And the Winners Are …

We’re all winners at the College of Charleston. We may not all have trophies or medals to show for it, but the Division of Student Affairs and the Office of Multicultural Student Programs and Services are doing their part to ensure that at least some of us are getting the recognition we deserve. The annual ExCEl Awards program this year honored the following 13 staff and faculty members — along with 17 other members of the College community — for their excellence in spreading the benefits of diversity and for enhancing multiculturalism on campus, in the community and in their everyday lives. These employees, listed in the order they appear above (top to bottom, left to right), represent all those that make the College community something to celebrate.

Amy Langville, Assistant Professor of Mathematics, Outstanding Faculty of the Year for the School of Sciences and Mathematics — Langville and her mathematical research has impressed not only the American Mathematical Society and the National Science Foundation, but also her own students, who’ve been encouraged that the world of mathematics may indeed be a place for women.

Sofia Agrest, Senior Instructor of Mathematics, Outstanding Faculty of the Year for the School of Sciences and Mathematics — Agrest is one of the driving forces behind the South Carolina Alliance for Minority Participation (SCAMP) program, a summer bridge program for minority incoming freshmen interested in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

Quentin Baxter, Adjunct Professor of Music, Eddie Gwynn Distinguished Alumni Award — Ever since Baxter graduated in 1998, he has been performing all over the world and with many musicians, making a name for himself among jazz aficionados and maintaining a close relationship with the College all the while.

mutindu ndunda, Associate Professor of Foundations, Secondary and Special Education, Outstanding Faculty of the Year for the School of Education, Health and Human Performance — ndunda led 23 students to her native country of Kenya last December to build a clinic in an orphanage serving children who had lost their parents to the AIDS pandemic. The effort, “Project Harambee,” has become a campus movement, and plans are under way for future trips.

Laquita Blockson, Assistant Professor of Ethics and Entrepreneurship, Outstanding Faculty of the Year for the School of Business and Economics — Blockson is actively involved in minority business development, and her research on the economic and sociological factors accounting for the viability, growth and sustainability of female African American entrepreneurs has the potential to influence policymakers and practitioners to better serve this population across the country.

Betty Craig, Administrative Coordinator in Executive Administration, Outstanding Staff Member of the Year — During the 37+ years she has dedicated to the College, Craig has ensured a high level of continuity in support of the President’s Office and has provided direction and development for many student workers.

Frank Morris, Associate Professor of Classics, Outstanding Faculty of the Year for the School of Languages, Cultures, and World Affairs — Morris advocates for diversity on campus, works with student and community groups fighting for full acceptance of all people and has long been a supporter...
Leroy Lewis knows what he’s up against. Lucky for the 82 students in the College’s Upward Bound program, he also knows what he’s doing.

“There are so many things that can come between a kid and a college education,” says Lewis, who last month received the South Carolina Council of Educational Opportunity Program Personnel’s first-ever Randall M. McNeal Spirit of TRIO Award. “You have to look at everything as an obstacle so that when something does surface – and, trust me, it will – you’re prepared to sidestep it and move on.”

Lewis obviously has some adroit maneuvers, because the College’s Upward Bound program – which provides students from seven targeted local high schools with college preparation and academic support through instruction, counseling and other social, cultural and educational activities – sees 98% of its graduates placed into college.

“I think that’s pretty good, considering all the external things we’re competing with,” says Lewis, citing home life and “a popular culture that favors immediate gratification” as the main opponents. “The point is that tomorrow is coming and you’ve got to invest in it now. It takes a considerable commitment.”

And if there’s anyone who knows about commitment, it’s Lewis. After teaching with the College’s Upward Bound program from 1976 to 1981, he taught in Charleston’s public schools before moving to Washington, D.C. in 1983. There, he taught in the District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS), was named the 1989 DCPS Teacher of the Year and eventually became the assistant principal of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS), was in 1983. There, he taught in the District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS), was named the 1989 DCPS Teacher of the Year and eventually became the assistant principal of a high school – all while working with the Howard University Upward Bound program.

“So, you start to see a trend,” he smiles, adding that when he returned to Charleston to care for his aging parents in 1998, he reconnected to the College’s Upward Bound program first as a volunteer, then as a part-time employee and eventually as the program’s full-time director. “No matter what else I do, Upward Bound has been consistent for me. It really is a special program.”

Funded through the U.S. Department of Education and supported by community business partners and a strong Parent Advisory Board, the Upward Bound program presents a comprehensive approach to college preparation. Students typically begin the program in the ninth grade and graduate from it at the end of their senior year. During the four years with the program, students not only receive supplemental instruction and service-learning experience, but also visit nine college campuses of their choice to find the right fit and learn about the college-selection and college-application processes.

“And then there’s the cultural piece of it,” says Lewis, explaining that the program also exposes students to ballet, symphony, nice hotels and fancy restaurants. “They learn the difference between an entree fork and a salad fork – the idea being that good etiquette will keep them competitive. We think it’s important, not just because it gives the community a more competitive workforce and a more cultured and literate population, but because it gives our kids access to all those things that could possibly stand in their way down the road.”

Once they’re equipped with the academic, cultural and social tools they need to succeed in college, the Upward Bound graduates are prepared for anything that comes their way.

“We make sure that when they leave this little pond and go out to the ocean,” says Lewis, “they’re not just treading water – they’re swimming.”
ON CUE: Patti Goff Shoots to Win

When she’s not shooting ducks, cheating the pocket or rolling the cheese, Patti Goff is a straight shooter. “I really don’t have too many tricks up my sleeve,” says Goff, the administrative assistant for President Emeritus Alex Sanders and a member of the American Poolplayers Association 9-Ball League. “I’m just out there having a good time. This is my fun time. If it was hard, I wouldn’t be doing it.”

It’s an attitude that’s not always shared by her opponents. “Some people take it way too seriously,” says Goff, who plays for the Diamondbacks, a team of eight men and women hosted by Terri’s Sports Bar on Folly Road. “Our team is pretty laid back, but there are a few teams that are only out there to win.”

Winning, of course, is the ultimate objective—and every point matters. Each week, the teams in the local APA 9-ball division vie for as many of the 100 available points they can get in five games. At the end of each of the four sessions (14–16 weeks), a “wildcard” team and the three teams with the most points advance to the session playoffs. From there, the teams compete for a spot in the City Tournament, where they and about 80 9-ball teams and more than 120 8-ball teams compete to go to the APA National Championship in Las Vegas.

“So, if you want to go to Vegas, you have to play well every week—either that, or you have to be a wildcard like we were,” sums up Goff, explaining that the Diamondbacks were chosen as the wildcard in 2004, when they ended up playing their way to nationals. “It was an amazing, intense experience.”

Despite playing the 2004 APA National Championship, Goff insists she’s not a particularly skilled or accomplished pool player. “The APA is a handicapped league, so you don’t have to be that good at it to have fun and to be competitive,” she says. “I love playing pool. I know I’m not the best at it, but I work hard and try to play smart.”

And all that hard work and smart play has paid off for Goff, who first started playing for the Diamondbacks in 2000. “When I first started playing, I just hit the ball and hoped for the best. If I made an absolutely awesome shot, it was by accident,” she says. “Now I can walk up to a table and see exactly what needs to happen. It’s an amazing feeling to make a great shot and know it was what you meant to do.”

So, what’s her secret to stepping up her game? “An experienced player can show you ways to improve your game—just little things anybody can learn to do,” says Goff, adding that anyone who wants to improve their skills and have some fun should join a team. “Everybody likes to hang out and shoot pool with friends. This is the same thing—just with a point.”

Besides, it can be an enormous boost to the self-esteem. “It’s great when some random person challenges you to a game and you completely annihilate him— or her,” laughs Goff. “Sometimes I get a bigger kick out of that than from winning a league match. I just love it.”

It just goes to show, you never know when that competitive streak will surface—all you can be sure of is that it’s there.

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GARDENER’S PICK

Pineapple Guava

AKA: Feijoa sellowiana, Acca sellowiana

ON CAMPUS: Found on south side of Wilson-Sottile House and in the garden behind 57 Coming Street.

DESCRIPTION: Broad-leaved shrub reaching 18–25’ in height and width. Inch-wide flowers attract hummingbirds and bees in the spring, and aromatic, grayish-green fruit (known as feijoa) ripens in the fall and tastes like a blend of pineapple and strawberry.

WHERE TO PLANT: Plant in full sun to partial shade as espalier, screen, hedge or small tree in coastal gardens (tolerates salt spray, drought and heavy pruning).

TIPS: Heavy pruning reduces flower and fruit production. Add petals to spring salads for mild sweetness.
point is that tomorrow is coming and sees 98% of its graduates placed into college. Social, cultural and educational activities – through instruction, counseling and other maneuvers, because the College’s Upward Bound obviously has some adroit prepared to sidestep it and move on.”

“There are so many things that can come surface – and, trust me, it will – you’re prepared for anything that comes their way. They’re swimming.”

“The College’s Upward Bound program from 82 students in the College’s Upward Bound Advisory Board, the Upward Bound program of Education and supported by community schools before moving to Washington, D.C. 1976 to 1981, he taught in Charleston’s public wide-leaved shrub reaching 18–25’ in height and found on south side of Wilson-Sottile House and in the garden behind 57 Coming Street. Feijoa sellowiana, Acca sellowiana

Rénard Harris, assistant professor of elementary and early childhood education, sings at the ExCEL Awards Program on March 26. Inset: Anthony McCalister, winner of the President Dr. Harry Lightsey Humanitarian Award.

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

of students in the gay, bisexual and transgender community. Over the course of 14 summer study-abroad programs, he has led more than 100 students to Greece.

John Davis, Grounds Supervisor and Campus Arborist, Uniting Champion Award – A true ambassador of the institution, Davis is dedicated to enhancing the beauty of the campus, as evidenced in the campus gardens he has designed and the artwork he has painted and donated to the College.

Robert Westerfelhaus, Associate Professor of Communication, Outstanding Faculty of the Year for the School of Humanities and Social Sciences – Westerfelhaus has led study-abroad groups to Austria, Germany and Italy to allow students to learn through active participation and to experience different cultures firsthand.

W. Marvin Dulaney, Executive Director of the Avery Research Center for African-American History and Culture, President Alex Sanders Outstanding Public Service Award – Dulaney has been a tireless leader of and promoter for the Avery Research Center, supporting its mission to “collect, preserve and document the history and culture of African Americans in Charleston and the Lowcountry” and establishing the center as the leading African American center in the Southeast. He has honored and preserved the Avery Center’s rich heritage as an African American preparatory school in addition to facilitating the acquisition and preservation of notable black Charlestonians’ papers. Dulaney also initiated the African-American studies minor area at the College.

Gil Lauzon, Adjunct Instructor of Mathematics, Outstanding Faculty of the Year for the School of Sciences and Mathematics – Lauzon is another driving force behind the SCAMP program mentioned on the front page, and is always willing to go above and beyond to make mathematics understandable and approachable.

Trevor Weston, Assistant Professor of Music, Outstanding Faculty of the Year for the School of the Arts – Weston is an award-winning composer whose research on the role of African American musicians in Charleston has brought considerable attention to this overlooked portion of Charleston’s history.

Karen Abernathy, Administrative Assistant in Foundations, Secondary and Special Education, Lucille S. Whipper Award – As the winner of one of the highest honors a graduating minority student can receive, Abernathy ’08 is a nontraditional student majoring in communication studies with a 4.0 major average and a 3.9 cumulative GPA.

The ExCEL Awards program also honored other members of the College community, including senior Whitney Hinds, who earned the President Leo I. Higdon Outstanding Leadership Award; Lynda Davis ’66, who earned the President Dr. Theodore Stern Visionary Award; and Anthony McAllister (pictured in the above inset), who earned the President Dr. Harry Lightsey Humanitarian Award.

The Strategic Planning Committee invites the entire College community to respond to the following question: From your perspective, what improvements in the College of Charleston are necessary for it to be recognized as a world-class institution? Hundreds of people have already answered the question, and the most common responses include:

- Increase endowment and other funding sources
- Improve faculty and staff recruiting efforts, compensation and benefits
- Improve communication across and within campus departments
- Strengthen liberal arts and sciences education and increase academic rigor
- Strengthen student recruiting efforts to include students with diverse talents

To share your two cents, visit strategicplan.cofc.edu/howcaniparticipate.html and follow the link by May 7.

The Carolina First Center/Kressse Arena last month, glass was installed at the front entrance and ceramic tile was placed in the arena-level restrooms and locker rooms. In May, concourse painting will begin and Burns Lane stormwater rehabilitation will be completed.

At the site of the new science center, concrete pile capping progressed in April and will continue through May, as will the jack-and-bore operation under Calhoun Street.

The communication department is scheduled to move into 7 and 9 College Street this month.
LEADERSHIP DEFINED AND EXPLORED
Determine your leadership style and learn how to become a more effective leader.
**When:** Tuesday, May 6, 9:30–11 a.m.
**Where:** Human Resources conference room, Lightsey Center basement
**Fee:** None
**Contact:** Please RSVP to Linda McLenaghan, 953.8238 or mclenaghanl@cofc.edu

SPOLETO SNEAK PREVIEW
Get the insider’s guide to the must-see events at this year’s Spoleto USA Festival and Piccolo Spoleto. Reception to follow.
**When:** Monday, May 12, 6 p.m.
**Where:** Simons Center Recital Hall
**Fee:** None
**Contact:** Please RSVP to Jenny Fowler, 953.5530 or fowlerj@cofc.edu

TIAA-CREF ONE-ON-ONE SESSIONS
Get help making informed decisions and setting up your long-term financial plan in an hour-long session with a TIAA-CREF financial consultant.
**When:** Thursday, May 29
**Where:** Human Resources room B36, Lightsey Center basement
**Fee:** None
**Contact:** Please enroll at tiaa-cref.org/moc or contact Sandy Butler, 953.5709 or butlers@cofc.edu

All information is subject to change. Please verify times, places and registration requirements with listed contact.

Every May, Charleston locals pack their bags, load up their cars and get the heck out of dodge in what is an inconvenient yet understandable reaction to the invasion of over 125,000 tourists here for Spoleto Festival USA and Piccolo Spoleto. But, with gas prices what they are, it might just be time to surrender. And, with dozens of College staff, faculty and students participating, you won’t feel outnumbered. “Almost everywhere you go, you’ll see someone from the College,” says Valerie Morris, dean of the School of the Arts. “We’re all over the place – we’re performing, we’re backstage, we’re everywhere.” So, instead of heading for the hills this year, come out and support your colleagues and your students. You won’t be alone.

*Shown above: Richard Marcus,* administrative assistant and adjunct faculty member in the music department, is helping to coordinate the Youth Music Festival at this year’s Piccolo Spoleto. He will also be conducting the Lowcountry Youth Orchestra in several performances, including one at 3 p.m. on May 25 at Citadel Square Baptist Church. Admission is free.

NEWS BRIEFS: News You Can Use

- The College has received official reaffirmation of accreditation through the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS).
- **Steve Litvin,** professor of hospitality and tourism, received a Fulbright Scholarship to study sustainable tourism development at the University of Guelph in Canada.
- At last month’s faculty meeting, the following faculty were recognized: **Brad Huber,** sociology and anthropology, *Distinguished Teaching Award; George Dickinson,* sociology and anthropology, *Distinguished Research Award; Hugh Wilder,* philosophy, *Distinguished Service Award; Carol Ann Davis,* English, *Distinguished Advising Award; Brenda Sanders,* sociology and anthropology, *Distinguished Advising Award; Angela Halfacre,* political science, *Distinguished Teacher/Scholar Award.*
- The deadline for *employee parking applications* for next year is June 2. To apply, log onto Cougar Trail, select “Parking Account,” follow the “Request Permits” link and select four unique locations. For more information, contact parking services at 953.7834 or parkingservices@cofc.edu.
- **Wild Dunes Resort** offers College employees 20–30% off of near-ocean and resort-view accommodations now until August 31. To access this promotion online, use promo code VCELWD. For more information, contact Matt Marcini at 886.2216 or mmarcino@wilddunes.com.
GUESS WHAT??

Where on campus could it be?

Thanks to everyone who participated in last month’s photo quiz, and congratulations to Susan Fox, administrative assistant for the Teaching Fellows Program in the Department of Foundations, Secondary and Special Education. Fox was the first to guess that the object in question was the top of the sculpture in the St. Philip Courtyard in front of the Simons Center. The steel sculpture, titled Carapace, is the work of Jonathan Hills, a sculpture instructor and studio technician at the College from 1999 to 2002.

After it was featured in the 2002 Halsey Gallery exhibit, Supernatural, Hills gave the piece to Halsey Gallery Director Mark Sloan, who in turn loaned it to the College.

Take a look at the picture above. The object can be found on campus. Do you know what it is? The first person to submit the correct answer will win a tasty lunch for two at Liberty Street Fresh Food Company, compliments of ARAMARK. Good luck!

Send your submission to lutza@cofc.edu by Friday, May 16, 2008. The contest is open to all College faculty and staff. One submission per person, please.

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WORD ON THE BRICKS

WHAT DO YOU DO DURING YOUR LUNCH BREAK?

Robby Brand, Director of Mail Services

“My typical lunch break consists of playing basketball at the gym with the young guys – trying to maintain my youth.”

Monica Pawlowski, Executive Director of the Cougar Club

“What break? I try to schedule the lunches I do take for business. I used to go for a run during that time of day. Thinking about it, I might start that again, thanks ‘Word on the Bricks’!”

Ryan Holmes, Assistant Director of Alumni Relations

“Since I live close to campus, I typically go home for lunch. Every now and then I’ll do some shopping on King Street.”

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