Greetings from the Office of Multicultural Student Programs and Services (MSPS). We have some exciting news for everyone. MSPS is bringing back our quarterly newsletter, yay! We've got a new design, new feel, and new staff so why not a new e-newsletter as well? Each issue we will highlight various student achievements, spotlight SPECTRA alums, and share upcoming MSPS events.

As we launch our first issue, it is only fitting that we take some time to celebrate our director, Dr. Teresa Smith, who transitioned from the College in November after 20 years of service.

Along with highlighting Dr. Smith's decades of work at the College of Charleston, we will also spotlight Katie Chea (freshmen), Sayvon Lee (freshmen), Joequise Wright (senior) and the accomplishments of Trisani Mukhopadhyay (senior).

Be sure to follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram @cofc_msp to stay up to date. Each e-newsletter will be posted on our website and social media accounts. We hope you're as 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

MEET THE TEAM

Rochelle Johnson
Interim Director

Lynda Keller
Assistant Director

Ashley Ragin
Administrative/Support Services Specialist
AN END OF AN ERA

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF SERVICE AT COFC

Dr. Smith moved to Charleston, from Atlanta, GA, in 1982. Prior to her tenure in higher education, she worked as an assistant gymnastics coach under the leadership of Paul and Terri Padron, where she served as a beam coach and was also a nationally-ranked gymnastics judge. She came to CofC in 1998, where she initially spent 12 years in Admissions.

During this time, she filled a variety of leadership roles including associate director of admissions and associate director of minority recruitment. Eventually, she was named the Director of MSPS where worked to enhance the on-campus experiences of students of color.

Under her leadership, several key initiatives were enhanced including the SPECTRA and SCAMP programs. She also created opportunities for students and their families to honor both their accomplishment and heritage by developing a series of multicultural graduation celebrations.

Of her time at the College, Dr. Smith says “using creativity to develop programs and services for the students we serve has been one of my favorite aspects of my job,” which was evident in the annual ExCEL Awards Ceremony she started as a way to acknowledge contributions to campus diversity by students, faculty, staff and community partners.

While there is not enough time to share all of the ways in which Dr. Smith has worked to help enhance the undergraduate experience of students at CofC, some final ways in which she made a difference in the lives of so many include the implementation of SafeZone training, development of The Mentoring Matters program, Shades of You, and We the People.
CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF SERVICE AT COFC CONT.

Dr. Smith "knows that MSPS is a brilliant resource that needs to remain at the College to help retain underrepresented student populations through graduation." Watching students that have been part of MSPS programs, graduate from the College of Charleston are some of her proudest moments. Her parting words of wisdom for the next person to serve as director would be to continue to expand the role and support programs and services of MSPS while building on the program’s strength. Most importantly, she hopes a new director will facilitate initiatives that will assist with "retention and persistence of our AALANA, LGBTQ+, and other diverse student populations."

As Dr. Smith takes her final bow she states confidently that she is "passing the torch to the remainder of her team so they can continue the hard work we do for all students." When asked about her next adventure Dr. Smith reflected on her time at Spellman College when she sat next to Spike Lee during a theatre class. Maybe she’ll get her dream of landing an acting role where she would receive huge residual payments for the rest of her life? Whatever her next big adventure, her staff and all the students she has helped over the years, wish her a happy retirement. Dr. Smith will truly be missed.

SPECTRA SPOTLIGHT

KATIE CHEA

First-semester freshman, Katie Chea, kicked off her college career as a SPECTRA participant over the summer. She is the second from her family to attend the college but made her decision to attend based on the wide variety of diversity initiatives on campus. Even though she is declared as a Computer Information Systems major, much of her interests lie in the area of civic engagement and social justice. Katie’s commitment to social justice is integral to her collegiate goals and what she wants to accomplish while at the college. She is one of seven first-year applicants to the Bonner Leader Program. The presidency of the Asian Student Association (ASA) is also one of Katie’s new responsibilities. Her hope is to grow the club, giving Asian students a community on campus where they feel they have “a home.”

As Katie reflects on her first semester, she has learned a few lessons that she would like to pass along to other new students. She says, “relax, get to know your new environment and take time to adjust to living in a new area.” Most importantly, “don’t feel pressured to do everything and overwhelm yourself.”
SAYVON LEE

First-year student and 2018 SPECTRA participant, Sayvon Lee class of 2022, is from Anderson, SC. Sayvon was recently accepted into the Call Me MISTER program with plans to be an elementary teacher. The MISTER Program addresses the critical shortage of males from diverse backgrounds in the teaching profession. Sayvon will receive funding assistance and be part of a cohort that provides academic and social support. Sayvon has also been accepted to serve as a Student Ambassador.

JOEQUISE WRIGHT

In August 2015 Joequise Wright stepped onto the College of Charleston campus as a first-generation college student from rural Bonneau, South Carolina. During his first year, he lived at home and made the 100-mile trek to and from campus daily. Aspiring to become a high school Biology teacher, he promptly declared his major and set out on the journey of becoming an educator.

As a college student, he quickly dove into all the opportunities the college had to offer. Even though he did not participate in SPECTRA, as a sophomore and junior he earned a position as a SPECTRA LEADer; and served as the Head LEADer during his senior year.

As Joe prepares for a 2019 graduation, he wants to share some advice with new students. He says, “don’t be an introvert and get out there and take advantage of all the opportunities the college has to offer. ” Remember, “ work towards what you want, and you will be successful.”
SPECIAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

TRISANI MUKHOPADHYAY

A special congratulations to senior, Trisani Mukhopadhyay for presenting her research on synthesizing asymmetric cyclopentenes at the South Eastern Regional Meeting of the American Chemical Society. Trisani is a Biology major with minors in Chemistry and Studio Art. She will graduate May 2019 and plans to go to medical school.

Trisani Mukhopadhyay
Class of 2019

A MESSAGE FROM MENTORING MATTERS

MENTORING MATTERS

Happy Holidays

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING YOUR MENTEE THROUGHOUT THE FALL SEMESTER!
UPCOMING EVENTS

MSPS invites you to our

Annual Holiday Drop-in

&

Dr. Teresa Smith’s Retirement Celebration

Tuesday, December 4, 2018

NOON – 2 PM

THE MULTICULTURAL CENTER
207 CALHOUN STREET

SAVE THE DATES

2019 SPECTRA LEADer Application Deadline: December 14, 2018
Winter Wonderland Spectacular: January 11, 2019
Safe Zone Training: January 17, 2019
Super Bowl Watch Party: February 3, 2019
Mardi Gras Celebration: March 5, 2019
2019 ExCEL Awards: March 27, 2019
Lavender Graduation Celebration: May 2, 2019
Hispanic Latinx Graduation Celebration: May 3, 2019
Asian Pacific Islander Unity Celebration: May 7, 2019
NIA Rite of Passage: May 9, 2019