The SPECTRA Summer Transition Program is a unique and extremely challenging summer transition program available to incoming multicultural and first-generation college students attending the College of Charleston in the fall. The SPECTRA program, which first received its funding in 1982, is designed to assist students in making a smooth transition from high school to college. SPECTRA allows students to get a jump start on their coursework by taking classes that will credit towards graduation. One of the biggest advantages of attending the SPECTRA program is providing students with college survival workshops that will help them prepare for the heavy demands of college life while giving them an opportunity to create a campus network of students, counselors, faculty and staff that will mentor and support them throughout their academic career at the College of Charleston.

Campus research indicates that SPECTRA participants have consistently had more meaningful college experiences, both academically and socially, than their non-SPECTRA peers.

The South Carolina Alliance for Minority Participation, or SCAMP, is held in conjunction with SPECTRA, and is for minority students who are interested in pursuing a degree in science, technology, engineering or mathematics (STEM). SCAMPers participate in workshops, presentations and events with SPECTRA students, but also take challenging math and sciences courses to prepare them for coursework in the fall.

This year 17 SPECTRA applicants were selected to participate in the SCAMP program, which is the largest group in SCAMP history at the College of Charleston.

SCAMP
Program Director: Christine Moore 843-953-4997

ROAR, which stands for Reach-Overcome-Achieve Results, is a program that provides students with support services and individualized action plans to help them become successful college graduates. Counselors and peer mentors work closely with the ROAR Scholars to provide study skills, advising, group study, exposure to cultural events, personal financial education and career counseling and mentoring. 2011 marks the first year that the ROAR Scholars Program has been incorporated into the SPECTRA program.

ROAR Scholars
Program Director: Tom Holcomb 843-953-6436
Although SPECTRA students worked hard this summer, they had many opportunities to kick back and relax. With shopping excursions, bowling, and a trip to the Wannamaker Whirlin’ Waters Adventure Waterpark SPECTRA students were eager to unwind, forget about class, and get to know one another.

MSPS kicked off its SPECTRA session this year with a July 4th cook out, hosted by Mr. and Mrs. Ulmer, parents of Candice Ulmer. Students also experienced the darker side of Charleston with a ghost tour through the city’s spookiest places. Board of Trustee member, Don Bell and his wife Marty, invited the SPECTRA students to the Wild Dunes Resort Beach House on the Isle of Palms for a little BBQ and fun in the sun. Students experienced a taste of the Charleston night life with trips to Reggae Nights concert series at James Island County Park and Movies at the Mt. Pleasant Pier.

Students were given a taste of what to expect during their first fall semester at the College of Charleston by completing two courses that met the Freshmen Year Experience (FYE) requirement. Classes available during this year’s SPECTRA program included Graphic Novel, Popular Song as Poetry, Intro to Theatre, Public Speaking, Intro to Computer, and Hip Hop-Evolution and Impact. The summer classes were taught by Professor Mike Benigni, Dr. Francis Conseula, Professor Brent Laing, Roneka Matheny, SCAMP Director Christine Moore, and David Moscowitz.

SPECTRA students attended weekly College Survival Skills Workshops, which prepared them for the academic demands of college life. This year a variety of CofC staff taught the College Survival Skills Workshops, including Page Keller, Director of Peer Education and Support Programs, MSPS Associate Director David G. Michener, Deni Mitchell, Director of Strategic Initiatives, Deputy Chief Robert Reese, and Kate Tiller, Academic Advisor for Athletics.

Throughout the SPECTRA program students attended many workshops and presentations which empowered them with the tools and resources they will need to make the most of their academic careers while attending the College of Charleston.
Meet the Counselors

Head Counselor Candice Ulmer is a Biochemistry and Chemistry major from Orangeburg, SC. She plans to obtain a Ph.D in Analytical Chemistry. Candice is the president of SCAMP and her sorority. She has been involved in the SPECTRA/SCAMP program since her freshman year. She says the program gave her a strong academic foundation at CofC and she has worked hard to inspire other students to reach their own academic goals.

LaQunya Baker was born in Frankfurt, Germany and was raised in Columbia, SC. She is majoring in Communications and plans to attend law school and become involved in politics. LaQunya recently ran for SGA President, an experience which required her to reach out and connect with many different people.

Morgan Best is a Psychology major from Greenwood, SC. She plans to become a family/marriage counselor and own her own boutique. Morgan has worked with the Student Ambassador program, and she has enjoyed reaching out to minority students through this and the SPECTRA program.

Tyler Canty is an Accounting major who is originally from Lancaster, SC. Tyler also works in the Admissions Office, and he loves helping students decide that CofC is the school for them. As a former SPECTRA student, Tyler has enjoyed giving back to the SPECTRA program.

Candice Ulmer

LaQunya Baker

Morgan Best

Tyler Canty

Trey Gross was born in Charleston, SC, but has lived in a variety of cities with his military family. Trey is majoring in English with a concentration in Creative Writing, and a minor in Japanese Studies. He hopes to become a professional writer. Guiding a new generation of SPECTRA students was Trey's main motivation in becoming a counselor.

Casey Frails is an Arts Management major from Aiken, SC. She is also pursuing a double minor in HTMT and Dance. She has been a dance teacher and choreographer for 3 years. The SPECTRA program helped Casey grow as a person, and her desire to pass this on to other students has been her main inspiration as a SPECTRA counselor.

Morgan Best

Casey Frails

Trey Gross

Visit blogs.cofc.edu/mspsl to learn more about this year’s SPECTRA counselors.
Meet the Counselors

Montrez Greene, Graduate Student Intern and Assistant Head Counselor, is from Mayesville, SC. He received his Bachelor’s Degree from the College of Charleston in Media Studies and is currently working on his Master’s in Student Affairs. Montrez also works with the Upward Bound program and the Residence Education Department. He is the first male in his family to attend college.

Heyward Mack has lived in New Jersey and New York, but spent most of his life in Charleston, SC. He is a Biology major with a Dance minor. Through his experiences with the SPECTRA program, Heyward has cultivated a strong support network of people from various backgrounds who have helped him grow. He hopes to encourage students to do the same.

Kimberly Ohanuka is from Greenville, SC, and her parents are from Nigeria. She likes photography, shopping and having fun. Kim is majoring in Athletic Training and plans to attend medical school. Kim became a SPECTRA intern to help students make a smooth transition from high school to college life.

Arvaughnna Postema is a Communications major from Columbia, SC. She plans to become a public relations representative. As a former SPECTRA student, Vaughn believes in the mission or the program, and has enjoyed being a positive role model on this year’s participants.

Quentin “Q” Ramsey is from Orangeburg, SC and is majoring in Middle Grades Education, concentrating in Math and Social Studies. He plans to become a Middle School math teacher. His love of helping others inspired him to become a SPECTRA counselor.

Casey Wadsworth is from Pageland, SC. She is a Biology/Pre-Med major with a minor in Communications. She hopes to one day be a physician. Casey is a former SCAMP student, and says it was one of the best things she has done since coming to college.

Mykera Wright is from Spartanburg, SC. She is a Biology major who plans to attend medical school and to become a dermatologist. Mykera says she would not have as much confidence in herself had it not been for the SPECTRA program, and she is eager to positively impact future students.
SPECTRA’s Got Talent and Fashion Show

SPECTRA students had an opportunity to show off their talent at the SPECTRA’s Got Talent and Fashion Show Extravaganza. The event was cohosted by SPECTRA counselor, Quentin “Q” Ramsey, and SPECTRA student Alex Cohen, who made sure there was a not a single dull moment during the evening.

Throughout the evening students strutted down the runway, modeling the current fashions in sportswear, sleepwear and semi-formal ensembles. The SPECTRA Dance Team also took the stage for the grand finale. Contestants sang, danced, played musical instruments, and recited poetry while judges Teresa Smith, David Michener and Rebecca Goss, members of the MSPS staff, had the difficult job of deciding who performed the best.

SPECTRA Choice Awards

Most Studious
Caci Pritchett
Gregory Solimon

Most Talkative
Jordan Kelley
Chianti Taylor

Most Talented
Raven Thomas-Smith
Wady Zamora Tercero

Most Playful
Alex Cohen
Morgan Carter

Most Sarcastic
Pamela Geter
Brandon Greene

Mr. & Mrs. Congeniality
Natalie Simmons
Patrick Williams

SPECTRA’s Got Talent Winners

Tied for 1st Place– Jordan Kelley-Dancing and Caci Pritchett-Dancing
2nd Place– Faith Davis-Singing/Guitar
3rd Place– Landon Boozer-Guitar

Speak Student Speak Essay Winners

$1000 1st Place– Hannah Craig
$750 2nd Place– Hammed Sirleaf
$500 3rd Place– Lydia Geathers
$250 Honorable Mention– Kevin Sweeney
The 2011 SPECTRA program closed with a beautiful award ceremony and luncheon which was attended by students, their families, CoC faculty and staff.

Guest speaker Wilbur E. Johnson, Managing partner, Young Clement Rivers, LLP, gave examples from his own experiences in order to inspire SPECTRA students and pass along wisdom to carry with them as they navigate the bumpy road of college.

A few special individuals were recognized for their hard work and support throughout this year’s program. Board of Trustee Don Belk and his wife, Marty were recognized for the passion and support they gave to the program this year. Deni Mitchell, Director of Strategic Initiatives, who taught a College Survival Skills workshop and served as the SPECTRA Resource Coordinator, offering guidance and an open ear to the students, was presented with a special gift that expressed the gratitude of all the students as well as the MSPS staff. Susan Hartman, Executive Assistant to the Vice President of Student Affairs, was also recognized for her support of the SPECTRA program.

Awards were also given to the Speak Student Speak essay contest recipients, SPECTRA’s Got Talent winners, Andrew Perry, the designer of this year’s official SPECTRA T-shirt, and the 2011 SPECTRA Choice Award recipients.

SPECTRA students Kevin Sweeney and Uniqua Roberson reflected upon their experience in the program and shared what they had learned and how it had impacted their lives. The ceremony closed with Tanisha Ingram singing “Thank You” by Ashanti, which expressed her gratitude and appreciation for everyone involved in the 2011 SPECTRA program.

For more information on the SPECTRA program, please visit mspscofc.edu.