC and year you graduated, current job/internship/field of study, hobbies, and one interesting fact about yourself.

My name is Kirstie Sims and I’m from Darlington, SC. I graduated from the College of Charleston in May 2012 with a BS in Psychology. I currently attend The Citadel’s Graduate College where I’m pursuing a master’s degree in Counselor Education with a concentration in Student Affairs. I also work at the College of Charleston as a Residence Hall Director and I’m the intern in the ROAR Scholar’s office. For fun, I like to watch movies and Netflix. One interesting fact about me is that I went to college with my brother and sister.

Where are you now? Tell us a little bit about your post-graduation endeavors. Has anything exciting happened in your life, career-wise or personally, since you left the College of Charleston?

After graduating from the College of Charleston, I’ve had a lot of experiences which challenged me to do some soul searching and fostered internal growth. Some experiences I had to overcome were living alone, making new friends after many of my friends graduated from college, and just overall trying to be a better me. I was able to buy my first car this year which was an exciting moment for me! I went to New York for New Years this past year, also.

Have any of your experiences as a member of the ROAR Scholars Program assisted you in achieving your goals as a graduate? What would you say is the most valuable thing that you’ve taken from ROAR?

The most valuable thing I’ve taken away from ROAR is that if I need help I am familiar with the resources that are available to me.

Do you have any advice for current students on how to prepare for the real world? What is one thing you wish you knew before you graduated?

My advice is to do what you want to do and don’t worry about getting approval from others. Also, focus on the present and what you can control now.

If you could travel to one place in the world expense-free, where would you go and why?

If I could travel to one place expense-free, I would go to Spain because I hear they have good food, they take naps, and I want to experience a different culture!
Every year the ROAR Scholars program receives individual requests during the summer months to provide programming in the form of academic, career and personal development workshops to Upward Bound, Gear-Up and programs like Bridges to a Brighter Future. This summer was no exception. Once again, ROAR was asked to present some cutting edge and engaging workshops to students on various topics. During the months of June and July, the ROAR Scholars Program, with Director Tom Holcomb Jr. and Citadel intern, Kirstie Sims, co-facilitated two workshops that were geared toward teenage audiences participating in two TRIO access summer programs. On June 17 and June 24, ROAR presented an interactive workshop called Managing Conflict Through Your Teenage Years. We decided to use the theme of superheroes and utilize the popular Marvel Comics X-men characters in an exciting workshop focused on helping our Upward Bound and GEAR-Up students learn how to navigate through and manage conflict. Tom Holcomb, aka, “Beast McCoy,” and Kirstie Sims, aka “Storm,” took on roles as X-men characters to help teach students the importance of working through conflict and talking with a trained professional, such as a TRIO counselor/advisor, school counselor, principal, coach or mentor, when they feel like they need to discuss their emotions with someone. They emphasized the importance of being positive and proactive so that you can control your emotions rather than allowing them to control you.

In addition to X-men Flash Forward, ROAR also conducted an Avengers-themed workshop for Upward Bound on June 23 on the topic of Managing Time & Stress Effectively. The key concepts in this workshop included: priorities, planning, discipline, organization, and meditation and relaxation techniques. ROAR was also asked by the Admissions team and by the Center for Student Learning to help co-facilitate a goal setting workshop on July 8, 2014. Lindy Coleman and Tom co-facilitated a workshop using Prezi titled “Goal Setting 101” for the Beckham Scholars Program from Wando High School.

As always it is an honor and pleasure for ROAR to work with such a great team of higher education and student development professionals in serving college bound students with academic, career and personal development workshops. ROAR would like to thank Upward Bound, GEAR-UP, the Beckham Scholars and the Center for Student Learning and Admissions team for the wonderful opportunities.

By: Tom Holcomb, Jr.
Manage your time.
Time is of the essence, and the key to managing your time is prioritizing. To avoid moments of panic, you should learn to manage your time and find a way to keep track of what you have going on. There are many devices and items designed for keeping up with your schedule, such as calendars, agendas, phones, tablets, etc. It is up to you to figure out what caters best to your needs. Next, gather all of your schedules - class, work, clubs, events, and so on. Once you have all of this information and have placed the times and locations on your “time management device,” the next step is to fill in due dates for assignments or other projects you will be working on for the school year. Then, you need to create a good balance of study time and free time. Figure out when you're going to study for each class, then, based on due dates, decide when you want to complete your assignments. And, of course, you'll need time to relax and enjoy college life, so it’s not weird to actually pencil in free time!

Get your schedule in order.
Before the semester begins, you need to make sure you have met with your advisor to determine which classes you need to take for the upcoming semester. After your schedule is made, you can figure out where all of your classes are so you won't get lost on the first day of class.

Purchase supplies.
Successful students are always prepared. First, make sure you've bought your books. Sometimes professors have a reading assignment due the first day of class, and you don’t want to fall behind. Also, make sure you have pens, pencils, paper, binders, notebooks and other supplies you may need for class.

Know your resources.
The campus community has departments that help students with anything you can think of from A to Z. For example, we have a counseling center, health services, career services, financial aid, and victim services. Know what resources are available on campus and what each department does. In addition, you have the ROAR Scholars office as a resource that can refer you to an office that can help with your specific problem or concern.

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Be engaged!
The College also offers many clubs and organizations that you can join. Students can get involved in clubs related to their academics, like the Psychology Club, or they can choose something completely unrelated, like the Homecoming Committee. Look here for more information about clubs on campus:

Go Cougars Go!
Get into the school spirit! When you’re putting together your class and study schedules, be sure to set aside some time to have fun. Plan to meet up with your friends to go to a Cougars game to support our players. Having school spirit can make you feel connected to the school and the people here.

WELCOME BACK!
Tips to help you transition back into classes and prepare for academic success
By: Kirstie Sims

Summer break will soon be over and fall classes will be here before you know it! For some of you, this is your first time taking college courses and you have no idea what to expect. For others, you've just completed summer courses and you can’t fully grasp how quickly the summer has gone by. Then, for some of you, work life has consumed you and you’re patting yourself on the back because you made enough money to pay for some of your books this year. This article will let you know how to prepare for a successful school year in and outside the classroom.
Despite my fear of flying I had the pleasure of traveling to Barbados. I even got on a boat and rode a jet ski. If you had asked me a year ago if I would have done any of these things I would have said no. However, I realize that it is better to do something when you have the opportunity to do so. No one in my family has been outside of the country. Initially, I was worried about getting on an airplane but it was not as bad as I expected. I was able to take two African American Studies courses while experiencing the island of Barbados.

I have learned that Charleston and Barbados have a shared history that stretches all the way back to the Colonial Period. Barbadian planters went to Charleston to create a staple crop, which later turned out to be rice because it was more successful there. This interaction can be seen centuries later in both Charleston and Barbados. I have seen rainbow houses in both places. The Bajan dialect is similar to the Gullah language spoken in Charleston. From being exposed to the Barbadians, I have a new respect for the Black Charlestonians. When I was in Charleston, I looked down on the people with a Geechi accent because it was not proper English. Since being exposed to the Bajan people, I have been able to pick up on their native tongue. It is a part of their culture the same way it is for Black Charlestonians.

I found the way that Barbadians see themselves to be fascinating; they do not hyphenate their ethnicity. They simply see each other as Barbadians. I am used to being in the U.S. and identifying myself as Black American instead of simply American. In the United States we spend the majority of our time dividing ourselves and sticking to the One Drop Rule that we do not have one identity as a nation. I would love for everyone in the U.S. to be seen more cohesively instead of being divided by race. Before I went to Barbados, I thought that people would assume that I was Barbadian because I am Black. I soon learned that on an island of predominantly Black people, they know who is Barbadian and who is not before they even speak. They could easily tell that we were not from there.

Overall I had an amazing two weeks in Barbados. Unfortunately, we did not have many interactions with other students. We were not able to get their perspective on Barbados so we had to gain information for ourselves. I think if we had our own personal student guide that would have enhanced our experience. My recommendation for the program is for a student guide to be assigned to the group to provide insight for the study abroad students.
Every year, the College of Charleston offers many opportunities for students to fund their education through scholarships and grants. These forms of funding differ from loans, which must be paid back in full with interest. Scholarships, typically awarded on the basis of academic merit, and grants, usually earned based on financial need, are essentially “free money” and do not require repayment. For more information regarding scholarships and grants you may qualify for at the College of Charleston, as well as financial aid in general, please visit the following website:


You may access outside scholarship opportunities here:

www.fastweb.com

Current members of the ROAR Scholars Program may also apply for grant aid through the program. Please be advised of the following information regarding ROAR grant aid for the 2014-2015 academic year:

- ROAR Grant Aid does not renew until September 1, 2014.
- We will conduct a 15-20 minute review session regarding ROAR grant aid at ROAR Scholar Orientation. This is mandatory and will take place on August 21, 2014 at 4:30 p.m.
- There will be a make-up session on August 25, 2014 at 12:00 p.m.
- Following Orientation, you will have a 2 week time period to submit your application for ROAR grant aid and schedule your advising session. The deadline to submit your application is September 12, 2014.
- You must bring your academic history and financial aid statement to your grant aid session. Both statements can be printed off from your MyCharleston portal.
- Current ROAR students should be sure to have completed all their program requirements and evaluations before submitting an application for ROAR grant aid.

Please make sure that you contact your regional and state congressman and woman to say thank you for putting a temporary hold on the sequestration. We have more funds to spread around this year!

In addition, please remember that grant aid is targeted toward ROAR freshmen and sophomores first, then juniors and seniors. We ask that you think hard about your financial situation. If you need additional support, please consider applying.
ROAR SCHOLAR ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Be in the know of all things ROAR...

Please welcome our new Peer Mentors!

Lauren Silver  Alicia Houser  Tavaris Jones

Taylor Tapia  Elizabeth Gerdes  Courtney Lawrence

Jordan Smith  Jordan Kelley  Trent Dickerson  Brian Herrera

Why is it against the law for a man living in Delhi to be buried in Mumbai?

Answer to the last riddle: The room with the lions. Lions who haven’t eaten in 3 years are dead.