Greetings from the Office of Multicultural Student Programs and Services (MSPS). We are excited to welcome the Class of 2023 and our returning students to campus.

MSPS will kick-off our first 2019-2020 newsletter by sharing highlights from the 2019 SPECTRA Program, SPECTRA student achievements, and snippets from the Mentoring Matters Meet and Greet. Spread the word, MSPS and the Office of Admissions worked in partnership to open two new multi-faith prayer spaces on campus, and don’t forget to peruse our upcoming events. Last but certainly not least, a farewell message from our very own, Ashley Ragin,’16, former MSPS Administrative and Support Services Specialist.

Be sure to follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram @cofc_msps to stay up to date. Each e-newsletter will be posted on our website and social media accounts. We hope you’re excited as we are for all of the wonderful things to come, and thanks for reading!

Sincerely,
The Office of Multicultural Student Programs and Services

We're Happy to Have You Here

Hey Everyone,

I hope all is going well at CofC! I know some of you may have been wondering what happened to me when you returned and I wish I could’ve properly said goodbye to many of you. There were some big decisions I needed to make over the summer which ultimately ended up with me choosing to depart CofC. No matter what life throws at you continue to be your true self and work towards your dreams. Well, until we meet again I hope you all continue to live, laugh, and learn.

With Love,
Ashley Ragin
In July 2019, Patrick O’Reilly joined the new cohort of SCAMP students that would be arriving on campus in the fall semester. He describes his summer experience as being “the most comfortable I’ve ever felt in an academic setting because lots of people looked like me.” The level of comfort felt during the summer program made easing into a new setting more stress-free.

As a Biology major, Patrick aspires to teach at the collegiate level. Before entering the College, he had the opportunity to work closely with Dr. Yuri Karl Peterson at the Medical University of South Carolina doing research looking for genetic biomarkers for the prognosis of ovarian cancer. He would like to someday be in a similar role as Dr. Peterson, “positively impacting students, teaching, and running a lab.” Patrick is also inspired by his on-campus mentor, Dr. Christopher Korey and Religious Studies Professor, Dr. Lenny Lowe. He says, both inspire him to work towards his goal of being a college professor and serve as “incredible role models.” Patrick is glad that he had the chance to make friends with students during the summer. He will continue to foster those friendships and has even joined the Hispanic Latino Club.

The 2019 SPECTRA LEADers met President Hsu during their week of training in June, as they prepared to receive 84 AALANA high school graduates accepted to the College of Charleston.
CALL ME MISTER

Meet first-year students, and 2019 SPECTRA participants, Darius, Jayvon, Anthony, Kyle and Dennis, who received their “Mister” jacket on Saturday, September 14th during the signing ceremony for the CALL ME MISTER program. These MISTERS have plans to be CD through middle-grade teachers. The MISTER Program addresses the critical shortage of males from diverse backgrounds in the teaching profession. The MISTERS receive funding assistance and are a part of a cohort that provides academic, social, and mentoring support for the community.

SAFE ZONE TAKES PRIDE

The Office Multicultural Student Programs and Services along with Safe Zone sponsored a table at the 10th Annual Charleston Pride Festival on Saturday, September 14th at Brittlebank Park. Our presence at the festival helped promote the efforts of the College in creating a more inclusive place for LGBTQ+ students. The table was staffed during the day by folks from the Safe Zone Committee, the Out Front Initiative, Women’s and Gender Studies, Gender and Sexuality Equity Center, Prism, staff from the Documenting LGBTQ Life in the Lowcountry project, and other campus partners. A special thank you to all those that stopped by the table to say hello and take away information about the College.
The friendship between Zeke and Manny started in the summer of 2016 when they arrived on campus for SPECTRA. Both fondly refer to the Summer 2016 SPECTRA class as "the best one ever!"

By coincidence, they both took a semester off from school last year. During that time, they started collaborating on music and realized they enjoyed composing as a team, putting together one recording. Their music collaboration might surprise some people that know Zeke, a classically trained violinist, and Manny, a theatre major. Zeke says, "We just put on a beat and rap to it." Both men say that "we take inspiration for our music from school," and "it is a way to destress from classes while doing something creative."

Goals for the future include making more music together and performing around town. Until graduation in the upcoming year, they will continue to "balance school and their music." They want to take their music serious and keep "setting small goals that can be reached while looking at the big picture." You can follow them on Instagram at @zeketheviolinist and @lilstudent if you want to see what's next for the duo.

MENTORING MATTERS MEET & GREET

In August, MSPS asked the CofC community to partner with us so that we could provide support for 82 of our first-year SPECTRA students throughout the academic year. The results were outstanding! Sixty-seven (67) Faculty, Staff, Administrators, and Students answered the call. There are 26 first-time participants, 24 returning mentors, and 17 upperclassmen volunteering this year. Various bonding activities are scheduled throughout the academic year, which we have found helps facilitate more natural communication when held in a social setting. A few of the events planned are Bowling Nite @ the Alley, Pizza, and Wings and Thangz Game Nite. Mentoring can be an enjoyable and rewarding opportunity for more personal interaction with students.
SAVE THE DATES

Safe Zone-In the Zone:
“LGBTQ History in the Lowcountry and Campus Resources”
Tuesday, Oct. 8th, Noon,
Stern Rm. 409

Mentor-To-Mentee Event: Bowling Nite @ The Alley
October 23, 2019

2020 SPECTRA Head or Assistant LEADer Application
Deadline: November 15, 2019

Mentor-To-Mentee Event: Pizza, Wings -N- Thangs Game Night
November 22, 2019

2020 SPECTRA LEADer Application
Deadline: December 13, 2019