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“Happy New Year”

The ROAR Scholars Program is happy to be starting its 3rd official year at the College of Charleston. Also with this New Year at the college the program will have some new initiatives and program directives. For one, we are now in our third new location. Last year we were welcomed with open arms into the Lightsey Center. We were extremely excited and enamored with the space and fully utilized it as best we could. The ROAR Scholars students were in love with space and it was hard to break them away; however, the new space located in the Education Center (Suite 207) is wonderful. It will only be a temporary location for the ROAR Scholars program, as we prepare to move back into a newly renovated space in the Lightsey Center. The new space is located on the second floor of the Education Center in the old Center for the Documentary film studios. Also new to the ROAR Scholars Program will be our program counselor. During the summer, Ms. Bretticca Moody departed the program to seek “greener pastures” in the graduate school world. Her departure left many students with wet eyes; however, we know that people must grow and expand. So, we wish Ms. Moody all the luck in the world with her schooling and look forward to seeing her soon! With that being said we hope to have this position filled no later than the middle of October in time for spring advising.

Operation College Success

This year our office held its 2nd annual Operation College Success – Boot Camp for incoming College of Charleston freshmen. We had a total of 14 attendees this year that came from a wide array of places within the state of South Carolina. We even had a student from the District of Columbia (Washington, D.C.) join us this year. Within the three days that we hosted the students, we focused on sharing with them skills that we know will prepare them for their first semester of college here in Charleston. These skills ranged from foreign language and writing to communication and learning styles. Our students were lucky enough to have both Dr. Mark Del Mastro (Department of Hispanic Studies) and Dr. Valerie Frazier (Department of English) assist us with these classes and preparatory work for the second year in a row. Besides the “rigorous” work schedule, we did take the students on some social outings to the movies and local eateries.
Student Success Stories

Each year we like to post profiles on our students, especially those who are particularly successful or have had stories of “greatness” to share. This summer we have two students that we would like to share with our “friends and family”. There were many others, but these two made sure to deliver their information in a timely manner. Both Paul Bradley Jr. and Courtney Lawrence were/are dynamic and capable students in our program. Paul Bradley recently graduated from our program (Spring 2013) and has been a very lively and welcome part of our program for the last 2 ½ years. On the other hand, Courtney Lawrence joined our preliminary summer bridge program upon her first semester at the College of Charleston. During her time with our program she has been a great student despite circumstances that have made this very difficult.

Paul Anthony Bradley Jr.

Paul Anthony Bradley Jr. is a recent College of Charleston, ROAR Scholar, and TRiO program alum. In addition to ROAR, Paul’s Trio involvement included his four years as a participant in the Trident Technical College Upward Bound Math & Science Program and four years as tutoring coordinator for the CofC Upward Bound program. Currently, Paul is a graduate student at Georgia Southern University (GSU). Paul is currently pursuing his Masters in Counselor Education with a concentration in Student Services. Furthermore, Paul is a graduate assistant for GSU’s Office of Student Activities with the responsibilities of assisting the program coordinators as well as advising student organizations to plan effective programs for students that will enhance their experience at the university. Paul says he looks forward to having a great experience at GSU and plans to take advantage of all the opportunities he possibly can, as he did here at CofC. He also wishes all the current ROAR Scholars an awesome semester. Paul’s ultimate goal is to continue the reality he started at the college with his saying, “I am who I am, I am going to be who I be, Paul Anthony Bradley Jr. That’s me.”

Courtney Lawrence

This past school year, Courtney Lawrence was honored to be named a recipient of the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship in order to help finance her study abroad experience in London, England this summer. While abroad, Courtney took classes toward her Theatre major. She studied Screen Acting with the President of the UK Film Festival and also took an intensive class studying Shakespeare at the Globe Theatre. Courtney was able to see many shows at the Globe, as well as on the West End during her time in London. She also had the privilege to speak with cast members as well as learn different aspects of theatre (costuming, voice, movement, text analysis, etc.) from some of the most respected professionals in their fields.

As part of receiving the Gilman Scholarship Courtney will also undertake a service project this semester in which she will be working closely with the Study Abroad Office and Center for Disability Services (SNAP). Her plan is to work with these two offices in creating a source that will provide useful information and helpful tips which will be made available to all students with a disability who wish to study abroad. Hopefully, this project will help to encourage other students to take advantage of the opportunity to study abroad, allowing them to make their own unforgettable and life-altering experiences, just as she has been fortunate enough to do.
Staff & Peer Mentor Retreat

Each and every year the ROAR Scholars program takes 2-3 days to host a staff and mentor retreat. During this retreat the staff and peer mentors undergo group bonding and teamwork activities to help prepare us for the upcoming school year. We also use this time to do the bulk of event preparation and scheduling for the semester. In doing so, we utilized the book “Life Entrepreneurs: Ordinary people creating extraordinary lives” in creating the goals and trajectory of the program for our staff and mentors this year. We were able to host our mentors and staff, who attended the retreat, at the Carolina King Retreat on Lake Marion in Summerton, SC. It was a beautiful location with plenty of space to complete all of our goals and activities this year. The staff was extremely helpful and there was even a quaint little general store located on the premises. I know that the staff and mentors gained a lot from this trip and it gave us a heads start on preparation for the new academic year. This was especially important as we have added 8 new peer mentors to the staff.

Coca-Cola Scholars

If you do not know, TRiO programs received budgetary cuts of 5.23% across the board this fiscal year. This led our contact in D.C. to suggest cutting our student load to 133 and possibly cutting the amount of aid that we are able to distribute to students. However, due to support on campus (Don Burkard) and hard work by our program director, Tom Holcomb, we were able to receive the prestigious Coca-Cola Scholars program. This program allowed us to award five students that will be funded with $5,000 per year for 4 years at a total funding of $100,000. This was extremely vital for our program as it enabled us to keep our program numbers at maximum capacity while still funding students in need with financial aid. It is also a very good chance to create collaboration and corporate partnership with a company looking to do well in the community. I look forward to our future working with Coca-Cola as we help our scholars reach their academic and career goals. If you would like to view more information on the Coca-Cola Scholarship Foundation please click the link. Also if you click the Coca-Cola Scholarship Foundation logo above it will direct you to a video about students who received the award last year.

Back Row (L to R): Alexis Walters, Rico Orr, Tom Holcomb, Anwar Staggers
Front Row (L to R): Ally Bloom, Jessica Parker, Brittany Counts, Samantha Morrison.
Welcome Back to Classes

1. Go to all orientations
2. Get to know your roommate
3. Get organized
4. Find the ideal place for you to study
5. Go to class
6. Become an expert on course requirements and due dates
7. Meet with your professors
8. Get to know your academic advisor
9. Seek a balance
10. Get involved on campus
11. Strive for good grades
12. Take advantage of the study resources on campus
13. Make time for you
14. Don’t feel pressured to make a hasty decision about a career or a major
15. Take responsibility for yourself and your actions
16. Make connections with students in your classes
17. Find the Career Center
18. Don’t procrastinate; prioritize your life
19. Stay healthy/ Eat Right
20. Learn to cope with homesickness
21. Stay on campus as much as possible
22. Seek professional help when you need it.
23. Keep track of your money
24. Don’t cut corners
25. Be prepared to feel overwhelmed

Scholarships

- Got Chosen Scholarship (Sept 30th)
- College Prowler Scholarship (Sept 30th)
- US Fulbright Study Abroad Grant (Oct 15th)
- Noet Humanities Scholarship (Oct. 30th)
- James G. Farnsworth Health Careers Scholarship (Oct. 31st)
- Blue Innovates Student Challenge (Nov. 22nd)
- Dr. Pepper Tuition Giveaway (Dec. 13th)
- Shine Bright Scholarship (Dec. 15th)
- Save A Life Scholarship (Dec. 19th)

More Information and Scholarships can be found at fastweb.com

Check us out online!!!

Riddle Me This:
Why do people feel stronger on Saturdays and Sundays?

Answer will be in the next issue of the newsletter.

The previous riddle:
“What stays inside no matter how much you put it out?”

Answer:
A Light