Let Me Hear You ROAR

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Summer ‘12
◆ Summer Interns
◆ Staff/Mentor Retreat
◆ Upward Bound
◆ Summer Preview Workshops (SPECTRA/incoming freshmen)
◆ Transitional education during upcoming organized chaos

“8 Keys of Excellence”

Have you ever wanted a way of igniting change within yourself with a roadmap with keys to success? This year’s 2012-2013 program theme will be the 8 Keys of Excellence. The 8 Keys of excellence were developed by Learning Forum Co-Founder and President, Bobbi DePorter and educational pioneer Dr. Georgi Lozanov. She Co-founded Super Camp/Learning Forum in 1981 with Eric Jensen and further developed with Joe Chapon. Bobbi DePorter, renowned real estate broker, went through a major shift in her life after losing millions from the stock market and the housing decline. After this defeat she did not give up, so she decided to travel the U.S asking professionals questions regarding their success and the secret to their success stories. She interviewed such celebrities such as host Oprah Winfrey, to basketball hall of famer Michael Jordan.

The following questions were asked:
- What makes you successful?
- What sets you apart from other people?
- And how have you been able to retain your success?

These keys act as a basic framework for personal effectiveness. When you hold yourself accountable for how you apply the keys, others are more willing to be held accountable for their own choices and actions. The following are a listing of keys.

The 8 Keys are:
- Integrity
- Failure Leads to Success
- Speak With Good Purpose, “This Is It!”
- Commitment
- Ownership
- Flexibility and Balance

A major study by Dr. Victor Battistich, an expert in the field who devoted much of his adult life to the study of character education, found only two factors showed a significant direct link to improving good character and effectively preventing bad behavior: positive relationships with one’s family and a sense of connectedness to school.

“As students grow in character, they grow in their capacity and commitment to do their best work, do the right thing and lead lives of purpose.”
– Dr. Victor Battistich

I personally have experienced the 8 keys of excellence and utilize them in my personal, professional and daily life and I have seen them work wonders in my own life. Applying the 8 keys of excellence to our program we are invoking a sense of responsibility and ownership with our students. Acknowledging that are students live busy lives, but challenging them to be engaged and active in their own learning process that will help lay a foundation, for the success of all of our students in college and the future success of the ROAR Scholars Program.

Tom Holcomb Jr., MS Director of ROAR Scholars Program, College of Charleston
Let Me Hear You R.O.A.R.

Summer Interns

Each summer, we bring on a summer intern to help with planning for the new school year, data entry, and also to help with our summer training sessions (for staff and our peer mentors).

This year we will actually have two summer interns to split up these duties. First off, we are bringing back Drew Ellis from last year, who has recently finished up his master’s degree program at the Citadel’s graduate school. Also joining us will be one of our peer mentors and students, Britnee Smalls.

We are extremely glad and excited to have them lending a helping hand to us during their fairly busy summertime.

Always There (Support Award): Alicia Houser & Britnee Smalls

This is an honor given during the spring award banquet to those who are literally there when we need them most.

Alicia Houser (on left) is a rising sophomore at the College. She is on our student advisory board and is very active throughout our program, i.e. events, input, and referrals of new students.

Britnee Smalls (on right) is a rising senior at the College. She is one of our summer interns as well as a ROAR Scholars peer mentor during the normal academic year. She is a Psychology/Education Major with minors in Computer Science and African American Studies.

Peer Mentor of the Year: Megan Alder

Megan Alder is a graduating senior this year and we are so glad to be able to honor her with this award for her outstanding job as a peer mentor this year.

We would also like to wish her good luck with her career plans as she was able to land a position working with the Charleston Symphony Orchestra!

GPA Spotlight

Each Newsletter we highlight the Academic achievement of our students:

3.0 – 3.49:
- Dominique Awis
- Erin Byrum
- Tomika Caldwell
- Tasheera Cooper
- Matthew Corder
- Andrea DeLeon
- Allyson Elrod-Bloom
- Sylricka Foster
- Andrey Gause
- Vannessa Hancock
- Courtney Lawrence
- Manale Patel
- Swati Patel
- Roysen Philson
- Dylan Reddy
- Victoria Reilly
- Terry Ridges
- Emerald Sims
- Kassandra Solano
- Rachel Spivey
- Haley Thomas
- Raven Timmons
- Priscillia White
- Kacie Woolridge
- Jamie Wright

3.5 – 4.0:
- Elizabeth Budd
- Alicia Houser
- Oxana Kibitkina
- Shaenna Lambert
- Michelle Wimbish
- Rockv Wone

Student Spotlight

Priscillia White is a rising senior at the College and is a Psychology Major. She is a volunteer for the “Green Heart Project” as well as a regular volunteer at MUSC. Throughout it all, she stays extremely focused on her school work as well as her mentees; she is also a peer mentor for the ROAR scholars and is this year’s recipient of the “Scholar of the Year” award.

ROAR Scholar of the Year:
Priscillia White

Tom Holcomb, during last year’s staff/peer mentor training
SLDC (Student Leadership & Diversity Conference)

On February 4, 2012 the ROAR Scholars Program in collaboration with the Multicultural Student Programs and Services Office took students to the 26th annual Student Leadership & Diversity Conference held at University of South Carolina Columbia. This year’s theme was, “Ignite Change.” The following ROAR Scholars attended the conference; Terry Ridges, Paul Bradley Jr., Rocky Wong, Linda Tran, Manale Patel, Swati Patel and Natalie Le Dang. The conference opened up with our keynote speaker Joshua Fredenburg, a national leadership speaker, author and expert on current issues and effective leadership strategies for members of Generation Y. Fredenburg talked about having vision, self-awareness, exceptional character, having a dream team, people skills, and resiliency and believe in your vision. These are the keys to being a successful leader in the 21st century.

I had an opportunity to sit in on the advisors roundtable and talk about hot topics with my colleagues around the state and the eastern coastal region. We talked about innovative ways of engaging our students, staff and focusing toward goals of our individual departments. In addition to this workshop I also had an opportunity to attend various other workshops from Challenging Homophobia: Bystander to Advocate to Diversity: Disability & Inclusion. This was a wonderful workshop on working with individuals who have disabilities especially physical disabilities and the challenges they face in their daily lives. Prior to this workshop USC was undergoing a major updating of accommodations according to the ADA regulations for students with disabilities act.

Swati Patel, Junior Psychology Major had this to say about this year’s SLDC conference;

“One of the main skills I believe I have learned from this year’s SLDC is communication. I have learned to network with my fellow peers that are also interested in leadership and diversity. Along with making new friends that are students of CofC, I have made friends from other schools out of state that I will keep contact with! I also learned that dressing to impress really does make a difference when it comes to meeting professionals.

I enjoyed every session that I attended at the conference. From the interviewing session to the service and leadership session, I learned various skills that I can put to use to help develop my career and activities I take on as an undergraduate! The keynote speaker during lunch was absolutely amazing! She was a very inspiring, charismatic woman and really helped me look at life and professionalism in a different perspective. I would say that this conference was a great success and I think that ROAR should keep going every year!!”

MLK Day Challenge

Community service and civic engagement is another piece of our program that is definitely paramount to the development of our students as complete citizens in our society. Thus, we require a minimum amount of this activity from each of our students each semester they are with us. This year ROAR collaborated with others in creating and implementing programming for the annual MLK Day Challenge. This coincides with a weeklong celebration of the famed civil rights leader, Martin Luther King Jr., and what it means to be a “servant of the people”. One of the activities chosen for the civic engagement portion was volunteering at the Children’s Museum of the Lowcountry.

Program Director, Tom Holcomb took lead on this site where the students were given tasks ranging from painting to gardening. In the afternoon, students from the MUSC graduate program joined in on the volunteering frenzy that was in process. Local news stations also showed up and captured the artistic works of the students who were volunteering outside of the museum via painting.
Awards Banquet

Each year the ROAR Scholars Program holds an awards banquet to honor our students for their commitment and hardwork throughout each semester to their academics and the ROAR Scholars Program. We give out awards for both our students and peer mentors based on their performances as either a student or mentor within the program.

The staff organizes this event for the students, and we go all out for the students at this final event of the year. First off, we had a great menu for the banquet; Aramark did an excellent job with the catering. Alongside the great meal was a slide show of all of the accomplishments and accolades received by our students during the academic year. We would like to thank Bretticca for compiling this slide show highlighting our students.

Also this year, we were lucky enough to have a speaker, African American Studies Professor Roneka Matheny. This was a treat, as she told her own unique story of reaching for academic excellence and the obstacles that face us all; however we must stay focused and find support wherever it may exist and keep on. It turned out to be a great program and even better year for our students and staff!

Jazz Benefit Concert

Our staff loves to do collaborative work with other programs around campus. We especially enjoy giving a helping hand whenever possible. We were able to accomplish both this year through the annual Upward Bound Jazz Benefit Concert.

Put on by the Upward Bound program at the College of Charleston, this benefit concert is an important event that raises money for the Upward Bound scholarship fund that was created by the program for its students. This scholarship fund helps those who are going into their first year of college handle the monetary expenses that are a part of higher education in our country.

The event was held in the presidents’ garden and hosted by Mrs. Jane Benson. The music was provided by local Charleston area Jazz musicians, who were superb to say the least. Our program sponsored two tables for our students, so that they may attend to show support for another TRiO program, but also to gain cultural event credits and cultural exposure (part of their iROAR contracts).

There was plenty of dancing, great food, and good company. The students enjoyed themselves and learned a few dance moves as they were a part of a very successful night of fundraising.

The Big Move
(Going to Lightsey)

The end of the spring semester has been a very busy time for our office as we slowed down our operation and began planning for next year. On top of all of the graduation excitement, Spoleto, and new peer mentor interviews we are glad to announce that we have finally begun moving into our new space in the Lightsey Center. So, beginning this summer ROAR will be located in the basement in room B61. Stop by and say hello when you have a chance!
Graduating Seniors  
(Roar Scholars & Mentors)

Congratulations to our seniors, the first class of students to graduate as ROAR Scholars. The message I leave is a famous poem, for the College Graduate:

“Graduating College is a wonderful time in your life... a time for reflecting on the friends you’ve made, the happiness you’ve found, the dedication which has brought you where you are now...”

This year I have the great pleasure and honor of recognizing our graduating seniors both ROAR Scholars and Peer Mentors:

**Graduating ROAR Scholars:**
- Jasmine “Dayse” Garcia May 2012
- Katreena Mitchell May 2012
- Kristy “Emerald” Sims, May 2012
- Rocky Wong May 2012

**Graduating Peer Mentors:**
- Allison Gerrits May 2012
- Jamie Wright, December 2012
- Lizzie Budd, December 2012
- Megan Adler May 2012
- Tyler Canty May 2012

In addition we wanted to wish Andrew Ellis, aka Drew, well as he just finished his Master’s degree in Education and college counseling from the Citadel here in Charleston, South Carolina. We wish him success and hope that he finds the career he has been searching for.

In closing, the rest of the written poem, “Graduation”:

“It’s a time when your hopes and dreams are fulfilled, and a time to look forward to the wonderful future which lays ahead – a future you’ve worked so very hard for. Congratulations!!!”

We are really proud of all of you thank you for your time, patience, and invaluable support of helping us complete the first 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 our graduating seniors will reside within our hearts for years to come. See you in a few years for alumni follow-up please keep us posted of our success stories, developments and goals in your near future. Remember the ROAR Scholars Program is a family and we want to know what’s happening in your life!

*Tom Holcomb Jr., MS*
*Program Director*
Summer Tips and Plans

1. Apply for Scholarships
2. Read a Book
3. Get a Job
4. Participate in Recreation
5. Work in an Internship
6. Start a Blog (or write on ours ROAR Blog)
7. Volunteer
8. Join a community group
9. Try a new video game
10. Learn an instrument
11. Get a head start on your fall classes
12. Set up systems for success for the new year
13. Take an online class
14. Build a personal website
15. Try a new kind of food or restaurant.
16. Experiment in the kitchen/Learn to cook
17. Go to a museum
18. Go through your old stuff and donate what you don’t use or need
19. Go to a play
20. Go to a film festival
21. Go to a concert
22. Clean up your e-life
23. Host your own Iron Chef competition.
24. Head to an amusement park

Scholarships

Scholarships can be found at fastweb.com
A list will be in the upcoming newsletter.

Riddle Me This:

What gets wetter and wetter the more it dries?

Answer will be in the next issue of the newsletter.

The previous riddle:
“A woman shoots her husband. Then she holds him underwater for over 5 minutes. Finally, she hangs him. But 5 minutes later they both go out together and enjoy a wonderful dinner together. How can this be?”

Answer:
She is a photographer. She “shot” her husband and then developed the film.