

COLUMBIA COLLEGE

The 2006-2007 year marked the launch of a new strategic vision at Columbia College. The heart of the vision is based in the Conference's founding statement for the college to "educate women to be of service to the church, the state, and the nation." Years in the making, and representing hundreds of participants among faculty, staff, board members, alumnae and friends, this bold new day saw the introduction of leadership infusion throughout the liberal arts programming of the college. The vision was launched with the announcement of more than \$5 million in new gifts to the College in February.

These transformational gifts affirmed the impact that Columbia College makes in the lives of South Carolinians, students and the community at large, providing new momentum to our commitment to women's leadership development. The combined impact and synergy of the College's leadership infusion programs, the Leadership Institute and the Alliance for Women create a forum for change and opportunity for learning that is unique in higher education. Courage, Confidence, Commitment, and Competence are the "4Cs"—the steps toward leadership—that create the unifying thread through each student's Columbia College experience.

College Awards and Grants

Further recognition of Columbia College's trailblazing approach to leadership development came in the form of a national award, the 2007 TIAA-CREF Theodore M. Hesburgh Certificate of Excellence. Columbia College was chosen for the Certificate of Excellence based on its innovative and highly successful Faculty Development through Interdisciplinary Teaching and Learning program. Dr. Vivia Fowler, executive director of the Center for Engaged Learning, traveled to Washington, D.C., to accept on behalf of the College.

The 2006 Columbia College Medallion Awards were presented in October to three distinguished recipients who have long supported the College in many ways: Johnnie Cordell Breed, Dr. Belinda F. Gergel '72, and Dorothy Mae Pickett.

Columbia College, Clemson University and the S.C. Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) announced a new collaboration to help teachers transform "at risk" students into engaged learners in South Carolina's classrooms.

The Columbia College Alumnae Association honored four women for their professional achievements and contributions to the College at its annual meeting on April 1: Cornelia Rickenbacker Freeman '33, Distinguished Service Award; Nancy Jackson Gregory '76, Wil Lou Gray Outstanding Educator Award; Tamera Norton Smith, '90, Career Achievement Award; and Jamila Harrington Hudley '99, Young Alumna Award.

Columbia College received a grant from the U.S. Department of State for \$198,000 to provide entrepreneurship training for citizens of Colombia, South America, in partnership with the Partners of the Americas, Junior Achievement in Columbia and in Colombia, and the South Carolina World Trade Center. The grant will provide training for business and education leaders from Colombia, South America, who will return to their country to train youth and women to develop and operate small businesses.

Columbia College received the Neighborhood/Community Award for the 2006 Columbia Choice Awards. The awards are sponsored by the Columbia Tree and Appearance Commission and Columbia Green. This program recognizes individuals, neighborhoods, and firms whose work has significantly enhanced the Columbia environment, both in design and in overall quality of life.

The 2006 Sporting & Family Fest was held in November at beautiful North Camden Plantation. Sporting dog competitions and auctions raised over \$67,400 to fund scholarships. The Lettie Pate Whitehead Foundation awarded the College an \$84,000 grant to fund student scholarships for 2006-2007.

The Koala Callers received pledges exceeding a total \$160,000 for the Loyalty Fund, far surpassing our fall semester goal of \$100,000. This was a new record for the phone-a-thon. An anonymous alumna pledged to match increased gifts as well as gifts from alumnae who have never given before. Her matching gift brought our grand total for the Loyalty Fund this semester to over \$260,000.

Student Achievements

This past year has been a remarkable year of achievement and wide recognition for Columbia College students. The 2007 edition of Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges includes the names of 22 students from Columbia College who have been selected as national outstanding campus leaders.

Honors student Jennifer Dowling was recognized as the 2006 Tull Foundation Honors Scholar, an endowed award. Each year, one rising senior is recognized for her exemplary record of academic achievement and service. Also, Jennifer completed a coveted internship in Namibia, Africa, for Harvard University's prestigious World Teach program. April Evans received the 2006-2007 Savory Scholars Award.

Susannah Fields and Elizabeth Walker were recipients of the 2006-2007 Honeycutt Awards in recognition of their research and presentations. Susannah Fields presented for the second year in a row at an international leadership conference in the Mideast, first in Dubai and then in Abu-Dhabi. Susannah is currently on board the Semester-at-Sea program, sailing around the world and earning a semester of credit.

Chelsea Lee participated in the Wales Honors Semester, an opportunity to study in Swansea, Wales, UK, a program in conjunction with the University of North Carolina-Wilmington.

This fall, internships for four students participating in our Washington Semester were arranged. The Honors Program

had an exceptional year, admitting the largest freshman class ever (42) with the second highest SAT average ever (1251). Thirteen students and three faculty members participated in the National Collegiate Honors Council in Philadelphia, Pa., in November. Columbia College had more student presenters in the program than any other South Carolina college. Every student who received a prestigious collaborative undergraduate research grant from the South Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities this year was an Honors Program student.

Undergraduate commencement was held on May 6, 2006, conferring bachelor's degrees on a total of 214 candidates. Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor was the commencement speaker for the undergraduate ceremony. Columbia College conferred master's degrees on 92 candidates at graduate school commencement on Sunday, May 7, at College Place United Methodist Church.

Faculty and Staff Achievements

We are extremely proud of the honors and accomplishments of our dedicated faculty and staff. Dr. Christine Hait received the 2006 South Atlantic Association of Departments of English Outstanding Teacher Award in the four-year private college category. This prestigious award is based on an exemplary record of teaching and is given annually by the SAADE organization.

Dr. Linda B. Salane, executive director of the Leadership Institute, received a James T. Rogers Meritorious Service Award from the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

The South Carolina Women in Higher Education announced Dr. Caroline B. Whitson as the recipient of the 2007 Martha Kime Piper Award. The award, named for the first woman president of a public higher education institution in the state, is given annually to recognize a woman with a record of advancing and supporting women in higher education and the education of women in South Carolina.

Dr. Lynne Noble (Education) received the 2007 Columbia College Faculty Excellence Award. Dr. Joyce Fields (Human Relations) received the 2007 SCICU Excellence in Teaching Award. Dr. Ed Sharkey (History and Political Science) received the 2007 Undergraduate Students' Choice Award for Teaching Excellence. The Faculty Excellence and SCICU Award winners are selected by a committee of faculty. The Students' Choice Award is organized by the Student Government Association and the recipient determined entirely by students.

Dr. Tamara Burk (Leadership Studies and Communication) was recognized by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry of the United Methodist Church for a 2006-2007 Exemplary Teaching Award at a United Methodist-related institution of higher education in November.

Leadership Happenings

Columbia College and The Alliance for Women were honored by the South Carolina General Assembly through a resolution introduced by Representative Laurie Slade Funderburk. The resolution was co-sponsored by members of the Women's Caucus and other legislative friends of the College. The resolution recognized Columbia College and The Alliance for Women and their longstanding commitment to improving the status of women in South Carolina.

Columbia College welcomed Jennifer "Buffy" Murphy, the 2007 South Carolina Teacher of the Year, in November. Widely known for her innovative approach to teaching, Murphy is participating in a yearlong residency at the Center for Educator Recruitment, Retention and Advancement (CERRA) and represents South Carolina's 50,000 teachers.

Religious Life

In the area of religious life, Rev. Valerie Mireb, an elder in the North Texas Annual conference, began as Columbia College's new Chaplain in June of 2006. Rev. Mireb is the regular preacher for chapel services. The wonderful Columbia College Choir, Heavenly Creations Gospel Choir, and Praise and Worship Choir bring exceptional music and a variety of religious traditions to the Chapel program. Attendance at chapel has increased and special highlights included:

- Convocation was an extraordinary day, with 364 attendees who came to celebrate with alumna Elizabeth Patterson '61, the first woman from South Carolina to be elected to the U.S. Congress.
- Founder's Day was day of great celebration and reflection as the Reverend R. Wright Spears, *president emeritus*, returned to speak to a standing room only audience at College Place UMC. His topic was "Columbia College: A Source of Hope."

The Staley Lecturer, Rev. John Thornburg, brought us stories and songs from his current writing of the United Methodist hymnbook for Cameroon. Rev. Thornburg conducted a Continuing Education event for pastors and other church leaders entitled "From Entertainment to Empowerment."

A special thank you to Rev. Wiley Cooper, the staff and the members of College Place United Methodist Church, for their support and sharing of their building.

The Columbia College Labyrinth continued to be a source of spiritual experience for students. The 40" x 40" canvas labyrinth was installed monthly for students to walk in prayer and meditation. An ancient tool of spirituality, the labyrinth is an intricate pathway one walks in quiet reflection to commune with God. The labyrinth has been a popular event for students and an accessible spiritual practice for students not affiliated with a particular church.

As a college committed to educating not only for lifelong learning but also for social justice, monthly community service projects were offered throughout the academic year. Our annual Community Service Day during Fall Orientation was another success. The entire entering class dispersed throughout Columbia to work at 15 different sites and experience first-hand the relationship of learning to service and leadership.

In addition, Rev. Mireb co-chairs the Diversity Committee, provides guidance to the Service Learning program, is currently working with students to create a non-proselytizing policy, and other administrative duties.

Founded by the South Carolina Annual Conference through a vote taken at Washington Street UMC, Columbia College celebrates its ministry with and through all the churches of the Columbia District and of the South Carolina Annual Conference. In gratitude for the Church's faithfulness to Columbia College, we look toward a bright future of continued mutual support.

Dr. Caroline Whitson, President