



TRiO Newsletter

2012-13

Matt Williamson, Editor

Early Start Masterpiece!



Above: Early Start participants pictured in front of the residence of Bobby E. and Thelathia B. Bailey. Carol Atkinson, Sahary Aviles, Kylie Baker, Kayla Blakeney, Jada Brice, Jeremiah Burr, Patrice Campbell, Trevaris Clyburn, Bela Coleman, Khadijah Cooke, Takyra Curry, Hannah Danen, Terroka Davis, Stephanie Deese, Keivin Ealy, Jessica Evans, Mark Hairston, Reggie Hinson, Jr., Amber Hendrix, Jacob Hendrix, Sarina Johnson, LaPorshia Johnson, Chad Kiser, Brandon Kuhn, Kadijah Laney, Justin Martin, Quincy Mobley, Whitney Mungo, Jonathan Murphy, Chamere Palmer, Atlanta Perry, Samantha Riggs, Arnold Roman, Kaleigh Serafini, Cherrie Thompson, Ashley Williams, and Keeonn Wilson

To help shape a new student's mind to conquer the demands of college life is likened to the difficulty of an artist turning an unfinished medium into a masterpiece.

On Wednesday, July 31, 2012, the TRiO staff began their intense three-week program of instructions that provided Early Start participants with a variety of programs to promote college readiness and success. The participants found out quickly college is not high school and their perceptions of college life were at best—half truths.

Coming from various backgrounds and regions inside and outside of South Carolina, the new group of arrivals received instructions from USC Lancaster faculty, TRiO staff, local business owners, and community leaders on a range of topics designed to help them foster academic success, connect with the USC community; and prepare them for responsible lives in a changing and diverse world.

To complete the program, participants were instructed



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and discussed the various learning styles, time management, critical thinking, memory, note-taking and test taking techniques. Also, participants researched and interviewed professionals in their chosen careers and handed in a written report and provided an oral presentation.

Participants joined in group activities that challenged them to accept the differences that any individual can offer. One such activity, *Survival*, a simulation game, tasked the students to identify and trust the skills or talents of a total stranger in a life and death situation. The students quickly learned that diversity can be a positive asset in college as well as help them overcome hidden prejudices of people different from themselves. Some participants developed bonds and friendships that will provide additional support while pursuing their degrees at USCL.



Mr. Bobby E. Bailey, Co-founder of Adopt A Leader mentoring organization, spoke words of encouragement to Early Start students on graduation day.

On the final day, Thursday, August 16, 2012, participants received a Certificate of Completion and began their college careers by receiving four credits in University 101 and Orientation to Physical Education.

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High school graduates welcomed the personal and social freedoms associated with college life, while non-traditional students encountered a juggling act among career, family and academic responsibility. Whatever the circumstances, students accepted into the *Opportunity Scholars Program (OSP)* received the necessary instructions in developing strategies to achieve academic success and to become a self-directed learner throughout their college experience.

OSP staff helped participants develop a system of essentials based on learning attitude, learning behavior and learning style that led to successful outcomes, such as, attending class, interacting with professors and classmates, completing assignments and studying more effectively.

OSP participants were exposed to a

host of academic, career and cultural activities and had access to state-of-art computers in the *TRiO Learning Resource Center*. As a group, their academic success included a total of 5 participants on the **President's Honor Roll** and 59 participants on the **Dean's Honor Roll** for the academic year.

OSP successes extended past the classroom as participants spearheaded a first time community service Food Drive for *Lancaster Christian Services* with 138 participants and a collection of 700 items, and a Coat Drive for *Lancaster Children's Home* with nearly 40 participants and 127 items collected.

The year was capped off with the group celebrating *TRiO Day* with



OSP participants, Shontel Garris, Devonta Miller and Christina Howze pose for a photo during TRiO Day outside the Bobcat Arena in Charlotte, NC, on Saturday, April 12, 2013.

other *TRiO Programs* from around the Carolinas at the Bobcat Arena in Charlotte, NC on Saturday, April 12, 2013. Bobcat marketing executives spoke to students about the importance of a college education and choosing the right career path.

Gear Up and Upward Bound



Upward Bound participants, Shania Stradford, Tomia Rivers and Kanesha Clyburn posed for a photo during the Dinner Etiquette session at the USCL Carol Ray Dowling Health Services Center on Wednesday, February 12, 2013.

Gear Up and Upward Bound

participants were riding high with expectations for the Academic Year and Summer Component phases. The staff planned twenty-four vigorous Empowerment Sessions

that enabled participants to sharpen their skills in English, Math, and Science. Also, they attended sessions on academic survival, career exploration and personal development. One particular session, the Etiquette Dinner (an actual formal dining class conducted at the USCL *Carol Ray Dowling Health Services Center*)

helped participants learn appropriate posture, ways to act and eat when attending a formal dinner, banquet or restaurant. Participants had to dress up in formal attire and upon arrival were escorted to their assigned tables

by *TRiO* staff and received detail dining etiquette from *Upward Bound Academic Specialist*, Diva Hemphill, as they enjoyed a hearty meal.

Parents attended separated sessions designed to help them understand the academic and social challenges their child face in high school. Additionally, they received instructions from speakers on how to improve their communication skills and were encouraged to be proactive **in their child's high school** experience and college search process.

This year's class of nine seniors graduated on Friday, May 31, 2013 and were accepted into the following colleges and universities: Lander, USC Lancaster, USC Upstate, Virginia State and York Technical.

USCL Student Ambassadors



Left to right: Alex Nauert, Petter Rophael, Amber Hildreth (OSP), Sarahy Aviles (OSP), Arnold Roman (OSP), Khadija Trotter (OSP), Ty Reeves, Kayla Starnes, Brandon Newton, Reggie Hinson, Jr.(OSP), Chris Harris, Jr. (OSP), and Vince Felix. (Note: Not pictured are Brooke Watts and Patrick Burt.)

Becoming a **USCL Peer Advisor** (also know as a **P.A.L.**) is not easy to achieve, but is very rewarding for students who are chosen.

P.A.L.s are a very important part of the USCL campus and Laura Humphrey, Director of Student Life and Advisor to **P.A.L.**, looks for students who "have good oral and written communications skills, an outgoing personality, a desire to help others, a strong work ethic, and the ability to work under pressure." In addition, applicants must have completed at least 12 semester hours by the end of Fall semester and have a cumulative GPA of 2.75.

Each **P.A.L.** receives a \$750.00 tuition stipend for Fall and Spring and will receive leadership training through a 16 week course in the Spring and attend the Southern Region Orientation Workshop.

Of the fourteen students who make up **P.A.L.s**, six new members are OSP students. Over twenty students attended several OSP workshops to sharpen their interview skills to accompany their impressive high GPAs.

These newly selected **P.A.L.s** had plenty of confidence and leadership experience due to their active participation in the **Delta Links** and **Omega Scholars** peer mentoring organizations.

Black History Month Activities

February was a very busy month for the TRIO staff. To help kick-off the month's activities, which involved campus wide participation, the **Words In Motion** organization sponsored a **Speak Up & Speak Out Slam Poetry Showcase** on Wednesday, February 6, which enabled students the opportunity to express their poetry talents. On Wednesday, February 13, students formed teams to enter competition in the **Black History Quiz Bowl** which tested their knowledge of events, people and places in American history. The **Soul Food Cook Off Fundraiser** was the premiere event of the month. Seven local chefs and their teams prepared favorite dishes in competition for trophies in several categories. All proceeds went to the **USCL Emergency Textbook Fund**.



Delta Links, Shaquasha Stradford and Patrice Moss, and **Omega Scholars**, Michael Smith, posed for a photo with Comporium Communication's mascot, Digger, during the Soul Food Cook Off Fundraiser.

Hoops for Habitat

The **5th Annual USCL Omega Scholars 5 on 5 Basketball Tournament** took place at the **Gregory Health and Wellness Center** on Friday, March 1, 2013. Eight teams of ten players, from the local community, Chester and York counties, participated in an all day single elimination tournament. **Delta Links** assisted in processing team entry forms as well as watched and cheered for their favorite teams.

The final game consisted of last



The **Omega Scholars** basketball team take a time out to regroup and discuss an offensive strategy during the 5th Annual USCL Omega Scholars 5 on 5 Basketball Tournament.

year's teams, the Rock Hill All Stars and the Brick Squad. This year's winner was able to savor a sweet victory after a grueling 40 minutes of pressure defensive plays, fast break opportunities and three point shots equal to that of the NBA 3-point line. The Brick Squad took a 2 point lead and held off a late charge by the Rock Hill All Stars to take home the 1st Place Tournament trophy.

The **Omega Scholars** presented a check in the amount of \$800.00 to Pam Giardiello of Habitat for Humanity of Lancaster County.

You Are Now Graduates!

On Saturday, May 4, 2013, 96 USCL students were honored by family, friends, faculty, staff and USC President, Dr. Harris Pastides for their academic successes during Commencement ceremonies in the *James Bradley Arts and Sciences Building's Bundy Auditorium*.

New USCL Dean, Dr. Walter P. Collins stated, "This is a proud occasion for all of us...To the Class of 2013, please accept our sincere congratulations."

The *TRiO* staff was equally proud of the fourteen *OSP* participants who took part in Commencement. They were awarded to wear the *OSP* medallion on a blue ribbon around their neck and stood to be recognized for their achievements.

Commencement speaker, Beth Daly, mother of *OSP* participant and Honor graduate, Mary Daly, stated, "That same willpower that enabled you to succeed in college will serve you well as you begin your careers."

There were three *OSP* participants recognized with Honors; one with High Honors; one with Cum Laude; and one with Magna Cum Laude .



Nine *OSP* participants took a moment to take a group photo outside the Bradley Arts and Sciences Building on Commencement day, Saturday, May 4, 2013. (See names of the 14 graduates below.)

Priscilla D. Bufford, Roderick D. Ingram, Gregory S. Lake, Terry M. Russ, Domonique L. Barber, Nancy T. Brasington, Chassity M. Davis, Travis L. Muetze, Shatia M. Townsend, Candice S. Benson, Mary L. Daly, Taylor Griffin, Tammy M. Clyburn and Brittany Richardson

Another fourteen participants chose not to participate in Commencement , but plan to continue their education in the USC Palmetto program and other four-year institutions.

OSPYS & Pathfinders

The theme, *Making A Difference*, in this year's OSPYS Awards truly depicted the influence *OSP* and *Pathfinder* participants had on the USCL campus, high schools and in the community.

It was a fact that *OSP* participants were the most active group of students on campus. They held membership in organizations such as Rotaract, Peer Advisors (*P.A.L.s*) and *Student Government Association (SGA)*. Furthermore, they held membership in *TRiO's Delta Links* and *Omega Scholars* peer mentoring organizations and volunteered, on a continuous basis, to give back to the Lancaster community through a variety of community service projects.

Pathfinders exemplify the model student at high school throughout Lancaster County. They excelled academically and participated in many extra curricular activities both on and off campus.

Both groups were honored on Wednesday, April 11, 2013 in the *James A. Bradley Arts and Sciences Multipurpose Room*.

TRiO Programs

The *TRiO Programs* at USC Lancaster is a federally funded program that provides opportunities for academic development, assist students with basic college requirements, and serves to motivate students towards the successful completion of their post secondary education.

TRiO Program Staff

Thelethia B. Bailey, *Director of TRiO Programs*
Max Bonek, *OSP Academic Specialist*
Matt Williamson, *OSP Career/Cultural Specialist*
CoSonja Allen, *OSP Administrative Specialist*
Dia Robinson, *GU Program Specialist*
Diva Hemphill, *UB Academic Specialist*
Antonio Mackey, *UB Career/Cultural Specialist*
Cathy McGriff, *UB Administrative Specialist*
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