SOE News

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Earn Clinical/Observation Hours by Helping with Program

SOE students are invited to help with the Charles Lea Educational Experience Program and receive clinical/observation hours for that service.

The program is offered each semester for Upstate community members with disabilities who would like to take classes at USC Upstate.

Classes are held on Wednesdays from 6:30-8:15 p.m. for 10 weeks in the Health and Education Complex (HEC) building. Specific dates for Spring 2013 are Feb. 6, 13, 20, 27; March 6, 20, 27; and April 10.

Student assistants are needed to help with the following classes:

• Computer Skills
• Animals in Nature
• Art
• Crafts
• Spanish
• Caring for Children
• Sign Language
• Music
• Reading
• Science
• Dance
• Consumer Math
• Storytelling

There are a number of classes and activities that need student assistants, such as art, crafts, or reading.

If you are interested in participating in this service opportunity and earning clinical/observation hours, you can sign up for the dates you can serve. Sign-up sheets are posted on Dr. Lori Tanner’s office door, HEC 3013.

For more information, contact Dr. Tanner at ltanner@uscupstate.edu or 864-503-5636.

Working as a student assistant in programs like the Charles Lea Educational Experience Program can provide School of Education students with invaluable practical experience, as well as help them earn clinical/observation hours.

The rewards are many when you know your role as a student assistant helped someone achieve their goal.
Members of the Greenville TEACCh student organization at the UCG are doing more than just striving to be Teachers Educating All Children; they are actively helping them.

During the fall semester, members partnered with the Harvest Hope food bank to help provide food for disadvantaged children to eat on weekends and during their holiday breaks. Each week, Greenville TEACCh members volunteered to pack 25 backpacks and deliver them to a nearby elementary school so the children would have nutritious food to take home.

Before Christmas break, the members also sponsored 100 Salvation Army Christmas Stockings and 75 Christmas Tree Angels. The stockings and gifts for the “angels” were distributed into the community to allow underprivileged children to feel the love and joy that is Christmas.

In addition to their efforts of reaching out to community children in need, members of Greenville TEACCh also volunteer to staff booths and work events like the Fall Festival which was available for all USC Upstate students and their families.

The 2013 calendar is already filling up as members of this Greenville campus organization not only have plans to continue packing backpacks of food, but to find new ways to reach out to the community.

Greenville TEACCh Making a Difference

Nominations Sought For Teaching and Advising Awards

The Excellence in Teaching & Advising Committee is now accepting nominations for the 2013 Bank of America Excellence in Teaching and Advising Award.

The Bank of America Excellence in Teaching and Advising Award at USC Upstate recognizes excellence in undergraduate instruction and academic advisement. The overriding criterion for selection is sustained excellence in undergraduate teaching and academic advisement. Consistency in quality of performance in the classroom and academic advisement are emphasized.

Eligibility is open to both full-time permanent tenure track faculty who have taught at least six credit hours in the semester prior to the selection and to full-time instructors who have taught two consecutive years at the university and received above satisfactory evaluations from their immediate supervisor for two consecutive years preceding their nomination. University librarians are also eligible to receive the award.

Two awards are presented each year. One is presented to a faculty member from the College of Arts & Sciences, and another is presented to a faculty member from one of the university’s professional schools, Business, Education and Nursing. University faculty are eligible to receive the award every five years.

The deadline for nominations is Friday, February 22. Undergraduate students and all full-time faculty may submit nominations. Just fill out the Excellence in Teaching and Advising Nomination Form and return electronically, it’s that easy! Or pick up an application in Campus Life Center 303.

Celebrating A Dedicated Career

Dr. Stasy Barr, left, and Dr. Tom Reed pose for a photo at the retirement/holiday luncheon in December. Dr. Barr is a former Master’s student of Dr. Reed’s prior to becoming his colleague at USC Upstate.

The Education faculty and staff celebrated the career of Dr. Tom Reed with a luncheon in December as he prepared to join the ranks of the retired.

Attendees were reminded that Reed was a passionate teacher, loyal friend, and supportive mentor during his tenure in the School of Education.

In recognition of his dedicated service, Reed was presented with a Nook and a Keurig Coffee Machine to use as he spends his retirement relaxing and catching up on his reading.
Volunteers Needed for 2013 Carolina Miracle League Season

The 2013 season of the Carolina Miracle League is set to begin, and you can become involved by volunteering to become a “buddy” or a coach for a CML team!

The Miracle League is where physically and mentally challenged children are paired with able-bodied volunteer “buddies” who assist them in batting, catching, throwing and running. Every child gets a turn at bat and in the outfield and every child crosses home plate. The point of the game is less about baseball and more about fun! The child's self-esteem grows, he or she makes friends, becomes less isolated and “just becomes a regular kid, not a kid with a disability.”

Season-long opportunities are still available for coaches and assistant coaches. No coaching experience is required! There are eight games but no practices. Coaches do have one pre-season meeting and one Saturday where they meet players and distribute uniforms.

Single-game opportunities are also available for “buddies.” A Buddy is assigned to assist a player by holding their hand, pushing their wheelchair or leading them in their power chair as they get a hit, circle the bases and score a run. The primary objective for a Buddy is to give the player lots of encouragement and ensure that he or she has fun.

For more information, go to [www.carolinamiracleleague.org](http://www.carolinamiracleleague.org).

If interested in coaching, on the top of the home page, click the button “How can I help?” Select “Be a Coach.” Complete each form (Coach Registration Form, Release Form, and Background Check Form). Mail all three completed forms to Carolina Miracle League, 530 Old Converse Road, Spartanburg, SC, 29307 or e-mail to Pam Dean at pamadean@att.net.

If interested in being a Buddy for a single game, contact Eric Eberius, Buddy Coordinator, at eeberius@ndtrecruiting.com or call 864-205-8220.

1Information from Carolina Miracle League website, [www.carolinamiracleleague.org](http://www.carolinamiracleleague.org)

LD Teacher Candidates Participating in Research Study

Some teacher candidates in the Learning Disability Program are participating in a research study this spring to determine the effectiveness of using Social Stories as a behavioral intervention method with students who have a learning disability.

A Social Story is a unique means of shaping behavior through positive, interactive storytelling. While this practice is well documented with students who have autism, there is a lack of research related to using this method with students who have a learning disability.

As participants in the study, the teacher candidates will identify a student in their teaching placement, write a Social Story, collect data on his/her behavior occurrences and interview with participating professors.

For more information about this study, contact Dr. Julie Jones at jjones3@uscupstate.edu.
A community of learners, that’s what they call us. However, we have become much more than that.

In the USC Upstate Teacher Education Program on the Sumter Campus, we share so much more than classes. We share in community service, service learning opportunities, workshops, travels, secrets, our trials, our successes, and we come together in times of need. We are a community of learners, but we have also become a family.

During National Breast Cancer Awareness this past October, we wanted to show our support for the students, faculty, and Sumter community. We rallied together wearing all shades of pink, pinning on pink ribbons, wearing pink scarves, and even coloring our hair pink!

Around campus and throughout the community we were able to share our mission of support for those facing the devastating effects of breast cancer. Our hope is that one day, our friends, communities, and families will never know the heartache that so many of us have faced due to this disease.

As a community of learners, and as a family, we continue to display our support, love, and faith for those around us. Be assured that this support is unwavering, and we will continue to fight … like a girl!

Students from the USC Upstate Teacher Education Program on the Sumter Campus and from Morris College recently attended the Praxis I and Praxis II Workshops.

Presented by the mentoring team of Tyrone Cummings and Jackielyn Gómez, the workshops were designed to cover not only the registration process and materials related to the tests, but to also provide helpful tips on how to avoid test anxiety.

During the Praxis I Workshop, participants shared personal stories from prior experiences with the tests. Many students said they would have to retake portions of tests. Presenters and fellow students Kayla Anderson and Megan McGoldrick were able to relate to the attendees and provide tips on how to stay positive and keep moving forward.

Richard Inbody, Christina Stout and Kelly Krouse were able to diffuse nervousness among participants in the Praxis II Workshop through the sharing of their insight and experience.

In addition, PLT information was presented to help equip students with a greater understanding and knowledge of what these tests mean and how best to use available resources in preparing to take them.

As a result, students indicated they now feel reassured and more confident as they prepare to take the Praxis I, Praxis II and PLT tests.
Open House Planned

A Graduate Programs in Education Open House will be held Thursday, March 21 from 4-6 p.m.
J M Smith Boardroom • Health Education Complex

For more information or to register, contact Lori Kopf at lkopf@uscupstate.edu or (864) 503-5573.

Other Dates

Spring Break
March 11-15

Academic Advisement
March 18-29

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